

GLOBAL NEWS

ARTHRITIS IS A DISEASE OF YOUNG DOGS, SAYS BOEHRINGER¹

Boehringer Ingelheim has launched Arthritis AWARE, a campaign to raise awareness that osteoarthritis is much more common in young dogs than previously thought. A 2022 study of 123 dogs revealed surprising findings on osteoarthritis, commonly associated with aging. It showed that 40% of dogs aged 1-4 had radiographic osteoarthritis, with half displaying clinical signs and only 2 receiving pain treatment. Another study found that 38% of dogs over one had osteoarthritic pain, but only half were presented for lameness or stiffness. Geoffrey Guyot from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health emphasized subtle signs, stating that some young dogs compensate for years, masking symptoms. Boehringer aims to shift the perception of osteoarthritis as solely an old dog disease, emphasizing its potential impact on dogs of all ages.

IDENTIFYING THE SIGNS OF PET DIABETES²



In an insightful interview with Jessica Pritchard, VMD, MS, DACVIM (SAIM), conducted in honor of National Pet Diabetes Awareness Month, she shed light on the distinctions between Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes in pets.

Type 1 diabetes is characterized by an absolute deficiency of insulin, primarily observed in dogs. This deficiency results from a lack of functioning beta cells responsible for insulin release. On the other hand, Type 2 diabetes, commonly found in cats within veterinary medicine, involves a combination of insulin loss and insulin resistance. In the feline population, insulin resistance often stems from factors such as obesity, a consequence of transforming outdoor creatures into sedentary house cats. Additionally, glucose toxicity contributes to insulin resistance, emphasizing the importance of recognizing symptoms and addressing them promptly for optimal pet health.

A NEW REMEDY IN FELINE DIABETES³



There is a groundbreaking development in the management of feline diabetes, particularly type 2 diabetes, through a novel class of drugs known as SGLT2 inhibitors. Unlike traditional approaches involving insulin shots and dietary changes, these drugs work by blocking renal reabsorption of glucose, leading to its excretion in urine.

Insulin resistance is highlighted as a key aspect of feline diabetes, with causes including obesity, aging, acromegaly, and glucocorticoid therapy. Insulin deficiency can also play a role due to conditions like pancreatitis and pancreatic amyloidosis. Glucotoxicity resulting from persistent hyperglycemia is noted as a factor that can further damage beta cells.

The introduction of SGLT2 inhibitors is described as a paradigm shift in glucose control. These orally administered drugs not only reduce blood glucose levels by preventing renal glucose reuptake but also have potential cardiovascular and kidney benefits in cats, as observed in humans. Importantly, the drugs carry a minimal risk of hypoglycemia, a common concern in traditional insulin treatments.

The discussion revolves around the mechanism of action of SGLT2 inhibitors, focusing on their impact on glucose reuptake in the kidneys and gastrointestinal tract. The specific SGLT2 inhibitor, Bexacat (bexagliflozin), is highlighted as the first approved for use in animals. A pivotal field study involving 84 diabetic cats without significant comorbidities demonstrated the drug's efficacy and safety in this population. The importance of patient selection and close monitoring is emphasized for the safe use of these drugs in feline diabetes management. Overall, this development represents a significant advancement in the approach to treating diabetes in cats.

VIVALDIS CORNER

Vivaldis in association with the Pet Practitioner's Association of Mumbai (PPAM) participated along with our valued partner Bioiberica in FASAVA—an International Congress held at the Westin Hotel, Mumbai from 27th Oct to 29th Oct.2023.



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