

An international multi-centre clinical trial is being launched to investigate whether the food supplement aspartame can reduce the incidence of chemotherapy-induced diarrhoea in dogs. The trial is a collaboration between the oncology teams at AURA Veterinary in Guildford, the University of Edinburgh and the University of Leipzig, Germany. Some of the most commonly administered chemotherapy agents have the potential to cause transient diarrhoea in dogs, and previous work by the same researchers has already identified that the natural medical clay smectite can shorten the course of chemotherapy-induced diarrhoea¹. This new trial aims to prevent diarrhoea from occurring at all.

The study has been awarded a Purina Institute Resident Research Award from the ECVIM-CA Clinical Studies Fund, which will cover the costs of food supplement and faecal analysis.

Dogs diagnosed with cancer and starting a doxorubicin-based CHOP or single-agent chemotherapy protocol with the oncology service at one of the three hospitals will be eligible to be enrolled.

Owners will be asked to collect two faecal samples, fill out a diary and administer the food supplement.

For more details, please contact Dr. Quentin Fournier DECVIM (Oncology), AURA Veterinary, at hello@auravet.com; Dr Charlie Hawkes, University of Edinburgh, at HFSAreception@ed.ac.uk.

¹Chemotherapy-induced diarrhoea in dogs and its management with smectite: Results of a monocentric open-label randomised clinical trial. Fournier Q, Serra J-C, Williams C, Bavcar S. *Veterinary and Comparative Oncology* (2021); 19(1): 25-33