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A new protocol guide can help veterinarians standardize their approach to canine osteoarthritis

The complexity of OA can make it hard to diagnose and treat, but a new resource that promotes pet owner involvement in joint disease detection can help streamline the process.

SHIRLEY, N.Y., Feb. 13, 2025 — American Regent, maker of [Adequan® Canine](#) (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan), is proud to announce the launch of a new canine osteoarthritis (OA) treatment protocol guide for veterinary practices. The guide provides veterinarians with a framework for creating a standardized approach to diagnosing and treating canine joint disease. The protocol guide was developed in collaboration with Denis Marcellin-Little, DEDV, DACVS, DACVSMR, DECVS.

“Structure and consistency are very important,” says Dr. Marcellin-Little, professor of orthopedics at University of California, Davis. “By emphasizing a practical, step-by-step framework, we’re moving beyond philosophical guidelines to something that truly helps practitioners and pet owners manage OA over the long term.”

The complexity of OA, combined with the time constraints veterinary practices face, makes having a comprehensive solution for arthritis paramount—an approach many veterinarians support. In fact, 95% of 327 veterinarians who participated in an American Animal Hospital Association survey said implementing a canine OA protocol would be helpful or is important/necessary.¹

American Regent Animal Health developed this framework for canine OA management with all veterinary practices in mind. The introductory guide showcases a three-step plan to help develop and implement an OA treatment protocol in almost any clinic. This plan includes:

- How to take a proactive approach to OA diagnosis
- Insights on how to establish a standardized OA treatment plan approach
- Tips for implementing an OA protocol into clinic operations

The protocol guide also offers potential examples of multimodal treatment plans for the different stages of OA, organized around three categories: 1) treating the disease with FDA-approved Adequan® Canine, 2) managing associated pain and inflammation with products that may include anti-NGF monoclonal antibodies and/or NSAIDs, and 3) recommendations for lifestyle modifications and adjunct therapies.

See below for Indications and Important Safety Information for Adequan Canine.

There's more than just pain management for treating OA

Often by the time joint disease is diagnosed, dogs are already showing significant signs of pain, and by then the damage can be detrimental to mobility. That's why this protocol guide highlights a proactive approach to help detect the disease early. It recommends making dog owners a central part of the OA detection team and provides resources to help veterinarians educate their clients about the signs of OA.

“By engaging pet owners in the process, they can work together with their veterinarian to spot the subtle signs sooner and take steps that will make a real difference in the well-being of their dog with OA,” says Paris Revoir, DVM, Professional Service Veterinarian at American Regent Animal Health.

The OA Protocol Pack includes:

- A Canine Osteoarthritis Treatment Protocol Guide for Veterinary Practices
- A “Symptoms and Stages of OA” poster
- “Take the OA Quiz” window clings
- A personalized treatment tear pad

While canine arthritis presents differently in each case, the one thing that stays consistent is its potential to advance to debilitation and mobility loss if left untreated. These new OA protocol assets can help equip veterinarians and pet owners with the knowledge needed to detect the disease early—which can make all the difference. To order the Protocol Pack, visit oaproTOCOLPACK.com. To learn more about Adequan® Canine, visit adequANCANINE.com.

Adequan® Canine polysulfated glycosaminoglycan (PSGAG) solution 100 mg/mL

Indications and Usage Adequan® Canine is recommended for intramuscular injection for the control of signs associated with non-infectious degenerative and/or traumatic arthritis of canine synovial joints.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION Adequan® Canine should not be used in dogs who are hypersensitive to PSGAG or who have a known or suspected bleeding disorder. It should be used with caution in dogs with renal or hepatic impairment. Adverse reactions in clinical studies (transient pain at injection site, transient diarrhea, and abnormal bleeding) were mild and self-limiting. In post approval experience, death has been reported in some cases; vomiting, anorexia, depression/lethargy and diarrhea have also been reported. The safe use of PSGAG in breeding, pregnant or lactating dogs has not been evaluated. Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian. For additional safety information, please see full prescribing information.

About American Regent Animal Health

American Regent Animal Health, a division of American Regent, Inc., is committed to advancing animal health with proven FDA-approved products like Adequan® (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan). The company's portfolio is anchored by the only FDA-approved polysulfated glycosaminoglycan products for horses and dogs, which have been relied on for nearly three decades by veterinarians. American Regent, Inc., a Daiichi Sankyo Group Company, manufactures and distributes human and veterinary pharmaceutical products and is committed to providing the ever-changing U.S. healthcare marketplace with a growing and diversified portfolio.

For more information on American Regent Animal Health, visit [ARAnimalHealth.com](https://www.ARAnimalHealth.com) or call 1-800-458-0163.

