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Animal Health

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EDITION- 151



NEW DATA FOR NOVEL BONE CANCER THERAPY DEMONSTRATES IMPROVED OUTCOMES

At the 2025 ACVIM Forum, promising interim results from a clinical study evaluating **Cancer Immunotherapy** in combination with **chemotherapy** for treating **canine osteosarcoma** was published by ELIAS Healthcare. The novel approach uses a **personalized cancer vaccine** and **activated T cells** to stimulate an immune response following chemotherapy.

Key points in the study:

- **14 dogs** received one dose of **carboplatin** followed by **Cancer Immunotherapy** 21 days later.
- This group had a **1-year survival rate of 71%**, compared to **21%** in 14 matched control dogs treated with standard chemotherapy alone (4 doses of carboplatin).
- The combined treatment was well-tolerated.

Researchers noted that combining cytotoxic chemotherapy with immunotherapy improved outcomes and could shift the standard of care. The final results of the study are expected in late 2026.

Cancer Immunotherapy was **USDA-approved in March 2025** and is currently the only **USDA-approved therapy** for canine osteosarcoma.



STUDY SHOWS BENEFIT OF FEEDING MCFAS TO CATS WITH RENAL DISEASE

A study presented at the 2025 ACVIM Forum showed that feeding **medium chain triglycerides (MCTs)** to cats with chronic kidney disease (CKD) improved their **energy status** and **reduced pro-inflammatory lipids**, potentially helping to **slow disease progression**.

Key points in the study:

- 16 cats with naturally occurring CKD (mostly IRIS stages 1 & 2) were enrolled in a crossover study.
- Cats were fed either a standard renal diet or the same diet supplemented with **8% MCTs** for 8 weeks.

- Cats on the MCT diet had increased levels of **β -hydroxybutyrate (BHB)**, a ketone indicating improved energy availability.

72% of lipid metabolites across 13 classes were significantly reduced, indicating lowered inflammation.

The study supports the use of MCTs (and fish oil) in renal diets for managing CKD and enhancing vitality in senior cats.



NOVEL CARDIOLOGY THERAPY FOR CATS IS LAUNCHED

A new feline heart drug, **Felycin-CA1** (sirolimus delayed-release tablets), was launched on June 2025, for the management of **subclinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM)** in cats. The drug received conditional FDA approval in March 2025 and is expected to be available by late July 2025.

Key Highlights:

- Felycin-CA1 is the first **mTOR inhibitor** for feline HCM.
- Sirolimus works by reducing **left ventricular hypertrophy**—the thickening of heart muscle—which is a hallmark of HCM.
- The condition is common in certain breeds (e.g., Maine Coon, Ragdoll) and may remain asymptomatic for years, yet can progress to heart failure or death.

Study and Usage:

- Dosed once weekly, Felycin-CA1 is available in 0.4, 1.2, and 2.4 mg tablets—suitable for cats of all sizes.
- Ongoing trials, such as the **HALT Study (210 cats enrolled)**, aim to confirm its long-term **efficacy and safety** and may support **full FDA approval**.
- Experts tagged the therapy as a **paradigm shift** in feline cardiology, moving beyond palliative care to disease-modifying treatment.

Veterinary leaders at the ACVIM Forum emphasized the drug's potential to change outcomes & expectations in feline heart care.



NEW IN-CLINIC CORTISOL TEST IS LAUNCHED

IDEXX Laboratories has launched the **Catalyst Cortisol Test**, a new in-clinic diagnostic tool for measuring cortisol levels in dogs. This test helps diagnose and monitor Addison disease and Cushing syndrome, two endocrine disorders that affect cortisol production.

Key Features:

- Available in the US and Canada by late July 2025, with global rollout expected in Q3 2025.
- Integrates with IDEXX VetLab Station and VetConnect Plus.
- Runs as a standalone or alongside other chemistry tests using a single sample.
- Provides built-in results interpretation to support faster clinical decisions.

Clinical Relevance:

- **Addison disease** (hypoadrenocorticism) involves **low cortisol levels** and presents with vague symptoms like vomiting, diarrhoea, and lethargy—making diagnosis challenging.
- **Cushing syndrome** (hyperadrenocorticism) is caused by **excess cortisol** and leads to signs like increased thirst, urination, hunger, panting, hair loss, and pot-bellied appearance. It requires lifelong management.

LIBRELA ROW ERUPTS AGAIN AMID PUBLIC CALLS FOR BAN

A renewed controversy over Librela, a widely used treatment for canine osteoarthritis, erupted at the Veterinary Osteoarthritis Congress (VOACON) following a new study suggesting significantly higher rates of musculoskeletal adverse events (MSAERs) in dogs treated with the drug.

Key Points:

- A new analysis of European Medicines Agency data found that Librela was linked to 9x more MSAERs (like ligament injuries, fractures, and polyarthritis) than five comparator drugs.
- The number of MSAERs from Librela in under 4 years was 3x higher than all comparator drugs combined over 20 years.

Counter study:

- Another study presented at VOACON reported fewer adverse events with Librela (bedinvetmab) than with meloxicam, suggesting a favorable safety profile.

In Context:

- Public concern is growing, with a UK petition calling for a ban on Librela and past warnings issued in the U.S.
 - The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) stated it would act if necessary but acknowledged its reporting portal was currently down.
- Zoetis maintains confidence in Librela's safety and efficacy, while the profession continues to debate the risk-benefit balance amid increasing public scrutiny.

Vivaldis at ICVD, Pune

Vivaldis was a proud Diamond sponsor at the Fourth edition of the Indian Congress for Veterinary Dermatology.

One of the most crucial branches of veterinary sciences is dermatology and the ICVD is one of the biggest dermatology conferences in India.

The conference was held at Pune this year and over 500 veterinarians from across the country were in attendance.

Below are a few glimpses of the event.

VIVALDIS CORNER

