UW Veterinary Care
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

WANTED

Dogs with Elbow Arthritis for Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Intra-articular Injections of Immunomodulator

The Study

Elbow osteoarthritis (OA) is a debilitating and painful disease that affects dogs of many breeds. The most common cause of elbow OA in dogs is a disease referred to as medial coronoid disease that can result in a fragmented medial coronoid process (FMCP). The purpose of this study is to determine whether an immunomodulator treatment (change the immune system) can decrease inflammation and resultant pain in dogs with elbow OA due to FMCP. The treatment is administered by injection into the diseased elbow joint (intra-articular). During the study, lameness, pain and inflammation are assessed, and each dogs' progress is closely monitored. This is a blinded placebo-controlled trial, which means that half of the dogs enrolled receive a placebo (not medicated) treatment; the supervising veterinarian and clients will not know which dogs receive the placebo versus the immunomodulator therapy.

Who Qualifies

Medium to large breed dogs with elbow arthritis due to FMCP and a lameness or limp present for at least four weeks may qualify for the study. Patients cannot have undergone elbow surgery within 8 weeks of enrollment or have been treated with steroid medications. Dogs need to be off non-steroidal anti inflammatory medications (NSAIDs), nutraceutical treatments (Glucosamine, Chondroitin sulfate, Fish Oils), and joint health diets (Hills j/d, Purina JM) for 2 weeks before enrolling.

What Happens

The clinical trial involves 3 visits to the UW Veterinary Care hospital over a 5 week period. During the trial , owners are provided with free pain-relieving medication to give their pet should they feel their pet is uncomfortable. In dogs with OA in both elbows, the most affected elbow is treated. **Visit 1/ Week 0**: The first visit determines whether a dog qualifies for the study. Dogs receive a full orthopedic examination including gait analysis, a sedated CT scan of both elbows, and have a blood sample taken. An activity monitor is attached to the dog's collar, which determines general activity during the trial. **Visit 2/ Week 1**: One week later, tests similar to visit 1 are performed—no CT scan. Additionally, under sedation, joint fluid is collected from both elbows and the worst elbow is injected with either the placebo or the immunomodulator. **Visit 3/ Week 5**: Four weeks later, tests are similar to visit 2.

Why Participate

The immunomodulator treatment is anticipated to decrease pain due to elbow OA by decreasing joint inflammation. Patients receive free orthopedic exams, elbow CT scan, and pain medication. Clients receive $150 at successful completion of the study.

More Information

Please contact : Alexander Piazza, DVM: piazza2@wisc.edu or Amanda Simons, CVT Orthopedic Coordinator: ortho@vetmed.wisc.edu
Visit: http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/lab/corl

This X-ray shows a dog's elbow with arthritis.

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