

## **Pentosan Arthritis Treatment - What is Pentosan and how does it work?**

Pentosan is a revolutionary advance in the treatment for arthritis in dogs. In fact millions of dogs enjoy the benefits of this superior and tested technology with it continuing to treat millions of dogs after 20 years of use in the treatment of arthritis in dogs.

Pentosan is a prescription only, injectable, sulphated sugar of plant origin. It has many sites of action within the underlying processes of the arthritis disease which helps maintain joint health, including preserving joint cartilage.

### **The Treatment:**

Pentosan is an injection given by your vet in a similar way to a vaccine with four weekly doses. This is a convenient way to ensure that your pet receives the appropriate dosage without daily regimen. It is essential that your dog complete all 4 injections to ensure optimal benefit and modification of the disease process.

80% of pets respond quickly to the initial course (Francis and Read, 1993; Cullis-Hill and Ghosh, 1994; Bouck et al, 1995; Read et al, 1996; Smith et al 2001) with a reduction in lameness and pain and a subsequent increase in activity and well-being.

The frequency of treatment continues every 3 months after the initial series, but can be adjusted on a case by case basis to obtain the optimum reduction of arthritic symptoms.

### **How does Pentosan work?**

Pentosan works to modify the underlying arthritic processes to relieve pain and lameness. Improvements from Pentosan result in long-term effects lasting beyond the treatment period of 4 weeks (Smith et al., 2001), up to one year in some cases.

Pentosan has been shown to exhibit the following modes of action:

1. **Stopping the destructive enzymes** that break down cartilage, which is the body's natural shock absorber (Rogachefsky et al., 1993)
2. **Stimulate the body's production of cartilage** (Rogachefsky et al., 1993)
3. **Stimulate the body's production of joint lubricant** (Francis et al., 1993)
4. **Clear blockages in blood vessels** to deliver nutrition to the joint and bone (Ghosh and Cheras, 2001)
5. **Stimulate the production of antioxidants** that block damaging free radicals (Bowman et al., 1994)