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SOLUTION TO THE  
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URGENT CALL FOR ACTION  
TO FILL WORKFORCE  
SHORTAGE

Championing Pets and People:  
The Inspirational Journey of Quisha Brown

**Quisha**  
*Brown*



# THE FIRST AND ONLY FELINE BROAD-SPECTRUM PARASITE PROTECTION THAT TREATS TAPEWORMS



FLEAS



TICKS



HEARTWORM  
DISEASE



ROUNDWORMS



HOOKWORMS



TAPEWORMS

## The One You Want for One-And-Done Monthly Parasite Protection

- ✓ First-of-its-kind formulation includes esafloxolaner—specifically developed for use in cats
- ✓ Easy-to-apply monthly topical solution
- ✓ Safe for use in kittens as young as 8 weeks, weighing 1.8 lbs or more

[Contact your Boehringer Ingelheim Representative to learn more](#)

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:** NexGard® COMBO (esafloxolaner, eprinomectin, and praziquantel topical solution) is for topical use only in cats. Use with caution in cats with a history of seizures or neurologic disorders. The most frequently reported adverse reactions include vomiting, application site reactions, lethargy, and anorexia. If ingested, hypersalivation may occur. Avoid direct contact with application site until visibly dry. For more information, see full prescribing information or visit [NexGardCOMBOclinic.com](http://NexGardCOMBOclinic.com).

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# NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO

## (esafloxolaner, eprinomectin, and praziquantel topical solution)

### For topical use in cats only

**CAUTION:** Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

#### Description:

NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO is a topical solution containing esafloxolaner, eprinomectin and praziquantel available in 0.3 mL and 0.9 mL unit applicators to treat cats from 1.8 lbs to 33 lbs. Each mL of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO contains 12 mg of esafloxolaner, 4 mg of eprinomectin, and 83 mg of praziquantel. Inactive ingredients: dimethyl isosorbide, unstabilized glycerol formal, and butylated hydroxytoluene.

Esafloxolaner is a member of the aryl isoxazoline class of compounds. Its chemical name is 4-[(5S)-5-[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-5-(trifluoromethyl)-4, 5-dihydro-1,2-oxazol-3-yl]-N-[2-(2,2-trifluoroethyl)aminoethyl]-1-naphthamide.

Eprinomectin belongs to the avermectin class of anthelmintics and is a mixture of homologous components referred to as eprinomectin B1a and B1b. The chemical name for eprinomectin B1a is (4'R)-acetylamino-5-O-demethyl-4'-deoxyavermectin A<sub>1a</sub>. The chemical name for eprinomectin B1b is (4'R)-acetylamino-5-O-demethyl-25-de(1-methylpropyl)-4'-deoxy-25-(1-methylethyl) avermectin A<sub>1a</sub>.

Praziquantel is a pyrazinoisoquinoline anthelmintic. Its chemical name is 2-(Cyclohexylcarbonyl)-1,2,3,6,7,11b-hexahydro-4H-pyrazino[2,1-a]isoquinolin-4-one.

#### Indications:

NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO is indicated for the prevention of heartworm disease caused by *Dirofilaria immitis* and for the treatment and control of roundworm (fourth stage larval and adult *Toxocara cati*), hookworm (fourth stage larval and adult *Ancylostoma tubaeforme*, adult *Ancylostoma braziliense*), and tapeworm (*Dipylidium caninum*) infections. NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO kills adult fleas (*Ctenocephalides felis*) and is indicated for the treatment and prevention of flea infestations and the treatment and control of *Ixodes scapularis* (black-legged tick) and *Amblyomma americanum* (lone star tick) infestations for one month in cats and kittens 8 weeks of age and older, and weighing 1.8 lbs or greater.

#### Dosage and Administration:

NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO is dosed at a minimum of 0.055 mL/lb (0.12 mL/kg), which delivers a minimum dose of 0.65 mg/lb (1.44 mg/kg) esafloxolaner, 0.22 mg/lb (0.48 mg/kg) eprinomectin, and 4.53 mg/lb (9.98 mg/kg) praziquantel.

**For heartworm disease prevention, apply once monthly for at least three months after last exposure to mosquitoes (see Effectiveness).**

Administer the entire contents of a NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO unit applicator topically once a month as specified in the following table:

#### Dosing Schedule

| Cat Weight (lb) | Volume (mL) | Esafloxolaner (mg) | Eprinomectin (mg) | Praziquantel (mg) |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1.8-5.5         | 0.3         | 3.6                | 1.2               | 24.9              |
| 5.6-16.5        | 0.9         | 10.8               | 3.6               | 74.7              |
| 16.6-22         | 0.3 + 0.9   | 14.4               | 4.8               | 99.6              |
| 22.1-33         | 0.9 + 0.9   | 21.6               | 7.2               | 149.4             |

A veterinarian or veterinary technician should demonstrate or instruct the pet owner regarding the appropriate technique for applying NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO topically to cats and kittens prior to first use.

Keep product in original packaging until ready to use



- Use scissors to cut the blister along the dotted line.
- Then pull the lid away.
- Remove the applicator from the package and hold it upright. Pull back the plunger slightly.
- Twist and pull off the cap.
- Part the hair on the midline of the neck, between the base of the skull and the shoulder blades until the skin is visible. Place the tip of the applicator on the skin and apply the entire contents directly onto the skin in one spot. The product should be applied to dry skin on an area where the cat cannot lick it off. If the weight of the cat requires a second application, apply the contents in the same manner as described above in the same location.
- Wash hands after use with soap and water.

#### Heartworm Prevention:

For the prevention of heartworm disease, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should be administered once a month year-round. At a minimum, administration of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should start at least 1 month before the cat's first expected exposure to mosquitoes and monthly thereafter until at least 3 months after the cat's last seasonal exposure to mosquitoes (see Effectiveness). If a dose is missed and a 30-day interval between doses is exceeded, administer NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO immediately and resume the monthly dosing schedule. Treatment with fewer than 3 monthly doses may not provide complete heartworm prevention. When replacing another monthly heartworm preventive product in a heartworm prevention program, the first treatment with NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should be given within one month of the last dose of the former medication. At the discretion of the veterinarian, cats older than 6 months of age may be tested to determine the presence of existing heartworm infection before treatment with NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO. Cats already infected with adult heartworms can be given NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO monthly to prevent further infections.

#### Flea Treatment and Prevention:

For the treatment and prevention of flea infestations, the use of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO may begin at any time of year. NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should be administered year-round at monthly intervals or begin at least one month before fleas become active. However, an environmental infestation may persist for a short time after beginning treatment with NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO because of the development of adult fleas from eggs that were laid prior to the initiation of treatment.

#### Tick Treatment and Control:

For the treatment and control of infestations with *Ixodes scapularis* and *Amblyomma americanum*, the use of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO may begin at any time of year. NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should be administered year-round at monthly intervals or begin at least one month before the ticks become active.

Treatment and Control of Roundworms, Hookworms, and Tapeworms: NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO provides treatment and control of roundworms (adult and fourth stage larval *Toxocara cati*), hookworms (adult and fourth stage larval *Ancylostoma tubaeforme*, adult *Ancylostoma braziliense*), and tapeworms (*Dipylidium caninum*). For the treatment of hookworm, roundworms and tapeworm infections, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should be administered once as a single dose. Monthly use of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO will control any subsequent infections. Cats may be exposed to and can become infected with roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms throughout the year, regardless of season or climate.

#### Contraindications:

There are no known contraindications for the use of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO.

#### Human Warnings:

Not for human use. Keep this and all drugs out of sight and reach of children.

**Avoid direct contact with application site for 4 hours or until visibly dry.**

**This product may act as a mild to moderate eye irritant.**

Keep product in the original packaging until use. Wash hands after product administration. If the product accidentally gets into the eyes, rinse thoroughly with water. If wearing contact lenses, flush the eyes first with water and then remove the lenses and continue to flush thoroughly with water. In case of accidental ingestion, or if skin or eye irritation occurs, contact a poison control center or physician for treatment advice.

#### Precautions:

Esafloxolaner, one of the ingredients in NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO, is a member of the isoxazoline class. This class has been associated with neurologic adverse reactions including tremors, ataxia, and seizures. Seizures have been reported in cats receiving isoxazoline class drugs, even in cats without a history of seizures. Use with caution in cats with a history of seizures or neurologic disorders.

Do not administer orally. Cats may salivate excessively if NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO is accidentally administered orally or is ingested through licking/grooming the application site (see Target Animal Safety).

