
Research Articles - Pets

Can I Give this Product to My Pets?

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- by Cindy Ewashkiw & Marion Allen Ph.D., R.N.

In today's society, pets have become an integral part of the family structure. Because of the importance of pets, owners have become very conscientious about the health and quality of life of those pets. With the average person far outliving their pets, the want for health and longevity of the family pet is certainly understandable.

In North America, millions of pets suffer from chronic arthritis and other aging diseases. The vast array of conventional drugs used to treat these conditions often has serious and even fatal side effects. Because of these side effects, animal health care providers are continually seeking quality alternative treatments. In Gallup, New Mexico, velvet antler, which has no known side effects, has had remarkable results on almost 80% of the 200 animals with clinical arthritis.

In addition to regenerative effects on joint cartilage and joint fluid, velvet antler also has a positive effect on the immune system. This boost often creates a feeling of well being, which affects the appetite and attitude of animals under treatment.

Why does velvet antler work better than some single nutrient natural products on the market? The combination of nutrients available in velvet antler provides a synergistic effect. The result of combining efforts of many nutrients shows a much greater gain than the effort of a single nutrient.

Some more positive effects of velvet antler in animals are:

Improved hair coat

Improved kidney function

Increased reproductive performance

Accelerated wound healing

All are important issues for pets from young to old.

Average daily cost for an owner to supplement his/her pet with velvet antler is generally cheaper than a cup of coffee.

Work is currently underway to study effectiveness of velvet antler in young animals of breeds that have a high incidence of hip dysplasia. Hip dysplasia is an inherited disease of the hip and elbow joints. The joints begin deteriorating early in life, leading to severe pain and loss of function. Some breeds, such as the German Shepherd and Labrador, have a greater risk than smaller breeds. Velvet antler appears to slow the progression of the disease and increases the animal's quality of life.

There is also some indication that velvet antler's use in puppies promotes bone and muscle growth. With athletic animals, velvet antler is useful in speeding up muscle recovery and preventing soreness after hard workouts.

In horses, positive effects are being noted in musculo-skeletal conditions, hoof and hair growth, and wound healing.

Velvet antler is not a panacea or cure-all, but it can definitely improve the quality of life for animals in a safe and affordable manner. It has a place in the diet and nutritional supplementation program of pets and is a natural and annual renewable resource that every pet and horse owner should consider.