Title:
In-Vitro and Ex-Vivo effect of Meloxicam on chondrocyte metabolism in osteoarthritic canine cartilage

Investigators:
Dr. Steven Budsberg, MS, DACVS
Dr. Spencer Johnston, VMD, DACVS
Contact phone number: Lisa Reynolds, BS, RVT: 706-296-7818 or lisar@uga.edu

Description of study:

The objective of the current study is to assess the effect of meloxicam (Metacam) on cells of the joint surface in dogs with arthritis. Client-owned dogs that have been previously diagnosed with osteoarthritis of the hip joint and confirmed as candidates for surgical replacement of the hip will provide cartilage samples for this study.

Inclusion criteria:
This study will enroll two groups:

1. Dogs receiving meloxicam for pain management for at least 14 days prior to surgery
2. Dogs receiving no NSAIDs for pain management for at least 14 days prior to surgery (placebo group). This group MAY receive analgesics for the control of pain for the two weeks preceding surgery (tramadol, fentanyl patches, etc).

Exclusion criteria:

1. Dogs will be excluded from the study if they have been treated with NSAIDs at any time during the 14 days prior to surgery.

Duration of Study:
The study will remain active until a total of 28 dogs have been recruited. The goal is to have study enrollment completed by April 2009.

Potential benefits to veterinary medicine:
NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs) are used frequently and often chronically in osteoarthritic dogs. However, little is known about the effects of these drugs on the cartilage of dogs affected with osteoarthritis. Conflicting data exists for other NSAIDs. While the direct anti-inflammatory effects of NSAIDs is understood, many questions remain regarding the effect of NSAIDs on the progression of canine osteoarthritis and cartilage cell metabolism. This study will provide valuable supporting data.