



VIVALDIS   
Animal Health

**petsmile**

EDITION- 152



# 4 KEY STEPS- TO DIAGNOSING OSTEOARTHRITIS IN CATS

## Caregiver Interview & Home Observation

- Begin with a detailed conversation with the pet owner
- Ask targeted questions about mobility, daily activities, litter box usage, and behaviours
- Request home videos if possible—observing the cat in its familiar environment often yields critical insights

## Thorough Physical Examination

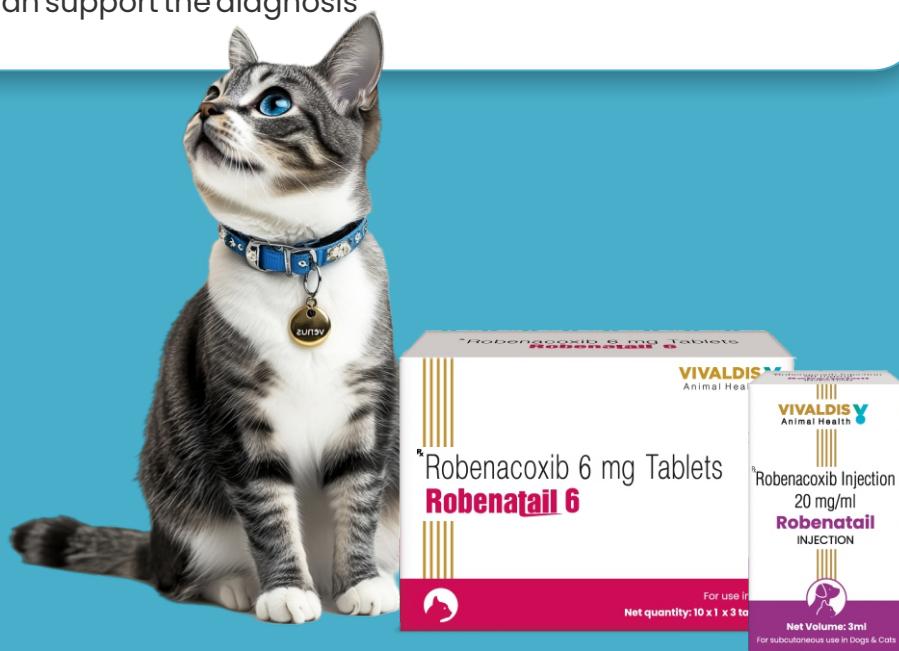
- Conduct a detailed physical exam despite cats' tendency to mask pain
- Absence of palpable pain or abnormalities does not rule out osteoarthritis, particularly due to cats' stoic nature

## Diagnostic Imaging (X-rays)

- Radiographs commonly reveal degenerative joint disease: about 90% of cats over 12 show these changes
- However, radiographic evidence alone doesn't confirm pain—the results must be interpreted clinically

## Pain Management Trial

- Implement a therapeutic trial using an approved analgesic (NSAID like Robenatail/robenacoxib)
- Evaluate owner-observed changes: improvement during treatment and regression after discontinuation can support the diagnosis



# FIRST LONG-ACTING FLEA & TICK TREATMENT IS FDA-APPROVED FOR DOGS

The US-FDA has approved fluralaner for extended-release injectable suspension as the first-ever FDA-approved flea and tick preventive offering extended protection lasting 8–12 months from a single injection

Labelled for dogs and puppies aged 6 months and older

Offers 12-month efficacy against *Ctenocephalides Felis* (fleas), and *Ixodes scapularis*, *Dermacentor variabilis*, and *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* ticks.

## Safety

Contains fluralaner, an isooxazoline-class parasiticide. While generally safe, these agents have been associated with rare neurologic adverse reactions including seizures, ataxia, and tremors

Additional reported side effects: lethargy, decreased appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea, injection-site swelling, elevated liver enzymes & hypersensitivity reactions



# NOISY BREATHING IN BRACHYCEPHALIC DOGS IS NEVER NORMAL

The International Collaborative on Extreme Conformations in Dogs (ICECDogs) has emphasized that snorting, snoring, raspy, or noisy breathing at rest or during light activity in flat-faced breeds such as French Bulldogs, Pugs, and English Bulldogs is a clear sign of respiratory distress and suffering—not a breed norm.

Boasting support from recent Royal Veterinary College research, ICECDogs warns that noisy breathing in these breeds reflects advanced Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS). Up to 60% of Pugs, 50% of French Bulldogs, and 40 % of English Bulldogs are estimated to be affected. Across the UK, over half a million dogs in these breeds may be compromised.

