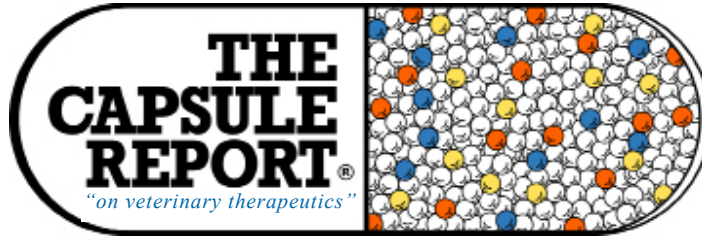


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## AT A GLANCE

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### Preventing heat loss in the OR

This study demonstrated that covering the cervical and thoracic regions with a reflective blanket and wrapping 3 limbs (leaving one limb free for IV access) in reflective blankets and wool socks from the digits to the axillary or inguinal region is an affordable, adjunctive means of passive heat support that can be applied to canines undergoing celiotomy to help minimize perioperative hypothermia. Reflective blankets (emergency mylar thermal blanket; Dongguan City Risen Medical Products Co) were cut to size and placed over the cervical and thoracic regions and wrapped around 3 limbs and covered with commercially available wool-blend socks from the digits to the axillary or inguinal region. Reflective blankets were placed with the reflective surface toward the patient. Blankets and socks were placed on the patient in the operating room after the patient was positioned by the surgeon.

*Bridget A. O'Neil, DVM, and Andrew K.J. Linklater, DVM  
JAVMA, Aug 2022*

### Nutritional supplements for canine OA

The evidence for glucosamine and chondroitin in OA remains mixed at best, although some other ingredients of oral nutraceuticals, such as Bosswelia, egg shell membrane, avocado soybean unsaponifiables, MSM, green-lipped mussel, microlactin, and others, offer suggestions for varying degrees of immunomodulating, chondroprotective, and pain-modifying effects. A recent review of nutritional supplements for canine OA concludes that, even if additional investigation is needed, dietary supplements **should**

**be considered** in OA management. It can be argued that these nutraceuticals, due to their ease, relative safety, low cost, and easy acceptance by pet owners, should be deployed with earliest onset of OA signs, or even in at-risk patients before they become symptomatic.

*Mark E. Epstein, DVM, DABVP, CVPP  
91<sup>st</sup> West Vet conf, 02:19*

### Supplementing growing puppies

Growing puppies, especially large breeds, should not be supplemented with any vitamin or mineral supplements. These supplements are unnecessary when a balanced commercial diet is fed and can contribute to developmental orthopedic disease (DOD). Some breeders insist that specific supplements are fed in order for the hip/health guarantees to be valid. This practice likely puts the puppies at greater risk of developmental problems but this information has clearly not been widely disseminated enough to prevent such restrictions. It is important to counsel owners about the risks of such supplements so that they can make an educated decision on whether to follow the breeders' recommendations. Breeder clients should also be educated as to the known causes of DOD and ways of preventing the condition.

*Cailin R. Heinze, MS, VMD, DACVN  
Fetch San Diego, 12:19*

### Pyoderma

When prescribing antibiotics empirically, use first-tier antibiotics, such as cephalexin. Second-tier antibiotics, such as fluoroquinolones, should only be used in the face of a culture indicating no susceptibility to first-tier antibiotics. They should not be recommended based only on the failure of a first-tier antibiotic as resistance patterns can be unpredictable. Although less expensive, ciprofloxacin **should not be used in veterinary medicine** because its bioavailability and probability of effectiveness are variable and low and the likelihood of bacterial resistance is increased. Use of third-tier antibiotics such as linezolid and vancomycin are discouraged for skin infections in animals.

*Annette Lundberg, DVM et al.  
Today's Vet Practice, Jul/Aug 2022*

### Adding dexamethasone to ear flushes

Veterinary dermatologists frequently use topical corticosteroids to manage allergic otitis externa; however, there is a scarcity of commercial therapeutic products that contain a corticosteroid without added antibiotics. Many over-