The safety of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO has not been fully evaluated in breeding, pregnant, or lactating cats.

The safety of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO has not been tested in kittens less than 8 weeks of age or weighing less than 1.8 lbs (0.8 kg).

#### Adverse Reactions:

In a field safety and effectiveness study, which included a total of 201 households and 380 treated cats (244 cats treated with NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO, 136 cats treated with an active control), the safety of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO was evaluated over a 90-day period through in-clinic physical examinations or through reporting of abnormalities by the owner. The most frequently reported reactions in the NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO and active control groups are presented in the following table.

#### Adverse Reactions by Treatment Group

| EVENT                        | Treatment Group |           |                |           |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
|                              | NexGard COMBO   |           | Active Control |           |
|                              | n <sup>1</sup>  | % (n=244) | n <sup>2</sup> | % (n=136) |
| Vomiting                     | 16              | 6.56      | 8              | 5.88      |
| Application Site Hair Change | 9               | 3.69      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Anorexia                     | 7               | 2.87      | 4              | 2.94      |
| Lethargy                     | 6               | 2.46      | 5              | 3.68      |
| Bacterial skin infection     | 4               | 1.64      | 1              | 0.74      |
| Itching                      | 4               | 1.64      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Sneezing                     | 4               | 1.64      | 5              | 3.68      |
| Skin Peeling                 | 3               | 1.23      | 2              | 1.47      |
| Diarrhea                     | 3               | 1.23      | 3              | 2.21      |
| Epiphora                     | 3               | 1.23      | 1              | 0.74      |
| Hypersalivation              | 3               | 1.23      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Hyperthermia                 | 3               | 1.23      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Alopecia                     | 2               | 0.82      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Dermal thickening            | 2               | 0.82      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Ear Pruritus                 | 2               | 0.82      | 1              | 0.74      |
| Application Site Redness     | 2               | 0.82      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Conjunctivitis               | 1               | 0.41      | 1              | 0.74      |

<sup>1</sup>Number of cats treated with NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO with the identified abnormality.

<sup>2</sup>Number of cats treated with Active Control with the identified abnormality.

#### Contact Information:

To report suspected adverse events, for technical assistance or to obtain a copy of the SDS, contact Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc. at 1-888-637-4251 or www.nexgardforpets.com.

For additional information about reporting adverse drug experiences for animal drugs, contact FDA at 1-888-FDA-VETS or online at www.fda.gov/reportanimalae.

The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) provides additional occupational safety information. For customer service or to obtain product information, including the SDS, call 1-888-637-4251.

#### Clinical Pharmacology:

##### Mode of Action:

Esafloxolaner is a member of the isoxazoline family, shown to bind to a site to inhibit insect and acarine ligand-gated chloride channels, in particular those gated by the neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), thereby blocking pre- and post-synaptic transfer of chloride ions across cell membranes. Prolonged esafloxolaner-induced hyperexcitation results in uncontrolled activity of the central nervous system and death of insects and acarines. The selective toxicity of esafloxolaner between insects/acarines and mammals may be inferred by the differential sensitivity of the insects/acarines' GABA receptors versus mammalian GABA receptors.

Eprinomectin is an endectocide in the macrocyclic lactone class that binds to glutamate gated chloride channels that are present in invertebrate nerve and muscle cells and increases the permeability of the cell membrane to chloride ions that triggers hyperpolarization of the nerve or muscle cell in susceptible parasites, resulting in paralysis and death of the parasite.

Praziquantel's mode of action is not precisely known, but treated tapeworms undergo muscular paralysis accompanied by a rapid influx of calcium ions and the disruption of the tegument.

#### Pharmacokinetics:

After a single topical administration to healthy male and female cats of a combined topical formulation containing esafloxolaner (12 mg/mL), eprinomectin (4 mg/mL), and praziquantel (83 mg/mL), at dose volumes of 0.06, 0.12, or 0.24 mL/kg, there was a dose proportional increase in the exposure of each ingredient based on maximum plasma concentration (C<sub>max</sub>) and area under the plasma concentration time curve (AUC). After repeated monthly doses of the combined topical formulation at the target dose of 1.44 mg/kg esafloxolaner, 0.48 mg/kg eprinomectin, and 9.98 mg/kg praziquantel, steady state was reached by the fourth dose for esafloxolaner and after the second dose for eprinomectin and praziquantel. Additionally, modest accumulation was observed for esafloxolaner (approximately 3-fold) and praziquantel (approximately 1.5- to 2-fold) between the first and fifth dose, whereas no accumulation was observed for eprinomectin.

#### Effectiveness:

##### Heartworm Prevention:

In well-controlled laboratory studies, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO (esafloxolaner, eprinomectin, and praziquantel topical solution) was 100% effective in preventing the development of heartworms in cats inoculated with infective larvae of *Dirofilaria immitis* 30 days prior to the first of three consecutive monthly treatments.

##### Flea Treatment and Prevention:

In a well-controlled laboratory study, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO killed >92% of fleas within 24 hours. During subsequent weekly infestations, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO killed >95.5% of fleas within 24 hours through Day 31 and killed fleas before they could lay eggs. The effectiveness against adult fleas at 24 hours post-infestation in the treated cats virtually eliminated flea egg production (99.8 – 100% control of flea egg production by 24 hours) throughout the remainder of the month. In a field safety and effectiveness study in the United States, conducted in households with existing flea infestations, the effectiveness of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO against fleas was 97.8%, 99.6%, and 99.9% when assessed on Days 30, 60, and 90, respectively. Cats with signs of flea allergy dermatitis showed improvement in alopecia, dermatitis/ pyodermitis, pruritus, erythema, papules, and scaling, as a direct result of eliminating fleas.

##### Tick Treatment and Control:

In well-controlled laboratory studies, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO demonstrated >95.1% effectiveness against *Ixodes scapularis* 48 hours post-infestation for a month and >95.6% effectiveness against *Amblyomma americanum* 72 hours post-infestation for a month.

Treatment and Control of Roundworms, Hookworms, and Tapeworms: In 2 well-controlled laboratory studies, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO provided 98.9% and 100% effectiveness against natural and/or induced roundworm infections with the dose-limiting gastrointestinal nematode species (adult *Toxocara cati*), respectively. Effectiveness studies against fourth stage larval *Toxocara cati* and hookworms (adult and fourth stage larval *Ancylostoma tubaeforme*, adult *Ancylostoma braziliense*) were conducted with an early formulation. The doses of eprinomectin in this early formulation are equivalent to that of the final formulation of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO. In well-controlled laboratory studies, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO provided an average 92.8% effectiveness against natural and/or induced infections with *Dipylidium caninum*.

#### Target Animal Safety:

##### Margin of Safety Study:

NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO was applied topically to healthy kittens (8 to 9 weeks of age) at 1X, 3X, or 5X the maximum exposure dose six times at 28-day intervals; kittens in the control group were dosed with mineral oil. One kitten in the 5X group exhibited recumbency, tremors, hypothermia, ataxia, disorientation, and pupil dilation (responsive to light) 9 hours after the third dose. This kitten received supportive care, including washing the application site, and recovered within 48 hours post-dose. During necropsy, a dark red subcutaneous area (<5 mm diameter) was observed in the treated site area of three cats in the 5X group, but microscopic examination revealed no histologic abnormalities. No significant changes related to NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO were observed for physical examination, body weight, clinical pathology (hematology, coagulation, and serum chemistry), histopathology, or organ weights.

##### Study in Heartworm Positive Cats:

Adult cats, 4.7 to 6.6 months of age, were experimentally infected with adult heartworms (*D. immitis*) by venous transplantation. All cats were negative for heartworm antibody, antigen and microfilariae prior to transplantation. Two weeks after transplantation, immunoserology verified positive antigen and the presence of microfilariae in all enrolled cats. A combination of ivermectin, eprinomectin, praziquantel, and (S)-methoprene was applied topically to cats at 1X or 3X the maximum exposure dose every 28 days for three consecutive treatments; cats in the control group were dosed with mineral oil. One cat in the 1X group exhibited cyanotic mucous membranes and tachypnea for 24 hours following the first treatment. The cat recovered and exhibited no abnormal signs following two subsequent treatments. There was no difference between the treatment groups in the number of adult *D. immitis* recovered at the end of the study.

