

# Cartrophen

VET  
THE DISEASE MODIFYING OSTEOARTHRITIS DRUG



Hello, my name is Janis Apse. I graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1966. I am the technical advisor to Arthrofarm the Canadian distributor of Cartrophen Vet.

Cartrophen Vet is a subcutaneous injection used to treat arthritic conditions in dogs. It is made from an extract of European beech . It is not an NSAID nor cortisone. For more details visit our web site at [www.cartrophen.ca](http://www.cartrophen.ca)

Cartrophen Vet has been sold in Canada for almost 20 years and over this time we have gathered a great many opinions and questions from veterinarians and dog owners. I wish to share some of the experiences with you and some of the advice we have given and received from veterinarians.

Cartrophen Vet is administered at a dosage of 3mg/kg of body weight in a series of four injections a week apart. The response is very favourable. We encourage the use of Cartrophen Vet without any other drug. Then, depending on the age of the dog and the severity of the arthritis, Cartrophen may be repeated in a single dose as frequently as the veterinarian recommends.

In some cases with less severe arthritis, the dog's response may be such that no additional injection is necessary for up to a year. Where there has been no Cartrophen administered for a year, we recommend the series of four injections be repeated.

In other cases repeat single injections may be done when the animal is beginning to show signs of lameness or the condition worsens. In some animals this may be as often as once a month while in others, it may be several months before an injection is repeated. Usually, a single injection suffices at that time. The injection can then be repeated regularly based upon experience and symptoms.

In very severe cases where there is extensive joint damage due to age or arthritis, the response to Cartrophen may not be as evident but it may delay further degeneration and maintain the quality of life of the pet. To help maintain the quality of life, NSAIDs have been used in conjunction with Cartrophen but it should be remembered that NSAIDs may cause gastric and renal side effects. In older animals these functions are already compromised and the use of NSAIDs may further compromise them. Cartrophen on the other hand has an excellent safety profile with very few side effects. The odd animal will have nausea or even vomit but these are transient effects.

In addition to the treatment of osteoarthritis in dogs, Cartrophen Vet has also been used in some cases where the owner does not wish or cannot afford cruciate repair.

Since NSAIDs delay healing by as much as 25%, some surgeons have used Cartrophen before surgery on joints with no reported bleeding problems. These same surgeons follow up prescribing Cartrophen post-operatively - again with no reported problems.

Cartrophen has also been used to alleviate sprains and strains of sporting dogs during trials.

Over the years the major questions have involved the frequency of use which I have tried to address. Many questions involved the use of NSAIDs and Cartrophen together. While we have tried to suggest that Cartrophen be tried by itself there are undoubtedly acute pain situations where NSAIDs are very effective. However, long term use of NSAIDs entails testing various functions - an obvious testimony to their side effects. Cartrophen on the other hand does not require any testing.

Questions have been asked about the use of Cartrophen in diabetic animals. Generally our response has been that there is no specific data but given the type of drug and the quantity used there should be no problem.

Two of the most frequently asked questions have been concerning the storage of Cartrophen. In syringes since we have no stability data, we have recommended against this unless the syringe is glass.

Cartrophen is a very stable drug with a good preservative system so storing at room temperature for a length of time should prove no problem. However if the bottle has been opened leaving the drug at room temperature for more than a day or two is not recommended despite the robust preservative system.

In Canada we sell Cartrophen only to veterinary distributors. These distributors are listed under "Links" on our site. Cartrophen has not been cleared for use in the US but we are able, with the cooperation of the requesting veterinarian in the US, to get an FDA Import Permit. Interested veterinarians should contact us. We most will certainly comply with the FDA requirements.

We are always interested in the views, comments and advice of pet owners and veterinarians. I hope that the information in this brief overview has been helpful and you may always call us on our toll free line or visit our website [cartrophen.ca](http://cartrophen.ca)