Reference

¹AAHA Canine Osteoarthritis Survey Summary of Findings. October 2023. Survey done in partnership with American Regent Animal Health. Data on file.

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A New Approach to Managing **CANINE OSTEOARTHRITIS**

A guide for veterinarians in developing a practice protocol



MEDIA KIT

 **Adequan Canine[®]**
polysulfated glycosaminoglycan

Protocol Teaser

Here's a sneak peek at the new OA Treatment Protocol Guide and Protocol Pack

OA Treatment Protocol Guide Preview

3 Steps to Protocol Implementation

This guide includes practical steps to help you implement an OA protocol in your clinic. To make it straightforward, we've organized it into three parts:

- Approach to OA Diagnosis**
This section discusses how to implement a consistent, proactive and complete approach that leads to earlier diagnosis of canine OA.
- Treatment Plan Approach**
This section offers information to help you create a standardized approach for developing individualized treatment plans that address both the underlying disease as well as the presenting clinical signs.
- Clinic Implementation**
This section outlines how to successfully and smoothly integrate your OA protocol into your clinic workflows to help deliver optimal care for long-term success.



Approach to OA Diagnosis

How and when you diagnose OA is critical because treating it before cartilage wears away can help improve patient outcomes. Early treatment can help slow the progression of the disease, but dogs at any stage of OA can benefit when your diagnosis approach is consistent and comprehensive.

There are four key areas to consider when building your approach:

- Keep OA top-of-mind for clients and staff**
Make sure everyone knows the risk factors and the signs.

Common OA risk factors:

- History of joint issues
- Genetics
- Body weight/nutrition
- Activity/activities
- Injury
- Abnormal biomechanics
- Altered physiology

Common OA signs:

- Subtle changes in behavior, body position and movement
- Less interest in going on walks or playing
- Struggling to get up or lie down
- Refusing to climb stairs

Breeds predisposed to developing OA¹

- Labrador Retriever
- German Shepherd
- Golden Retriever
- Bulldog
- Rottweiler

4 Map out your plan for change

Structured frameworks give you the opportunity to successfully incorporate an OA protocol into your clinic workflows, helping to ensure smooth integration and avoid confusion. Here's what that looks like:

- Clear Planning:** Develop a detailed, goal-oriented plan for your clinic's OA protocol, ensuring all team members understand their roles and responsibilities.
- Identify a Champion:** Designate a key team member to lead, monitor, and ensure the smooth implementation and ongoing success of your OA protocol. This individual acts as the point person for troubleshooting and encouraging staff adoption.
- Effective Communication:** Maintain open communication with staff about the protocol, addressing concerns and providing updates to avoid confusion and encourage communication with clients to proactively address changes in OA symptoms.
- Staff Involvement:** Engage the entire team in the development process, seeking input to encourage ownership and commitment to the protocol.
- Motivation:** Foster a positive environment and maintain team.
- Ongoing Evaluation:** Continuously monitor the protocol's effectiveness, adjusting strategies based on feedback and patient outcomes to help ensure long-term success.



85%
of 635 veterinarians surveyed consider early disease management a vital component of a canine OA protocol.¹

Optimal care starts with a consistent approach

Implementing an OA protocol can help you standardize how you diagnose and treat OA, creating a culture of early intervention. Following the steps in this guide can help you enhance your team's efficiency and workflows—and improve patient outcomes.

We hope this guide, developed by American Regent Animal Health, will help support you in developing a useful and effective in-clinic OA protocol that can give your canine OA patients and your team a new level of success.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION
Adequan® Canine should not be used in dogs who are hypersensitive to polysulfated glycosaminoglycan (PSGAG) or who have a known or suspected bleeding disorder. It should be used with caution in dogs with renal or hepatic impairment. Adverse reactions in clinical studies (transient pain at injection site, transient diarrhea, and abnormal bleeding) were mild and self-limiting. In post approval experience, death has been reported in some cases; vomiting, anorexia, depression, lethargy and diarrhea have also been reported. The safe use of PSGAG in breeding, pregnant or lactating dogs has not been evaluated. **Caution:** Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian. For additional safety information, please see full prescribing information on back cover or at adequan.com.

"Symptoms and Stages of OA" poster

Your move now DETERMINES how they move later.

Catching arthritis early can make all the difference when it comes to the longevity of your dog's joint health. Let us know if you spot these symptoms in your dog.

EARLY SYMPTOMS

- Acts more anxious, restless or irritable.
- Shifts weight side-to-side or front-to-back while standing.
- Struggles to get comfortable and frequently changes positions.
- Hasitates before doing normal activities like walking, sitting or climbing stairs.
- Slower to get up or sit down.
- Shows less interest in playing.

STAGES

Here's what symptoms typically appear at each stage. Your dog may skip a stage or go through them at a different rate.