##### Oral Administration Study:

Oral tolerance was evaluated to assess the effects of accidental oral ingestion. Kittens (male and female) ranging in age from 7.4 to 8.9 weeks were orally administered NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO at 1X the maximum exposure dose; kittens in the control group were dosed with saline. Cats were observed for adverse reactions at 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 hours following administration, then twice a day until Day 14. All 8 cats administered NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO immediately exhibited excessive hypersalivation after oral administration. However, all cats stopped salivating within 1 hour after exposure. No additional health-related observations were seen for the remainder of the study.

##### How Supplied:

NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO is packaged as a single dose in 0.3 mL (for cats 1.8 – 5.5 lb) and 0.9 mL (for cats 5.6-16.5 lb) applicators. Each size applicator is available in cartons containing 1, 3 or 6 applications.

##### Storage Information:

Store at 59° – 86°F (15° – 30° C). Brief periods up to 104° F (40° C) are permitted. Protect from light.

Approved by FDA under NADA # 411-570

**Marketed by:** Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc., Duluth, GA 30096  
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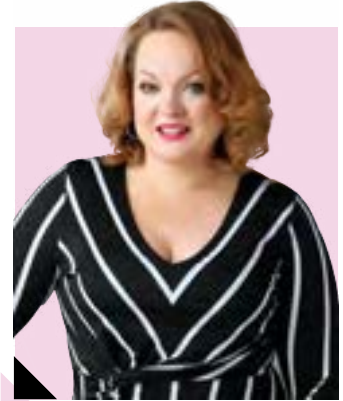
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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## Dear Readers,

I hope this letter finds you thriving and surrounded by the joy of your furry friends. As we dive into the second quarter of 2024, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for your ongoing support and enthusiasm for Business by Vet Candy.



I was truly captivated by the latest edition, especially the piece titled "Championing Pets and People: The Inspirational Journey of Quisha Brown." Quisha's story is nothing short of inspiring, showcasing the incredible impact one person can have in our communities. Her dedication to making veterinary care accessible to everyone, regardless of their background, is a powerful reminder of the compassion that drives our field.

Furthermore, Quisha's advocacy for recognizing the hard work of veterinary professionals hit close to home. In an industry where the days can be long and the challenges many, her efforts to foster a supportive environment are invaluable.

And let's not forget the article on millennials' influence on the pet care industry. According to Forbes, millennials make up the largest percentage of current pet owners (33%), followed by Gen X (25%) and baby boomers (24%). In 2022, Americans spent \$136.8 billion on their pets, up nearly 11% from 2021 (\$123.6 billion). Essential dog expenses cost an average of \$1,533 annually. I think it is fascinating to see how millennial values are shaping the way pets are cared for.

The focus on sustainability, quality, and community is not just a trend but a reflection of our deep connection with our furry companions and inside you will hear about some companies that are really doing it right.

In closing, I want to extend a huge thank you for reading Business by Vet Candy. Your support drives us to deliver content that informs, inspires, and celebrates the business of vet med.

*Dr. Jill Lopez*

Warm regards,  
Dr Jill Lopez  
Editor-in-Chief, Vet Candy Business

# Championing Pets and People:

## The Inspirational Journey of Quisha Brown

Brooklyn, New York, a vibrant metropolis with a heartbeat of its own, is where dreams come to life, and where individuals with enormous hearts and aspirations thrive. In this dynamic city, one remarkable figure stands out – Quisha Brown, a single mother, a multi-site practice manager, and a passionate advocate for both pets and people.

### The Journey of a Heart

Quisha's story began in the bustling borough of Brooklyn, where she was born and raised. She wears many hats, skillfully juggling the roles of a single mother to three incredible children and a devoted companion to her 13-year-old dog, Lili. While her family keeps her exceptionally busy, Quisha's heart equally belongs to her mission in veterinary medicine.

With over 18 years of dedicated service, Quisha has steadily climbed the ranks in the veterinary field, embracing various roles that have enriched her knowledge and deepened her commitment. Her unyielding passion lies in making a meaningful difference by securing funding for low-cost veterinary services, orchestrating these services, and organizing charitable events like coat and food drives.



**Quisha's** steadfast belief is that access to high-quality veterinary care should be a universal right, irrespective of social status. She champions inclusivity and compassion, standing as a symbol of dedication to her community.

Currently residing in her beloved Brooklyn, Quisha aspires to spread her wings and explore the world in the coming year, pursuing her dreams of travel and adventure.

## The Challenges in Veterinary Medicine

Quisha, as an experienced professional in the field, possesses a profound understanding of the challenges faced by the veterinary community. One of the foremost issues she highlights is the pervasive sense of underappreciation among staff members. The demands of the veterinary world can be intense, and the emotional toll can be significant. It's common for dedicated professionals to feel undervalued and overlooked, their hard work often going unnoticed.

This underappreciation can manifest in various ways. Staff members might feel that their contributions are not acknowledged, their voices unheard, or their efforts inadequately recognized. This emotional burden can lead to burnout, reduced job satisfaction, and attrition within the veterinary field.

Recognizing this challenge is the initial step in addressing it. Quisha emphasizes the importance of acknowledging the hard work and dedication of veterinary professionals, from veterinarians to technicians, and from support staff to administrators. By fostering an environment where their contributions are valued and their concerns actively heard and addressed, the veterinary community can create a more supportive and collaborative workplace.



## Finding Solace After a Long Day

Balancing the demands of a career in veterinary medicine, the responsibilities of a single mother, and the pursuit of personal growth can be an overwhelming endeavor. For Quisha, finding solace and respite after a particularly stressful day is not merely a luxury but a necessity to maintain her well-being and continue her journey with vigor.

Quisha's relentless drive for self-improvement, both personally and professionally, can often leave her feeling physically and mentally drained. The daily challenges of veterinary medicine, the emotional intensity of caring for animals and their owners, and the weight of her responsibilities at home can accumulate, creating a heavy burden to bear. This relentless pursuit of growth, while admirable, can take its toll.

Recognizing the importance of balance and self-care, Quisha has embraced the value of relaxation as a vital component of her daily life. She has learned that taking moments to unwind and decompress is not a sign of weakness but a strength. It is a way to recharge her energies, find clarity in her thoughts, and prepare herself for the challenges that lie ahead.

One of her chosen methods for finding solace is binge-watching shows, a practice that allows her to escape into the world of storytelling. Whether it's a gripping drama, a light-hearted comedy, or a thrilling fantasy series, these narratives offer a temporary refuge from the demands of her day-to-day life. In these fictional worlds, she can temporarily shed her professional and personal responsibilities, providing her with a mental vacation and a well-deserved break.

Another avenue of relaxation that Quisha embraces is her fascination with crime podcasts. These audio adventures into the world of mysteries, investigations, and unsolved cases offer her a different form of escape. They captivate her mind, providing a riveting journey into the complexities of criminal behavior and forensic science. These podcasts not only entertain her but also stimulate her intellect, allowing her to explore new horizons and expand her knowledge while unwinding.

This native New Yorker shines as a beacon of compassion and dedication. Her mission to ensure equitable access to veterinary services, her commitment to her family, and her thirst for knowledge make her a true inspiration to all who are fortunate enough to know her. As she embarks on her journey of exploration in the coming year, her impact on her community and the world at large is sure to be profound. Quisha is not just a remarkable individual; she's a testament to the extraordinary potential within each one of us, demonstrating that dreams can be achieved with a big heart, unyielding determination, and a love for both pets and people.







# 21 QUESTIONS

WITH THE MOST  
INTERESTING  
PEOPLE ON THE  
PLANET

Exclusively on

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candy*  
RADIO

# MILLENNIALS ARE CHANGING the Game:

Discover How Their Love for Pets is Revolutionizing the \$150 Billion Industry!

