

CBD and Your Patients

How your owners can pick safe and effective CBD products

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In August the AVMA released “Cannabis in Veterinary Medicine” a 50 page document providing an overview of the endocannabinoid system, reviews of animal clinical studies, potential adverse effects, and current regulations. Overall, the legal landscape of cannabis is evolving faster than the research, therefore veterinarians should stay aware and keep owners mindful of cannabis derived products in their pets.

While the legal component of cannabis derived products can be murky there are several important things to know about these products, particularly CBD.

1. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) descheduled “hemp” from the Controlled Substances Act and defined it as any part of the plant *Cannabis sativa L.*, and have a concentration of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.
2. Marijuana is still considered a Schedule I under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) on a federal level. Recreational and medical marijuana use is legal under General Laws Chapter 94G in the state of Massachusetts, it pertains to humans and not use in animals.
3. There is only one FDA approved drug that contains cannabidiol (CBD) on the market. Epidolex is approved for

treatment of certain types of seizures in humans. Under AMDUCA it could be prescribed for animals, however it has limited distribution from the manufacturer.

4. CBD products cannot be marketed as dietary supplements because they do not meet the FDA’s definition of a dietary supplement under the Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act).



With the passing of the 2018 Farm Bill there has been a boom of CBD products. Whether you recommend CBD products for your patients or not, owners may be curious and self-prescribe CBD products for their animals. It is important that they receive CBD from reputable sources.

Things for owners to consider when purchasing CBD products:

1. Buy from trusted stores or online. CBD products can be found in various settings, including gas stations and in multi-level marketing. These should be avoided and instead seek products from trusted stores. Some of the most informative and trusted retailers have been primarily found online.
2. Ask for 3rd party test results. Trusted retailers should have Certificates of Analysis (COA). These should be easily accessible to potential customers. The COA should be performed by a 3rd party, and be on the current products they are selling (same lot #). If a COA or a more current COA isn't easily available, contact the retailer. A reputable retailer should be happy to provide a customer with this information.
3. Use experienced companies. Retailers based in early legalization states, can be more reliable. Luckily, Massachusetts is one of those states.
4. Look at the packaging. CBD products cannot make therapeutic claims on the packaging. Avoid products with marijuana leaves, rainbows, and childlike appearance.
5. Quality products may mean higher cost. This is especially true when purchasing from sources that regularly use 3rd party testing.



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Daniel Binder, DVM, Ph.D., DACVO

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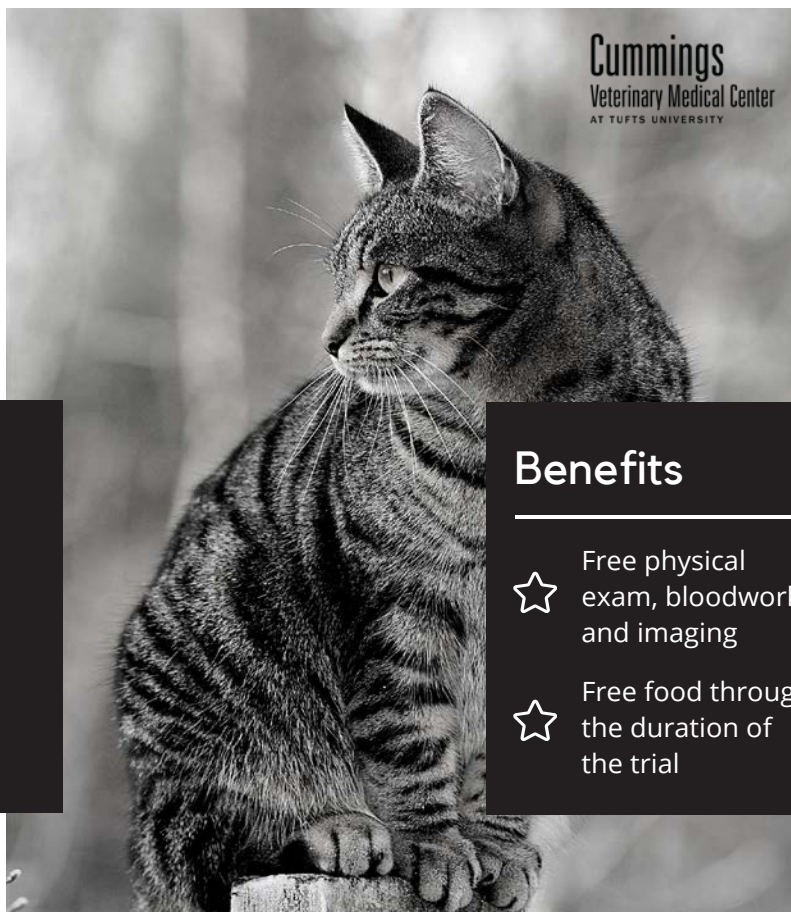
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For more information, contact Dr. Deborah Linder, DVM, DACVN and Dr. Mary Labato, DVM, DACVIM through the Clinical Trials Office at (508)-887-4441, or email clinicaltrials@tufts.edu



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