

Effects of Cannabidiol (CBD) On Noise Aversion in Dogs

Purpose of study

Noise aversion is one of the most common behavioral disorders in dogs. Cannabidiol (CBD) is purported to be a natural antianxiety supplement, but controlled data is lacking. Using standardized audio recordings, we aim to assess signs of anxiety (anxiety rating scale, heart rate, and heart rate variability) at 4 doses of a CBD product in dogs with existing aversion to thunder and/or firework noise. Each dog will be tested at all 4 doses and data collection will occur in the dog's primary residence.

Inclusion criteria

- Clinically healthy dogs older than 12 months of age
- Sensitivity to thunder or firework noise (based on history and reaction to noise recording)

Exclusion criteria

- Serious health conditions at the time of enrollment
- History of aggression to unfamiliar people
- History of strong resistance to handling during veterinary care, grooming, or other procedures
- Any reason a heart rate monitor cannot be placed on the dog
- Participant's residence outside of reasonable driving distance from UTCVM



Study procedure

The enrollment process involves completion of a questionnaire and visit to UTCVM for a physical exam, screening labwork (complete blood count, serum chemistry, thyroxine level, and urinalysis), and reaction to the noise recording.

Qualifying dogs will have 4-5 home visits conducted by a UTCVM research team member: 1 acclimation session and 3-4 data collection sessions involving administration of varying doses of CBD, and heart rate and video monitoring before, during, and after exposure to a brief audio clip of thunder or fireworks. Each visit may last 75-90 minutes.

Study Incentive

Initial physical exam and labwork (approximate value \$350) will be completed at no cost to the participant.
Participant gift card (\$75) at the completion of the study.

For Further information

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