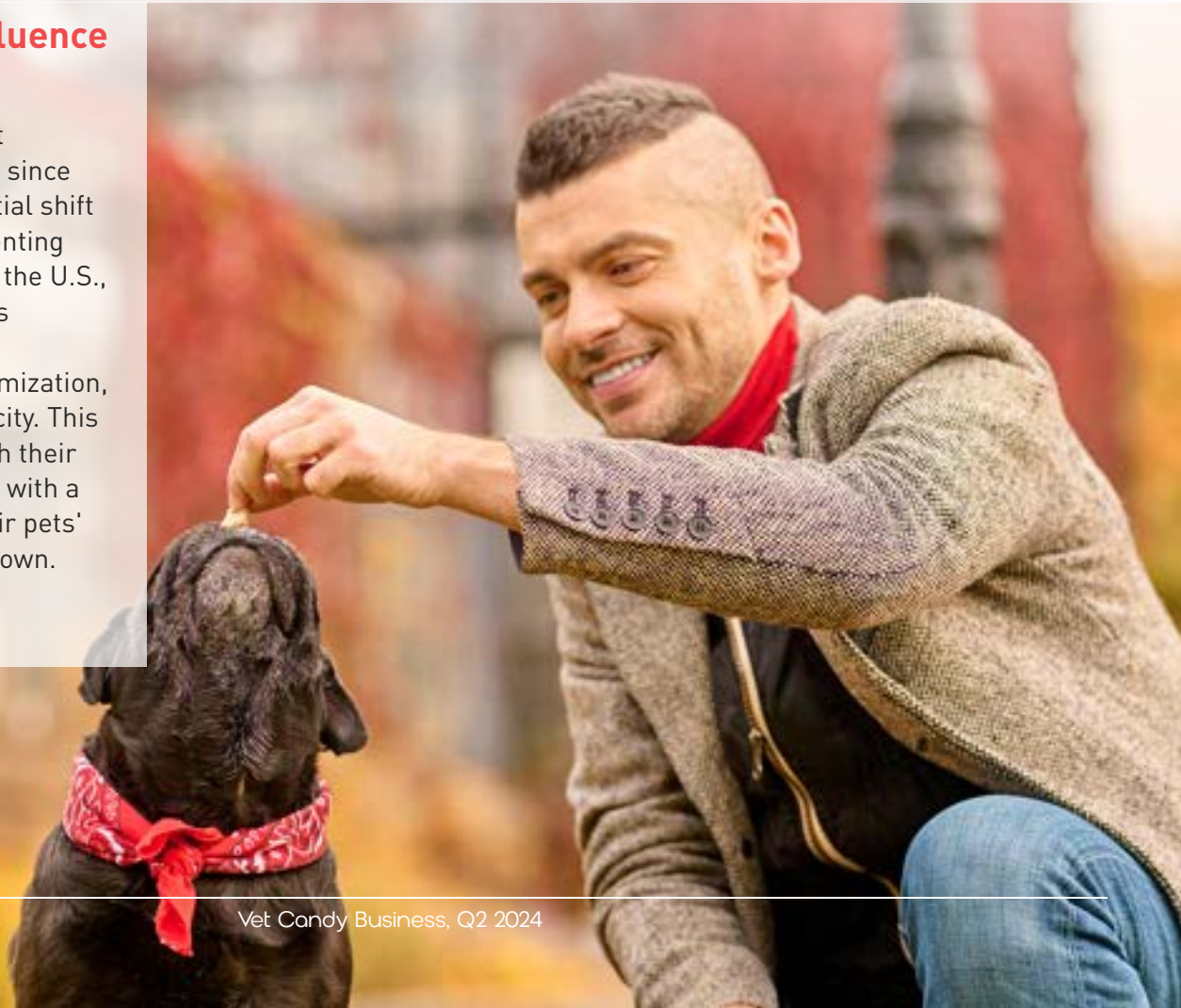
Written By Jill Lopez

## The Future of Pet Care: A Blend of Sustainability and Millennial Values

As the US pet industry is projected to reach an impressive \$150.6 billion in 2024, a significant surge from \$90.5 billion in 2018, the Global Pet Expo 2024 has unveiled that the future of pet care is deeply intertwined with sustainability, quality, and community-focused values. Amid this burgeoning market, the Expo highlighted standout companies like Karma Cat, Country Tails, and MaxBone, which are not only thriving but are also pioneering a movement that resonates strongly with the largest pet-owning generation today: the millennials.

## The Millennials' Influence on Pet Care

Millennials, now the largest demographic of pet owners since 2019, are driving a substantial shift in the pet industry. Representing about 76% of pet owners in the U.S., their approach to pet care is reflective of their broader values—speed, ease, customization, transparency, and authenticity. This generation's deep bond with their pets is also a critical factor, with a staggering 92% valuing their pets' health as fervently as their own.





# Spotlight on Sustainability: Karma Cat, Country Tails, and MaxBone

The companies spotlighted at the Global Pet Expo 2024 have successfully tapped into these millennial values, emphasizing sustainability and ethical practices in their operations.

- **Karma Cat** leads with its commitment to sustainability and fair trade, supporting artisans in underserved countries. By using natural materials and eco-friendly processes, Karma Cat products cater not only to pets but also to a healthier, more equitable world, aligning with millennials' preference for brands that contribute positively to the planet.
- **Country Tails** embodies the rustic, farm-inspired lifestyle with its sustainable products made from recycled materials and plant-based dyes. Its plastic-free packaging and eco-conscious toy line appeal to the environmentally aware millennial consumer, offering a fun, safe, and responsible choice for their pets.
- **MaxBone** integrates modern design with sustainability, collaborating with manufacturers of human apparel to create pet essentials that are both durable and practical. Their community-centered approach and commitment to quality resonate with millennials' demand for products that are not only designed for longevity but also reflect their social values.



## Aligning with Millennial Expectations

These companies' focus on sustainability, quality, and community is not just a business model; it's a response to the evolving expectations of millennial pet owners. As this demographic continues to influence market trends, their preferences for socially responsible and environmentally friendly products are becoming the standard in the pet industry.

Millennials' purchasing habits, heavily swayed by social media and influencers, along with their demand for brands to take a stance on social issues, are shaping how companies approach product development and marketing. The success of brands like Karma Cat, Country Tails, and MaxBone at the Global Pet Expo 2024 demonstrates the power of aligning with these values.

The future of the pet industry, as showcased at the Global Pet Expo 2024, is vibrant and promising, with sustainability at its core. As the industry continues to grow, driven by the values and expectations of millennial pet owners, companies that prioritize eco-friendly practices, quality, and community engagement will lead the way. In doing so, they not only cater to the current generation's demands but also pave the way for a more responsible and compassionate world for pets and their owners alike.



# Austin's Innovative Solution to the Vet Shortage Crisis: Inside The Vets' Mobile Clinic

In the heart of Austin, one veterinary clinic is revolutionizing pet care with a unique approach to tackle the nationwide veterinarian shortage. Meet The Vets—a trailblazer in the field, rolling out their innovative solution on wheels.

The brainchild of The Vets, their mobile veterinary unit is a game-changer, offering a full-service clinic experience on the move. Dr. Nicole Savageau, a seasoned veterinarian with 15 years of experience, has been at the forefront of this groundbreaking initiative for the past two years. She describes her work at the mobile clinic as incredibly fulfilling, highlighting its pivotal role in addressing the pressing vet shortage crisis.

According to Dr. Savageau, the genesis of the mobile clinic traces back to the pandemic era, when a staggering 23 million American households welcomed new pets into their lives, exacerbating the existing shortage of veterinary professionals.

"The demand skyrocketed overnight. We were inundated with appointments, double and triple bookings, leaving veterinarians and technicians overwhelmed and burnt out," Dr. Savageau explained. "Many professionals left the industry altogether, intensifying the shortage."

Enter The Vets' mobile clinic—a beacon of hope amidst the chaos. By taking the veterinary office directly to pet owners' doorsteps, the mobile unit has become a lifeline for both animals and their caregivers.

"The gratitude from our clients is palpable," Dr. Savageau expressed. "Rarely does a day go by without hearing heartfelt thanks. Moreover, it's a sanctuary for vets and technicians grappling with burnout, offering them a rejuvenating alternative."

As the veterinary landscape evolves, The Vets' mobile clinic stands as a testament to resilience and innovation, paving the way for a brighter future in pet care. With their



# Fur-tastic News: Top 5

## in Forbes' Best Cities for Pet Owners

Wichita, Kansas, emerges as a leading contender in Forbes' highly anticipated list of the Best Cities for Pet Owners. This accolade celebrates Wichita's unwavering dedication to fostering a pet-friendly environment, making it a haven for both furry companions and their devoted caregivers.

Forbes Advisor's study, unveiled last April, meticulously scrutinized 91 populous cities across the nation, dissecting data across 13 key metrics spanning four vital categories. These metrics encompassed essential aspects such as dog and cat veterinary costs, veterinary accessibility, and the availability of pet-friendly amenities. Wichita, with its impressive score of 91.46 out of 100, proudly clinched its place among the top five contenders, showcasing its commitment to pet welfare and owner satisfaction.

Delving into the study's findings unveils Wichita's stellar performance across various crucial parameters. The city emerges as a beacon of affordability, boasting the second-best dog and cat veterinary costs nationwide. From routine checkups to essential medical procedures, Wichita offers pet owners unparalleled access to high-quality veterinary care at competitive prices, ensuring the well-being of beloved companions without breaking the bank.