Pre-OA Usually normal with no visible clinical signs. Possible sign of developmental orthopedic disease or injury that could cause arthritis later in life.

Early Subtle symptoms can include changes in behavior, body position and movement.

Mild Symptoms may include less interest in going on walks or playing. May try to rest more at times.

Moderate Symptoms include hesitating, struggling to get up or sit down, or refusing to climb stairs.

Severe Dog may have difficulty standing or not walking. Symptoms are consistent and present at all times.

Get your dog's mobility score and share with your veterinarian.

"Take the OA Quiz" window clings

Do you know your dog's arthritis risk?

Take the quiz to find out.

Your move now DETERMINES how they move later.

Arthritis could be hiding in your dog's joints.

Get your dog's mobility score.

Your move now DETERMINES how they move later.

Personalized treatment tear pad

A personalized treatment plan for canine arthritis.

Disease Treatment	Exercise Plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Adequan® Canine (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan)	_____
Pain Management	Healthy Diet
<input type="checkbox"/> NSAIDs: _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	_____
<small>NSAID: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)</small>	
Joint Supplements	Problem: _____
_____	Veterinarian: _____
_____	Phone: _____

Treating arthritis early can help you enjoy more adventures with your dog.
See back panel for Adequan® Canine Indications and Important Safety Information.

Early symptoms of ARTHRITIS in dogs may include:

- Acts more anxious, restless or irritable
- Shifts weight from side-to-side or front-to-back while standing
- Shows less interest in playing
- Slower to get up or sit down
- Hesitates before doing normal activities like walking or climbing stairs
- Difficulty standing or walking

Adequan® Canine (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan [PSGAG]) is a prescription drug for the control of signs associated with non-infectious degenerative and/or traumatic arthritis of one or more joints. **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:** Adequan® Canine should not be used in dogs who are hypersensitive to polysulfated glycosaminoglycan. Dogs with a known or suspected bleeding disorder should be used with caution in dogs with renal or hepatic impairment. Adverse reactions in clinical studies (transient pain at injection site, transient diarrhea, and abnormal bleeding) were mild and self-limiting. In post approval experience, death has been reported in some cases; vomiting, anorexia, depression, lethargy and diarrhea have also been reported. The safe use of PSGAG in breeding, pregnant or lactating dogs has not been evaluated. **Caution:** Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian. For additional safety information, please see full prescribing information at adequan.com.

Adequan® is a registered trademark of American Regent, Inc. PSGAG (US) 100 mg/mL © 2018, American Regent, Inc.

WHY WAS THIS PROTOCOL GUIDE CREATED?

An AAHA survey demonstrated a clear need for a more standardized approach to diagnosing and treating canine osteoarthritis (OA). In fact, 95% of 327 of veterinarians surveyed said implementing a canine OA protocol would be helpful or is important/necessary.¹

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF AN OA TREATMENT PROTOCOL?

Some studies suggest that the prevalence of OA in dogs is nearly 40%.^{2,3} This guide aims to provide veterinarians with a framework to help optimize clinic operations through improving efficiency and streamlining workflows. A protocol can help ensure more consistent quality of care, which can lead to improved patient outcomes.

WHAT IS IN THE OA TREATMENT PROTOCOL GUIDE?

The OA Treatment Protocol Guide includes information on how to develop and implement a consistent plan that may lead to earlier OA diagnosis. This three-step plan includes:

- How to take a proactive approach to OA diagnosis
- Insight on how to establish a standardized OA treatment plan approach
- Tips for implementing an OA protocol into clinic operations

WHO DEVELOPED THIS OA TREATMENT PROTOCOL GUIDE?

This protocol guide was created by American Regent Animal Health, maker of Adequan® Canine (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan), in collaboration with renowned veterinary surgeon and researcher Denis Marcellin-Little, DEDV, DACVS, DACVSMR, DECVS.

WHERE DO DOG OWNERS COME IN?

This protocol guide puts pet parents at the heart of watching out for signs of canine arthritis. When veterinarians order the OA Treatment Protocol Pack, they receive a kit of resources to help educate dog owners about the signs of joint disease. This kit includes:

- “Symptoms and Stages of OA” poster
- “Take the OA Quiz” window clings
- Personalized treatment tear pad

HOW CAN VETERINARIANS ACCESS THIS OA TREATMENT PROTOCOL GUIDE AND THE OA PROTOCOL PACK?

Any veterinarian can gain access to the OA protocol assets by visiting oaprotocolpack.com, filling out the questionnaire, and submitting a request.

Potential Story Angles

We welcome the opportunity to support you in developing the following story ideas or other angles you'd like to explore based on this new OA Treatment Protocol Guide and OA Protocol Pack.

