

Frequently Asked Questions with our Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Robert J. Silver, DVM, MS

Phytocannabinoids and Pets: CBD and THC

Q. How does CBD work in pets?

A. It works the same way it works in people, by stimulating the endocannabinoid system to create balance in the body which helps to relieve pain, reduce neurological problems, reduce anxiety, and address problems with diseases like osteoarthritis, cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, epilepsy, asthma, etc.

Q. Is THC necessary for CBD to work?

A. No. This was a common belief before more research was done regarding hemp's other cannabinoids. New information has shown that THC and CBD can sufficiently function without the other. Full spectrum products that are THC-free but still have several other cannabinoids present are the most beneficial as the cannabinoids are able to complement each other's individual effects.

Q. Is THC safe to use in pets?

A. Folium Biosciences does not recommend giving THC to animals. Every species will experience different reactions to the compound. Dogs have been found to be highly sensitive to its psychoactive properties, while cats have been shown to be less susceptible. THC in larger animals like horses can be potentially dangerous to both the animal and owner, due to THC causing excessive excitement or positive drug tests.

Q. Is THC an important medicinal cannabinoid?

A. THC does have clinical value when combined with CBD for severe pain and aggressive types of cancer. Other than those two applications, the other major and minor cannabinoids and terpenes found in full spectrum hemp extracts are more than adequate to address most clinical conditions responsive to cannabinoids.



Phytocannabinoids and Animals: Dosing and Drug Testing

Q. What is the recommended dosage for pets?

A. We always suggest starting with a low dosage and seeing how it affects the animal before moving up. For the most common ailments, such as anxiety or mild pain, the lowest dose twice a day works very well. Even for more severe problems, the positive reaction to CBD can be profound enough at this low dosage to benefit the quality of life entirely. Every individual is unique and will process cannabinoids differently, meaning that there is no one-size-fits-all dose for all animals. The best way to make sure that the animal is receiving an adequate amount of CBD is start low and monitor behavior for 5-10 days before increasing intake.

RECOMMENDED DOSAGES FOR PETS		
Dosage	per pound	per 10 pounds
low	0.05 mg	0.5 mg
mid	0.10 mg	1.0 mg
high	0.25 mg	2.5 mg



Q. How was the recommended dose calculated?

A. Several scientific studies were analyzed and compared with first-hand evidence to create the recommended dose. Study groups of neurology and oncology veterinary specialists were given Folium's Phytocannabinoid-rich (PCR) tinctures to administer to their patients and examine the outcomes. Through their results and overwhelming anecdotal evidence collected over the course of two years from other vets and pet owners, this was determined to be the most advantageous dose to begin with.

Q. What is the recommended dosage for horses?

A. Folium Biosciences had several equine veterinarians test CBD dosages on numerous horses to find the ideal amount needed for a given condition. Horses are very efficient at absorbing phytocannabinoids. For example, anxiety, a common occurrence when eventing or loading onto a trailer, was greatly reduced with the use of 25 mg once or twice a day. Mild lameness or pain was also remedied by that same dosage. For more serious conditions like laminitis, marked lameness, metabolic syndrome, or Cushing's disease, 50 mg twice daily made a notable improvement.

Q. Will drug testing be a problem for equestrian events?

A. Currently, in the US, horses are only being tested for THC, not CBD. Rules regarding CBD in these cases are subject to change, and we will be continually monitoring any development in this area. While the federal law on hemp allows small amounts of THC to be present, Folium Biosciences prides itself on creating zero-THC hemp products. Animals will not show a positive THC result on drug tests when using Folium's PCR hemp products, which very few hemp companies can promise.