## Top cities

**1** Tucson's score: 100 out of 100 Tucson ranks sixth highest for access to veterinary care (tied with Chandler, Arizona) due, in part, to having the third highest concentration of veterinary offices per 10,000 establishments (57.82). Tucson dog owners pay the 10th lowest vet fees for vaccinations (\$201.67), spay and neuter surgeries (\$463.15), office visits (\$60.95) and professional dental cleanings (\$359.95). Cat owners in Tucson can also expect to pay the 10th lowest amount for vaccinations (\$87.93), spay and neuter surgeries (\$273.70), vet office visits (\$60.95) and professional dental cleanings (\$359.90). Additionally, Tucson is home to the 16th highest concentration of pet stores (15.68 per 10,000 establishments), tied with San Diego and Chula Vista, California.

**2** Raleigh, North Carolina Raleigh's score: 93.49 out of 100 Raleigh, North Carolina ranks fifth best for access to pet-friendly spaces. Raleigh pet owners have access to the seventh-highest percentage of pet-friendly apartments (89.95%). Raleigh is also home to the ninth-highest concentration of veterinary offices (47.64 per 10,000 establishments).

**3** Nashville, Tennessee Nashville's score: 93.14 out of 100 Nashville is the third best for both dog and cat veterinary costs. The city also ranks 10th best for access to pet-friendly spaces. People looking for the best cities for dogs will appreciate that Nashville dog owners pay the third lowest amounts for each of the four vet prices we considered: office visits (\$57.95), vaccinations (\$196.82), professional dental cleanings (\$346.95) and spay or neuter surgeries (\$451.95). Nashville cat owners also pay the third lowest amount for each of the cat vet prices we looked at: vet office visits (\$57.95), vaccinations (\$85.82), professional dental cleanings (\$346.95) and spay or neuter surgeries (\$267.20). Nashville renters have access to the 12th highest percentage of pet-friendly apartments (88.68%) among the cities on our list.

**4** Wichita, Kansas Wichita's score: 91.46 out of 100 Wichita is second best for dog and cat veterinary costs. If you're looking for the most dog-friendly cities, consider that Wichita dog owners pay the lowest prices for spay and neuter surgeries (\$420.55) and the second lowest average amounts for vet office visits (\$54.95), vaccinations (\$192.07) and professional dental cleanings (\$334.95). Wichita cat owners pay the second lowest average amount for vet office visits (\$54.95), vaccinations (\$83.75), spay or neuter surgeries (\$260.70) and professional dental cleanings (\$334.95). Wichita is also home to the second-highest concentration of pet stores (18.73 per 10,000 businesses) and the thirteenth-highest concentration of veterinary offices (45.59 per 10,000 establishments).

**5** Furthermore, Wichita's pet-centric infrastructure shines brightly, with the city boasting the second-highest concentration of pet stores per 10,000 businesses. This robust network ensures that pet owners have easy access to a myriad of pet-related products and services, ranging from premium pet food to specialized grooming and training facilities. Additionally, Wichita prides itself on its commendable presence of veterinary offices, further enhancing accessibility to essential healthcare services for pets of all shapes and sizes.

However, Wichita's allure transcends mere statistics, encapsulating a vibrant and inclusive community that celebrates the bond between humans and animals. The city's dedication to pet welfare extends beyond economic considerations, fostering a nurturing environment where pets are cherished members of the family.

As Wichita basks in the spotlight of Forbes' esteemed ranking, pet owners and their furry companions can rejoice in the knowledge that they belong to a city that prioritizes their well-being and happiness. With its winning combination of affordability, accessibility, and a thriving pet-friendly culture, Wichita stands as a shining example of what it means to be a truly pet-friendly city.



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# Elanco Welcomes Power Duo to Board

Frederick DiSanto, Chairman and CEO of Ancora Holdings Group LLC, lauded the agreement, emphasizing the strategic alignment and the invaluable contributions of Ms. Turner and Mr. Wallace in advancing Elanco's mission. The Cooperation Agreement with Ancora Holdings Group LLC underscores a shared vision for corporate governance and value creation, paving the way for collaborative endeavors.

As the animal health landscape evolves, Elanco remains steadfast in its commitment to creating value for farmers, pet owners, veterinarians, and society at large. With a vision centered on enriching lives through food and companionship, coupled with robust sustainability initiatives, Elanco is poised to make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of animals and communities worldwide.

For more information on Elanco's transformative initiatives and commitment to animal welfare, visit [www.elanco.com](http://www.elanco.com)

In a strategic move set to shape the future of animal health, Elanco Animal Health Incorporated (NYSE: ELAN) has announced the appointment of two dynamic leaders, Kathy Turner and Craig Wallace, to its esteemed Board of Directors. The expansion to 14 members signals a pivotal moment for the company as it gears up for unparalleled growth and innovation.

Bringing a wealth of experience to the table, Ms. Turner boasts a distinguished career spanning both the animal health and broader healthcare sectors. With senior roles at IDEXX Laboratories and Abbott Laboratories, her insights into global operations and marketing strategy are poised to drive Elanco's vision forward. Mr. Wallace, a revered figure in the animal health realm, adds over 30 years of executive prowess to the Board, with notable stints at Ceva Santé Animale and Trupanion, Inc.

Elanco Chairman R. David Hoover expressed enthusiasm about the appointment, emphasizing the shared commitment to advancing the company's innovative pipeline and delivering sustainable growth for shareholders. With Ms. Turner and Mr. Wallace joining the Finance, Strategy, and Oversight Committee, their strategic acumen will further fortify Elanco's trajectory.

Jeff Simmons, President and CEO of Elanco Animal Health, echoed the sentiment, highlighting the pivotal role of the duo in driving the company's Innovation, Portfolio, and Productivity strategy. As Elanco continues to make strides, their expertise is poised to steer the company toward new heights.



# Shocking Study Reveals:

## The Truth Behind Canine Vaccination Myths!

In a startling revelation shaking the foundation of pet care, a recent study published in the renowned online journal *Vaccine* has uncovered a troubling trend among dog owners: more than 37 percent believe that canine vaccinations could lead to their pets developing autism. This eyebrow-raising belief, deemed erroneous by animal health experts, is just the tip of the iceberg in a growing wave of anti-vax sentiment permeating the pet community.

Entitled "Sick as a Dog? The Prevalence, Politicization, and Health Policy Consequences of Canine Vaccine Hesitancy," the study sheds light on the widespread apprehension surrounding pet vaccinations. Surpassing the halfway mark, over half of the nation's dog owners harbor anti-vaccine sentiments, posing a significant challenge for veterinarians striving to ensure the well-being of furry companions.

The link between human vaccines and autism has long been debunked by scientific research, yet the notion persists among pet owners, leaving veterinarians baffled and frustrated. Dr. Kate Domenico, president of the Maine Veterinary Medical Association, expressed incredulity at the idea of canine autism, emphasizing the lack of scientific evidence to support such claims.





While vaccine opposition is not a novel concept, its emergence in the realm of pet care is alarming. Drawing parallels to the human anti-vax movement, the study highlights a concerning "spillover effect" from human vaccine hesitancy to domestic pet vaccinations. This shift, exacerbated by the recent pandemic-induced mistrust, underscores the urgent need for education and awareness in the pet community.

Addressing the misconceptions surrounding pet vaccinations is paramount, according to animal health experts. Financial constraints and access to veterinary care often play a role in pet owners' decisions to forego vaccinations, compounding the challenge faced by veterinarians nationwide.

However, the importance of pet vaccinations cannot be overstated. Dr. Robert Causey, associate professor of animal and veterinary sciences at the University of Maine, emphasized the critical role vaccines play in safeguarding pets against potentially life-threatening diseases. From rabies to distemper, these vaccines serve as a crucial line of defense, protecting both pets and their human counterparts from harmful pathogens.

Despite the rarity of adverse reactions, some pet owners remain wary of vaccinations. Yet, as with humans, the benefits far outweigh the risks. Core vaccines, including rabies and distemper, are not only essential but mandated by law in many states, including Maine.

Navigating the realm of pet vaccinations can be daunting, but with guidance from veterinarians, pet owners can make informed decisions tailored to their pet's individual needs. By dispelling myths and misinformation, veterinarians aim to empower pet owners to prioritize their furry friends' health and well-being.