## Key Recommendations for Veterinarians & Owners

- Advise clients: Dogs exhibiting noisy breathing at rest or with minimal exertion should be considered unhealthy and must not be described, bred, sold, shown, or rehomed as “healthy”
- Annual assessments: Encourage respiratory grading using tools like the Cambridge Respiratory Function Grading Scheme (RGFS) to monitor severity.
- Lifestyle guidance: Advocate weight maintenance, annual vet checks, breathing assessments, care around heat and exertion, and when appropriate, consideration of surgical intervention to relieve airway obstruction

## Clinical Insight

Dr. Dan O'Neill (Royal Veterinary College) states:

“Air hunger like this is evidence of a lifetime of severe suffering.”

Noisy breathing—far from cosmetic—represents a chronic wellness issue that typically worsens with age, weight gain, and warm weather

## Significance

- Owner perception is often misguided: Many consider noisy breathing “just part of the breed,” delaying diagnosis and care.
- Early detection improves outcomes: Prompt veterinary assessment & grading can guide treatment—medical or surgical—and can prevent worsening of BOAS.
- Breeding responsibility: Veterinarians have a key role advising breeders & prospective owners; dogs with noisy breathing should not be used for breeding due to welfare and potentially legal implications.



Presentation: 150 ml  
Dosage: 1 ml / 5 kg BID



# RVC STUDY CONFIRMS PIMOBENDAN AS A GAME-CHANGER IN CANINE HEART DISEASE

- A new Vet Compass study from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) utilized anonymized clinical records from ~100,000 dogs in UK primary-care settings to replicate the methodology of the landmark EPIC trial using a technique called “target trial emulation”
- The investigation focused on dogs ≥6 years old, ≤15 kg, newly diagnosed with a grade IV/VI heart murmur, comparing outcomes between those prescribed pimobendan within six months versus those not prescribed the drug (~17% vs ~83%)

## Key Results

- 5-year incidence of congestive heart failure (CHF) dropped from 56.3% in unmedicated dogs to ~34–35% in dogs prescribed pimobendan
- Treated dogs lost ~311 fewer days of healthy life due to CHF within the first five years
- Mean survival time increased from about 905 days in untreated dogs to 1,051 days in treated dogs—mirroring EPIC trial metrics (1,059 vs 902 days)
- 5-year survival probability roughly doubled: 19.8% vs 9.6%

## Expert Commentary

- RVC researchers and EPIC trial lead authors emphasized the striking similarity between the real-world data and prior randomized controlled trial results, reinforcing confidence in pimobendan's efficacy
- Clinicians may now consider using pimobendan earlier—based on a grade IV murmur diagnosis alone, even when echocardiography is unavailable or unaffordable

Feature	Details
Study Population	928 recorded dogs (≤15kg, ≥6yrs) with new grade IV/VI murmur
Intervention	Pimobendan prescribed within 6 months of murmur detection
Reduction in CHF at 5 Years	From ~56% → ~34–35%
Days of Healthy Life Gained	~311 fewer days lost to CHF
Improved Mean Survival	~1,051 vs ~905 days
5-Year Survival Probability	19.8% vs 9.6%
Clinical Implication	Initiation possible at auscultation-stage even without echocardiography

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# RVC STUDY CONFIRMS PIMOBENDAN AS A GAME-CHANGER IN CANINE HEART DISEASE

## Applications in Veterinary Practice

- Supports earlier intervention: Dogs with grade IV murmurs can benefit from pimobendan even before formal DMVD staging
- Bridges diagnostic gaps: Useful in clinics lacking access to or resources for echocardiography
- Validates real-world evidence: Target-trial emulation aligns strongly with randomized trial outcomes—enhancing clinical confidence
- Improves patient outcomes: Demonstrates measurable delay in CHF onset, extended healthy life days, and enhanced survival

## Clinical Takeaways

- Consider pimobendan within six months of detecting a grade IV/VI murmur in appropriate patients—even in the absence of confirmed DMVD staging
- Inform owners about expected benefits: lower CHF risk, longer healthy periods, and improved survival odds
- Use findings to support treatment discussions where advanced diagnostics aren't accessible
- Recognize the evolving role of data-driven emulated trials informing evidence-based care in primary practice



Presentation: 3 x 10 tablets



Presentation: 150 ml



Presentation: 3 x 10 tablets



Presentation: 3 x 10 tablets

Introducing

# FELINE THERAPEUTIC NUTRITION



**GASTROINTESTINAL**

1 kg

**URINARY S/O**

1 kg

**VIVALDIS CORNER**