



Ground breaking European study for the new innovative NSAID for canine osteoarthritis

A new innovative NSAID, Trocoxil™ Chewable Tablets for dogs, promises to change the way vets treat canine osteoarthritis.

A single dose of Trocoxil delivers continuous analgesia which lasts for a month. In a European first, Pfizer Animal Health (PAH) is conducting a major study involving Trocoxil in over 2,000 dogs.

Trocoxil has already been granted a licence by the EMEA. Pre-authorization studies have already shown once-monthly Trocoxil to be at least as safe and effective as daily carprofen.¹ However, the innovative monthly dosing regimen represents such a big step from the currently used approach of daily NSAID dosing, that PAH decided to initiate the study before launching the product in order to closely monitor and manage the introduction of Trocoxil to the veterinary market.

“A drug with such a unique dosing regimen should be introduced in a controlled and managed way,” said Jolian Howell, Associate Director Companion Animal Marketing for Pfizer, *“and this study is part of that commitment by Pfizer Animal Health”*.

This large post-approval study, conducted under Veterinary control as a User Experience Study, will enable a similar comparison with carprofen to be made in a much larger patient population. In fact it will be sufficiently large to provide product-specific safety information, such as any differences in the incidence of side-effects.

The randomised, parallel group study is being conducted in more than 100 veterinary clinics throughout France, Germany and the UK. Each dog will receive up to six months of treatment during which time it will be assessed every month by the veterinary surgeon.

Trocoxil, a preferential COX-2 inhibitor, has a unique pharmacological profile which means that a single oral dose provides continuous pain relief for a whole month.

The last few years has seen a breakthrough in our understanding of the role of pain in diseases such as osteoarthritis (OA). Exposure to repeated pain stimuli is now known to result in sensitisation (‘wind-up’) of the CNS, so that pain thresholds are lowered and more pain is experienced. Evidence suggests that in osteoarthritis this pain ‘wind-

up’ may actually contribute to the progression of joint disease through a vicious cycle in which dogs in pain are reluctant to move. This in turn leads to muscle wasting which reduces joint stability and thus promotes more pain.

Many experts now believe that continuous NSAID treatment could be beneficial for dogs with OA because it breaks the pain sensitisation cycle and thus helps dogs to experience less pain. This in turn encourages greater mobility and a better quality of life for the pet, and gives the owner the reassurance that their pet is not suffering.

“This study will provide veterinary surgeons with an opportunity to experience the benefits of using Trocoxil to treat OA continuously over a period of months,” added Mr Howell. *“It will also give them the opportunity to assess the benefits this offers the owner”*.