As the debate surrounding pet vaccinations continues to unfold, one thing remains clear: protecting our pets begins with understanding the facts and making informed choices. After all, a healthy pet is a happy pet – and that's a truth worth barking about. Original story published in Bangor News.



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# Bird Flu in Milk?! Shocking Discovery Rocks U.S. Livestock Industry

In a stunning turn of events, the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), commonly known as bird flu, has made an unprecedented leap from its typical avian hosts to U.S. dairy cattle, sparking concerns and urgent actions within the livestock industry. Recent tests on milk from dairy farms in Texas and Kansas have revealed the presence of this avian-origin virus, marking a significant departure from the disease's conventional pattern.

For Kansas Animal Health Commissioner Justin Smith, navigating this uncharted territory demands swift and decisive action. "We are learning new things daily and plan to take measures to curb the issue quickly and safely," Smith assures. With the focus squarely on understanding the dynamics of HPAI in cows and safeguarding the integrity of dairy products, authorities are working tirelessly to contain the outbreak.

While the strain of HPAI detected thus far appears confined to milk cows, particularly older ones exhibiting signs of lethargy and decreased milk production, beef cattle remain unaffected. The U.S. Department of Agriculture emphasizes that stringent measures are in place to ensure the safety of commercial milk, with contaminated milk being swiftly diverted and destroyed.

In the face of this unprecedented threat, bolstering biosecurity measures has emerged as a top priority. Rigorous protocols, including thorough boot washing, regular veterinary check-ups, and minimizing interactions with wild birds, are being enforced to stem the spread of the virus. Investigations suggest that wild birds may have played a pivotal role in transmitting the infection to dairy cattle.

A close-up photograph of a black and white cow's face, looking directly at the camera. The cow has a white blaze on its face and is wearing a yellow ear tag. The background is slightly blurred, showing other cows in a barn setting.

While the risk to human health is currently deemed low, vigilance remains paramount. Smith urges individuals experiencing any symptoms of illness to seek immediate medical attention. Moreover, he underscores the importance of pasteurization in ensuring the safety of milk, emphasizing that pasteurized milk remains the gold standard in safeguarding public health.

U.S. milk production, as measured in inflation-adjusted 2023 dollars, grew \$13.0 billion (or 28 percent) to \$59.2 billion in 2022, the highest level since 2014, according to data from the USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS).

As the livestock industry grapples with this unforeseen challenge, collaboration and vigilance will be key in mitigating the impact of HPAI on both animal welfare and consumer confidence. Stay tuned for further updates on this evolving situation as experts work tirelessly to safeguard our food supply and protect public health.



# Bulldogs Banned?!

## New Legislation Could Outlaw America's Favorite Pups

French bulldogs, pugs, and bulldogs: adored by millions for their adorable looks, yet plagued by health woes. Now, the picturesque pooches face a potential ban in New Hampshire as lawmakers gear up to vote on groundbreaking legislation aimed at curbing their breeding.

The bill, proposed by New Hampshire Representative Ellen Read, targets breeds with short noses, citing concerns over their susceptibility to breathing issues and associated suffering. With bulldogs and their counterparts often grappling with conditions like brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome, the legislation aims to protect both the welfare of the dogs and the pockets of unsuspecting owners.

"Are bulldogs being bred into misery?" The debate rages on as animal advocates clash over the ethical implications of breeding practices. While proponents argue for improved quality of life and mandatory health checks for breeding dogs, opponents, including the American Kennel Club, decry the legislation as extremist, advocating for education over penalties.

Yet, scientific evidence paints a grim picture of the health challenges faced by these breeds, with studies highlighting increased risks of eye, spine, and skin problems. The very standards set by national breed clubs, dictating the iconic "smushed" faces, come under scrutiny as potential contributors to these health woes.

As the legislative battle unfolds, the fate of bulldogs, pugs, and Frenchies hangs in the balance. Will New Hampshire set a precedent for other states, or will beloved breeds face continued breeding scrutiny? Stay tuned for updates on this contentious canine controversy.

# Game Changer Alert:

## Merck Animal Health Unveils Revolutionary Vaccine for Swine Health

Prepare for a swine health revolution! Merck Animal Health has just unveiled a groundbreaking vaccine that's set to transform the industry. Say hello to Sequivity with Microsol Diluvac Forte (MDF) adjuvant, the latest weapon in the fight against swine diseases.

This cutting-edge vaccine harnesses the power of RNA Particle Technology, a game-changing innovation that promises safe, flexible, and precise protection for gilts and sows. By combining the trusted MDF adjuvant with the Sequivity platform, Merck has created a dynamic duo capable of addressing the unique needs of specific herds.

But that's not all – the Sequivity technology isn't just another vaccine. It's a rapid and targeted production platform that can tackle a wide range of viral and bacterial pathogens in swine. Unlike traditional vaccines that take years to develop, Sequivity delivers solutions in record time, thanks to its immuno-precision capabilities.

Jeremy Maurer, V.M.D., Associate Director of U.S. Livestock Insights and Outcomes for Merck Animal Health, is thrilled about the potential of this groundbreaking vaccine. "We are excited to offer a new vaccine with an adjuvant using our Sequivity technology," he says. "It's all supported by our web-based Sequivity dashboard to help swine producers and veterinarians make data-driven decisions."

### But how does it work?

The vaccine comes in two bottles – a frozen antigen bottle and a diluent bottle – that are mixed at the point of use, ensuring freshness and potency.

With Sequivity with MDF adjuvant, Merck is not just raising the bar – they're rewriting the playbook for swine health. Get ready for a new era of protection and performance in pig farming!



# Unleashing a Veterinary Revolution:

## Meet the Dynamic Duo Transforming Urgent Care for Pets!

In the heart of the bustling Washington DC metro area, where the pace of life often matches the rapid beat of the city's pulse, two compassionate souls came together with a vision—a vision to create a haven for pets in need of urgent medical attention. This is the story of ACHIEVE Veterinary Urgent Care, a beacon of hope amidst the chaos, founded by Dr. Stevie Jones Jr. and Dr. Jasmine Nolan.

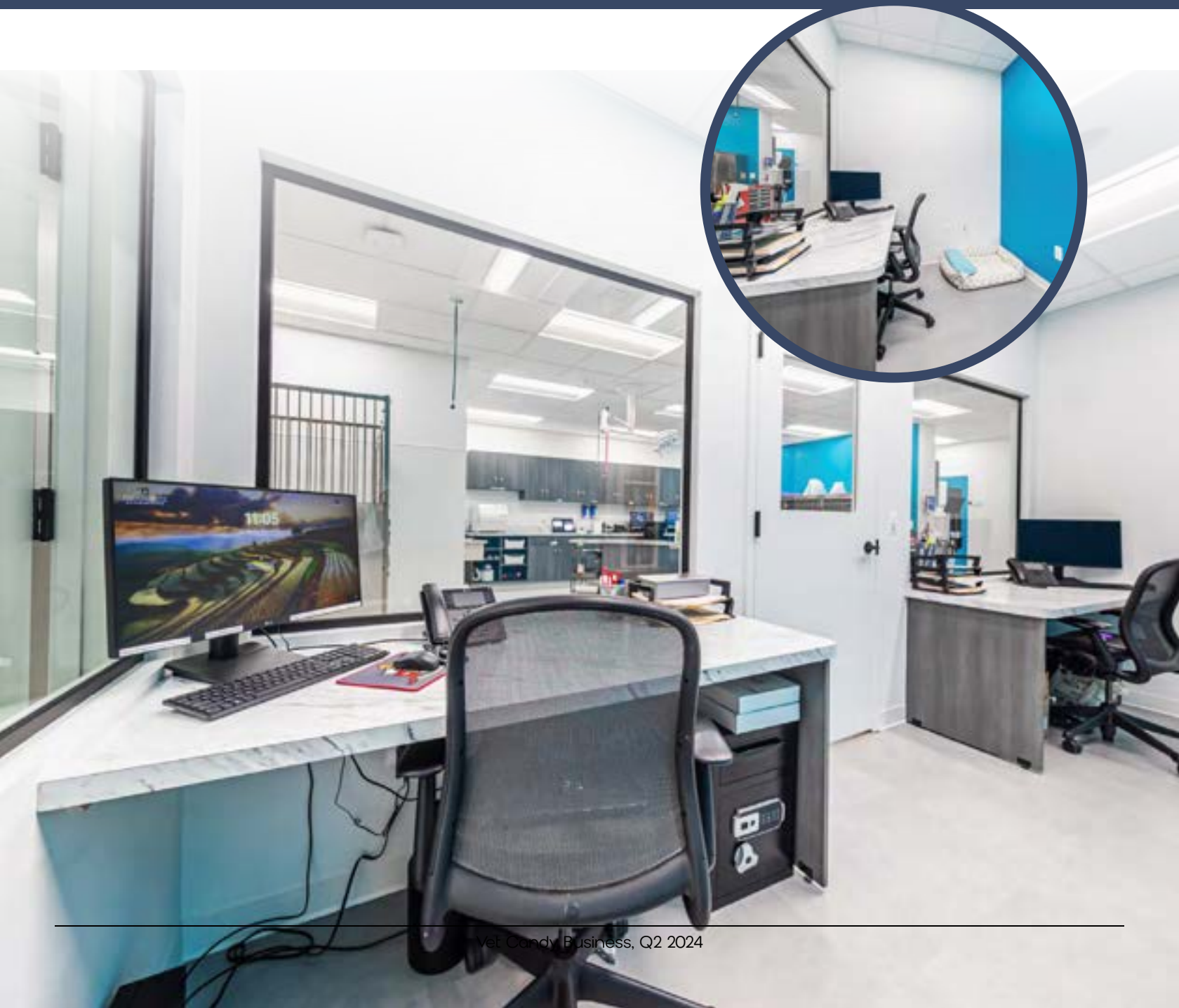
The genesis of ACHIEVE Veterinary Urgent Care stemmed from a shared realization—a profound understanding of the gaps that existed within the realm of veterinary care. Dr. Jones, a seasoned general practitioner with a penchant for surgery, internal medicine, and pediatrics, and Dr. Nolan, an experienced emergency veterinarian with a passion for laceration repair, bore witness to the challenges faced by both primary care veterinarians and pet owners alike.



