



CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED  
VETERINARY MEDICINE  
Putting research into practice

## Questions about the Treatment and Management of Dogs with Arthritis

You are invited to take part in this research study that is aiming to identify the most important research questions about the treatment and management of dogs with arthritis. Before you agree to take part it is important that you understand the purpose of this study and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information and contact us if you have any questions.

### What is arthritis?

Arthritis is inflammation of a joint (for example, hip, elbow, shoulder, knee or paw joints). It is common in older dogs but can affect dogs of any age. It can cause pain, limping, stiffness in the legs, back or joints, and can make joints look thicker or swollen. It is a disease which can gradually get worse and we cannot cure it. However there are a range of treatments and management strategies which may help improve the symptoms (for example, they reduce pain) or may slow down how quickly the arthritis progresses.

### Why is this study important?

The pharmaceutical and medical technology industries and academia (e.g. universities) play essential roles in developing treatments and management strategies for dogs with arthritis, but their priorities may not be the same as those of dog owners, veterinary surgeons/veterinarians, veterinary nurses/technicians and anyone else who cares for dogs with arthritis. For this reason many areas of potentially valuable research may be neglected. This study involves a wide range of people who have a role in caring for dogs with arthritis. In this study we hope to identify the questions about treatment and management of arthritis which are important to these people but have not been answered yet by published research evidence. We are gathering questions through a survey that can be reached by clicking on this link:

[https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/arthritis\\_dog](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/arthritis_dog)

### What will happen to the results of this survey?

The questions that are submitted through this survey will be checked by the researchers to see if they have already been answered by existing published research. The remaining, unanswered questions will be taken forward to a one day workshop, during which they will be prioritised and the top 10 most important questions will be chosen. The list of these questions will then be published and provided to organisations that fund research. The identity of who submitted individual questions will NOT be published.

### Confidentiality and consent.

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. By answering the questions, we understand that you are happy to participate in this project and we have your consent to use your responses in our research.

You can complete it anonymously if you wish. Any contact details you choose to provide will be kept confidentially and securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act. You will need to provide your contact details if you wish to receive the results of the study or be involved in the next steps which will follow the survey.

### **Who is organising this study?**

This study is being led by the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM) [www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm), at the University of Nottingham. The survey has been designed by Hannah Doit (PhD student) and Dr Rachel Dean (director of the CEVM).

This study has received approval by the ethics committee at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, the University of Nottingham.

### **Contacts**

For further information or if you have any concerns or complaints, please contact us:  
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