INTRODUCING A NEW WAY TO GET CLIENTS INVESTED IN THEIR DOG'S JOINT HEALTH

Early detection is the key to managing canine joint disease, and often that needs to start at home. Now veterinarians have access to insights on how to put pet owners at the center of managing their dog's joint health. Through educational resources and tools, a new OA Treatment Protocol Guide bridges the gap between clinical expertise and at-home observation, equipping dog owners with the ability to help recognize the signs of osteoarthritis before the damage is severe and chronic.

THREE WAYS AN OA PROTOCOL GUIDE CAN HELP CHANGE THE WAY VETERINARIANS TREAT CANINE ARTHRITIS

Early osteoarthritis (OA) is not easy to catch, and the complexity of the disease can make it hard to treat. However, a new OA Treatment Protocol Guide can help simplify and streamline OA diagnosis and management. By making pet owners a part of the joint disease detection team and setting a standard for how to assess patients for OA, this guide offers direction to help establish a standardized approach to diagnosing and managing canine joint disease.

A STREAMLINED CANINE OA MANAGEMENT STRATEGY—WORK SMARTER NOT HARDER

Canine joint disease requires a thoughtful approach to manage effectively, but in busy clinics time is often of the essence. While precise diagnostics and individualized osteoarthritis (OA) treatment plans are important, they can become overwhelming without proper structure. A new OA Treatment Protocol Guide offers a framework to help streamline practice workflow while standardizing care delivery. With step-by-step instructions for creating protocols that fit specific practice needs, implementing a standardized approach to OA can be helpful for the whole team.

ELEVATE THE STANDARD OF CARE: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO SUPPORTING BETTER OUTCOMES FOR ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Providing optimal care for osteoarthritis (OA) patients can be challenging, especially since each patient has unique needs. A new OA Treatment Protocol Guide offers veterinarians practical strategies to simplify the approach to OA diagnosis and management. This resource outlines clear, actionable steps for creating an OA protocol that works in everyday practice. By implementing a protocol, more time can be allotted to prioritizing treatments to help with each patient's long-term mobility.

Meet the Development Team



DENIS MARCELLIN-LITTLE, DEDV, DACVS, DACVSMR, DECVS
PROFESSOR, ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Dr. Marcellin-Little is a renowned veterinary surgeon and researcher specializing in orthopedic surgery, biomechanics and prosthetics in animals. Originally from France, he has contributed significantly to veterinary medicine, particularly in the development of custom orthopedic implants and prostheses for pets. Dr. Marcellin-Little has also held positions at various academic institutions, such as North Carolina State University and the University of California, Davis, where he has worked on innovative treatments and taught veterinary students and residents. Dr. Marcellin-Little is a paid consultant for American Regent Animal Health.



PARIS REVOIR, DVM
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE VETERINARIAN, AMERICAN REGENT ANIMAL HEALTH

Dr. Revoir has over 40 years of experience in veterinary practice, technical support and education. A Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine Distinguished Alumnus, he has held roles such as Veterinary Technical Support for Bayer Animal Health and National Training Manager for Bayer Pet Specialty. Formerly the owner of PetWorks Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Revoir excels in communication, mentoring and leadership. In addition to osteoarthritis, his technical expertise includes infectious disease, parasitology and endocrine disorders.



MARJORIE LATHROP
MARKETING DIRECTOR, AMERICAN REGENT ANIMAL HEALTH

Ms. Lathrop joined American Regent in 2022 as the Marketing Director for Animal Health. She is responsible for the marketing strategy, planning and execution for Adequan[®] Canine and Adequan i.m.[®] (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan) and BetaVet[®] (betamethasone sodium phosphate and betamethasone acetate injectable suspension). Before joining ARAH she was with Colgate-Palmolive in their Hill's Pet Nutrition division, working on both the Prescription Diet and Science Diet brands. Lathrop attended Dartmouth College twice, first obtaining a BA in computer science and then returning to the Tuck School of Business to complete her MBA in 2004.

About Adequan® Canine

Adequan® Canine (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan) is the only FDA-approved drug proven to proactively treat the disease of canine osteoarthritis (OA), the most common cause of chronic pain in dogs.⁴ That's what makes Adequan® Canine different from a supplement or NSAID. It proactively treats the disease and not just the clinical signs of canine osteoarthritis.⁴

Adequan Canine is an FDA-approved product, requiring Indications and Important Safety Information to be included when mentioning the product name and its use.

ADEQUAN® CANINE

polysulfated glycosaminoglycan (PSGAG) solution 100 mg/mL

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

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1. AAHA Canine Osteoarthritis Survey Summary of Findings. October 2023. Survey done in partnership with American Regent Animal Health. Data on file.
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4. Adequan® Canine (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan) Package Insert, American Regent, Inc.