The wait times at emergency facilities were staggering, often stretching for hours on end, while primary care clinics found themselves inundated with appointments booked weeks in advance. It was a stark reminder of the disparity in access to timely care—a gap that Dr. Jones and Dr. Nolan were determined to bridge.

With hearts full of compassion and minds brimming with determination, Dr. Jones and Dr. Nolan embarked on a mission—to create a solution that would offer prompt, superior quality care tailored to the needs of pets and their parents. Thus, ACHIEVE Veterinary Urgent Care was born—a sanctuary where pets could receive the attention they deserved without enduring the long wait times synonymous with emergency facilities.

But their vision extended beyond just providing medical care; it encompassed a commitment to transparency, trustworthiness, and efficiency. Inspired by the urgent care centers for humans, ACHIEVE Veterinary Urgent Care aimed to offer a seamless experience—a link between primary care veterinarians and 24-hour emergency hospitals.





For Dr. Jones, a native of Danville, Virginia, the journey to founding ACHIEVE Veterinary Urgent Care was a testament to his lifelong dedication to the field of veterinary medicine. Graduating cum laude from Virginia State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture, concentrating in pre-veterinary medicine, and completing his Doctorate at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Jones brought with him a wealth of experience and a deep-rooted passion for his craft.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Dr. Jones found solace in spending time with his family, pursuing his hobbies, which includes designing bespoke bowties (**get yours here: <http://www.drfllyguycollection.com>**), and giving back to his community. An active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Dr. Jones remained committed to making a positive impact in every aspect of his life.



For Dr. Nolan, a native of Beltsville, Maryland, the journey to founding ACHIEVE Veterinary Urgent Care was one fueled by determination and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Leaving home to pursue her Bachelor of Science at Delaware State University and later traveling down south to obtain her Master of Science and Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Tuskegee University, Dr. Nolan's academic journey instilled in her a sense of resilience and a commitment to making a difference.

Returning home to Maryland upon graduation, Dr. Nolan was determined to start a family and begin her career in emergency and urgent care medicine. Her favorite cases, she often remarked, were those that involved any type of laceration repair—a testament to her passion for hands-on, impactful work.

Together, Dr. Jones and Dr. Nolan embarked on a remarkable journey—one fueled by their unwavering dedication to the well-being of animals and their families. Their clinic, ACHIEVE Veterinary Urgent Care, stands as a testament to their shared values of compassion, integrity, and innovation—a beacon of hope for pets in need and a shining example of what can be achieved when passion meets purpose.

Take the tour below and visit [achievevet.com](https://achievevet.com) to learn more

# 6 in 10 pet owners

surveyed in the UK, Austria and Denmark believe their pets should have access to the same healthcare treatment options as humans

## Evolving Definitions of Advanced Veterinary Care:

Advanced veterinary care (AVC) represents the pinnacle of pet healthcare, characterized by state-of-the-art techniques, advanced skills, and cutting-edge equipment. However, the definition of AVC is fluid, with varying interpretations among pet owners and practitioners. While some view AVC as essential for ensuring the best possible outcomes for their pets, others question whether it is necessary or if it has crossed ethical boundaries.

## The Impact of AVC on Pet Health:

Thanks to advancements in AVC, many pets now have access to life-saving treatments and procedures that were once out of reach. Conditions such as diabetes, renal disease, and cancer can now be successfully managed in primary care practices, offering hope to pet owners faced with difficult diagnoses. However, the availability of AVC also presents challenges, including financial strains and complex treatment decisions that can overwhelm owners.



**Owner Expectations and Attitudes:**

A recent study delved into the expectations and attitudes of dog and cat owners towards AVC in modern small animal practice. The findings shed light on the factors influencing owner decision-making, from emotional attachment to financial considerations. Surprisingly, while many owners expressed a desire for their pets to have access to advanced diagnostic tests and treatments, a significant portion remained skeptical about the necessity of such care.

**Factors Influencing Owner Decisions:**

The study revealed that emotional attachment to pets played a significant role in shaping owner attitudes towards AVC. Owners who reported stronger bonds with their pets were more likely to advocate for advanced treatments, underscoring the profound impact of the human-animal bond on healthcare decisions. Additionally, factors such as age, gender, and living situation also influenced owner perspectives, highlighting the complexity of the decision-making process.

**Regional Disparities and Cultural Influences:**

Differences were observed between owners in different countries, reflecting variations in veterinary practice structures and cultural norms. While some owners in countries with larger practices and corporate ownership expected advanced options to be readily available, others in smaller practices had more modest expectations. Cultural attitudes towards pet healthcare and the role of pets in society also shaped owner perspectives, underscoring the need for tailored approaches to veterinary care.

**The Role of Research in Advancing Veterinary Medicine:**

Owners' willingness to participate in clinical research emerged as a key factor in driving advancements in veterinary medicine. Despite reservations about the risks involved, owners who were deeply attached to their pets expressed a willingness to enroll them in research studies, highlighting the potential for collaborative efforts between owners and veterinarians to advance pet healthcare.

As the field of veterinary medicine continues to evolve, understanding owner expectations and attitudes towards AVC is crucial for providing personalized and effective care for pets. By bridging the gap between perception and reality, veterinarians can navigate the complexities of pet healthcare while honoring the bond between owners and their beloved companions.



# Unleash the Healing Power of Pups:

## New Study Reveals Surprising Health Benefits of Dog Interactions!

In a world where stress and anxiety are all too common, the therapeutic power of dogs continues to astound researchers. A recent study, published on March 13, 2024, in the open-access journal PLOS ONE, unveils the profound impact of various human-dog interactions on psychophysiological well-being. Led by Onyoo Yoo from Konkuk University, South Korea, and colleagues, this groundbreaking research sheds light on the therapeutic potential of spending quality time with our four-legged friends.

# Vetoquinol's Unstoppable Rise:

## How This Animal Health Giant Dominated 2023! Must-Read Insights Here!

Based in LURE, France, Vetoquinol, a renowned global animal health company, recently unveiled its impressive 2023 financial results, showcasing resilience, growth, and strategic vision amidst market uncertainties.





## Stable Sales and Notable Growth:

Despite facing market fluctuations, Vetoquinol maintained its annual sales at €529 million, demonstrating stability at constant exchange rates. Particularly noteworthy was the remarkable surge in their Essentials segment, reaching €313 million and marking a significant 4.5% growth at constant exchange rates.

## Matthieu Frechin's Leadership:

Matthieu Frechin, Chairman and CEO of Vetoquinol, expressed his satisfaction with the company's performance, emphasizing their relentless pursuit of growth, especially in the Essentials portfolio and the lucrative US market. Frechin's strategic vision underscores Vetoquinol's commitment to innovation and expansion.

