

Benefits of an Oral Association of Glycosaminoglycans and Type II Collagene (Glycosane®) on Mobility in Senior Dogs: A Pet-Owner Survey

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Abstract : Background: A complementary feed designed to support joint metabolism and contribute to cartilage integrity in dogs was evaluated through a pet-owner study involving 21 senior dogs experiencing a decrease in mobility. The study aimed to assess the product's benefits, ease of use, and impact on quality of life over a 56-day period. Methods: Privately owned dogs over six years old with reduced mobility and no change in their mobility management within the last three months were recruited. They received a chicken cartilage hydrolysate complementary feed containing a complex of glycosaminoglycans and type II collagen (Glycosane®, MP Labo, France. One capsule per dog up to 40 kg, 2 capsules beyond) once a day for 56 days. Assessments were performed at baseline (D0), and subsequent follow-ups at D7, D28, and D56: revised LOAD (Liverpool Osteoarthritis in Dogs) and CBPI (Canine Brief Pain Inventory) were used to evaluate mobility, pain intensity, and pain interference. Owners also completed a questionnaire on quality of life (QoL), comprising 7 questions on the animal's well-being (QoL1) and 7 questions on the owner's well-being (QoL2). Statistical analyses were performed using mixed models for repeated measures. The significance levels were set at $p < 0.05$. Results: (1) Population: 21 dogs were included. The mean age was 10.2 years [6 - 14.5]. (2) Mobility: 71% of owners reported enhanced mobility by D56. Improvements were observed in half of the cases after 21 days of supplementation, with notable changes evident as early as 14 days in 39% of cases. LOAD scores showed significant improvement over time ($p = 0.0019$). (3) Comfort: CBPI severity scores decreased significantly from baseline to D28 and D56 ($p = 0.0300$ and $p = 0.0271$, respectively). CBPI QoL score was also significantly improved at D56 compared to D7 ($p = 0.0440$). (4) Quality of life: The QoL total score improved significantly by D56 compared to baseline ($p = 0.0089$), with a specific improvement of the QoL1 ($p = 0.0015$). (4) Owners' insights: Glycosane® received a high ease-of-use rating (mean score 4.4/5), with excellent compliance (95%). Oral intake was rated at 4.3/5. Willingness to walk (19%), Increased activity, Ability to run and/or jump from short heights and a Happier animal (11%) were among the most cited benefits. Owners noted enhanced comfort (78%) and happiness (79%) in their dogs, with a 60% perception of restored good mobility. Conclusion: The complementary feed demonstrates significant benefits in enhancing mobility and quality of life in senior dogs. Its high ease of administration supports owner compliance and satisfaction. These findings support Glycosane® as a valuable nutritional aid in helping to maintain canine mobility. Further studies with larger cohorts and a controlled group are recommended to validate these results.

Keywords : canine mobility, complementary feed, LOAD, CBPI, quality of life, Glycosane

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