## Strategic Board Meeting Highlights:

The recent Board of Directors meeting on March 19, 2024, reviewed Vetoquinol's business activity and approved preliminary financial statements. Despite ongoing audit procedures, the results reflect a year of solid growth and operational excellence.

## Driving Forces Behind Growth:

Vetoquinol's growth is driven by Essentials products and the thriving US market, consistently contributing to over 70% of total sales. Strong performance in the United States has bolstered Vetoquinol's market dominance and revenue expansion.

## Financial Highlights and Future Prospects:

Despite encountering challenges like foreign exchange fluctuations, Vetoquinol showcased resilience with a stable gross margin of 70.6% and strategic cost management. Increased investment in R&D signals a commitment to innovation. With a solid financial structure and growth strategy, Vetoquinol is poised for further expansion through product innovation, geographical diversification, and strategic acquisitions.

## Exciting Developments Ahead:

Shareholders can anticipate a proposed dividend of €0.85 per share at the Annual General Meeting on May 28, 2024. Moreover, Vetoquinol aims to unveil sales for the first quarter of 2024 on April 29, 2024, signaling continued momentum and progress.

Vetoquinol's journey from humble beginnings to global animal health leadership is remarkable. With dedication, foresight, and a commitment to excellence, Vetoquinol sets new industry standards. As they embark on their next phase of growth and innovation, the world eagerly anticipates their continued impact on animal health.



# South Portland Startup's Breakthrough:

## New Leadership Team Poised to Revolutionize Pet Healthcare

In a groundbreaking move for the animal-health industry, ElleVet Sciences, based in South Portland and renowned for its cannabis-based pet products, is bolstering its leadership team. The company's recent expansion includes the promotion of Haley Israelson to CFO and the addition of Ryan Shadrin as chief commercial officer.

Haley Israelson, formerly the vice president of finance, operations, and e-commerce, has taken the reins as CFO, leading ElleVet's accounting, finance, and treasury functions. With a background in venture capital and private equity, Israelson brings a wealth of financial expertise to her new role, guiding the company's strategic growth initiatives and fostering cross-departmental collaboration.

Israelson's deep appreciation for pets, cultivated from her upbringing, has been a driving force behind her dedication to the industry. Passionate about prioritizing science to enhance the lives of pets, she emphasizes the importance of aligning with companies that share similar values and goals.

### Ryan Shadrin's Arrival as Chief Commercial Officer:

Joining ElleVet as chief commercial officer, Ryan Shadrin brings over 25 years of marketing and operational experience to the table. With a diverse background spanning startups to publicly traded corporations, Shadrin will oversee e-commerce, marketing, customer experience, and sales teams, driving forward ElleVet's mission to revolutionize pet healthcare.

Shadrin's personal connection to companion animals, particularly hunting dogs, underscores his commitment to improving animal welfare. His decision to enter the pet health and wellness space is driven by a desire to pay forward the joy and companionship he has experienced with these remarkable animals.

### ElleVet Sciences' Vision for the Future:

Founded in 2017 by Christian Kjaer and Amanda Howland, ElleVet Sciences stands at the forefront of pet healthcare innovation. The company's CBD pet products for dogs and cats, backed by clinical trials, have garnered acclaim for their effectiveness. With a focus on direct sales to veterinarians and consumers, ElleVet is poised to reshape the landscape of pet wellness.

Christian Kjaer, co-founder of ElleVet Sciences, expressed confidence in Israelson and Shadrin, highlighting their unique expertise and passion as catalysts for the company's strategic goals and future growth.

As ElleVet Sciences continues to push the boundaries of pet healthcare, the addition of Israelson and Shadrin to its leadership team marks a pivotal moment in its journey towards revolutionizing the lives of pets and their owners.



# Loyal

## **Announces \$45 Million Series B Financing to Continue Development of First FDA-Approved Dog Lifespan Extension Drug for Veterinary Use**

Loyal, a biotech company pioneering longevity drugs for dogs, today announced that it has successfully completed its Series B funding round, securing \$45 million in investment. The round was led by Bain Capital Ventures. This brings total funding raised by Loyal to more than \$125 million since its founding in 2019 and includes a \$12 million credit facility from Bridge Bank, part of Western Alliance Bank.

“Celine and her innovative, passionate, and responsible team at Loyal are making fast progress toward approved longevity medicines”

Most major existing investors from Loyal's previous financings – including Khosla Ventures, First Round Capital, Box Group, Collaborative Fund, Quiet Capital, and Todd & Rahul's Angel Fund – participated in this round. Bain Capital Ventures and Valor Equity Partners are new investors.

“This fundraiser fuels our efforts to bring to market what we hope will be the first FDA-approved drug to extend healthy lifespan,” said Celine Halioua, Founder and CEO of Loyal. “All of our work is centered on giving dogs longer, healthier lives. I'm proud of the work the team has done to date and we have a very important and challenging vision to realize. I'm excited to work with our new and existing investors and continue to make FDA-approved dog longevity drugs a reality.”

The Series B funding will support continued development with expected product launch in early 2025, pending FDA approval.

“Celine and her innovative, passionate, and responsible team at Loyal are making fast progress toward approved longevity medicines,” said Kevin Zhang, Partner at Bain Capital Ventures. “For the 65 million households in America with a dog, Loyal's promise means longer, healthier dog lives – more priceless memories of excited greetings at the door, games of fetch in the park, and cozy afternoons together on the couch.”

**This funding follows several significant milestones for the company:**

Earning what Loyal believes to be the FDA's first-ever formal acceptance that a drug can be developed and approved to extend lifespan. FDA review is being led by the agency's Center for Veterinary Medicine.

Completing the technical effectiveness section of the conditional approval application for LOY-001's use in large dog lifespan extension.

Launching the STAY study, the pivotal effectiveness study for LOY-002, in development for dog lifespan extension. STAY will include more than 1,000 dogs across over 50 veterinary sites in the United States.

Continued progress towards the other FDA dossier approvals necessary for LOY-002 conditional market approval in early 2025.

Strong dog owner and veterinary engagement and interest in Loyal's products.

Loyal currently has three drugs in development to extend healthy lifespan in dogs. LOY-001 and LOY-003 are designed to extend the healthy lifespan of large-breed dogs, and LOY-002 is designed for senior dogs 14 pounds and over. The company anticipates that LOY-002 will be available in early 2025, pending FDA conditional approval.

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and real solutions that empower and inspire  
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# Revolutionizing **Pet Care:**

Meet the Vet Clinic That's Changing  
**the Game in Boston**



In the bustling city of Boston, where pet care options often seem uniform, there's a beacon of innovation shining bright – Sea Legs Integrative Veterinary Health. Founded by Dr. Jaclyn Coble, this pioneering clinic in West Roxbury is rewriting the playbook on how we care for our furry companions.

Gone are the days when pet wellness was solely about diet and exercise. Sea Legs Integrative Veterinary Health recognizes that our four-legged friends sometimes need a little extra support, especially when they're in pain. That's where their unique therapies come into play.



From hydrotherapy and acupuncture to laser therapy and shockwave therapy, Sea Legs offers a holistic approach to pet rehabilitation rarely found elsewhere in the Boston area. Dr. Coble's vision extends beyond traditional veterinary medicine, embracing integrative therapies to ensure pets receive comprehensive care tailored to their individual needs.

At the heart of Sea Legs is its state-of-the-art therapy area, where dedicated staff work tirelessly to improve the balance and core strength of their canine clients. Here, dogs can experience the benefits of a UV-filtered saltwater treadmill, offering a therapeutic environment for both rehabilitation and exercise.

But Sea Legs isn't just about physical therapy; it's about empowering pet owners with knowledge and understanding. Dr. Coble, a Cape Cod native and graduate of the University of Massachusetts and Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, brings a wealth of experience to the table. Her mission? To educate pet parents on how to anticipate and prevent injury, rather than merely reacting to their pets' ailments.





With a full-service veterinary clinic offering digital X-ray, in-house lab work, and medical management, Sea Legs is a one-stop-shop for pet care. And the best part? Many of their integrative therapies are covered by basic pet insurance plans, making advanced treatment accessible to all.

“Our goal at Sea Legs Integrative Veterinary Health is to help pet owners understand what some of those whimpers and whines might be trying to tell us,” says Dr. Coble. “It’s our responsibility as pet owners to keep them healthy, and that includes pain management.”

Serving families throughout the Greater Boston area, Sea Legs Integrative Veterinary Health is more than just a clinic – it’s a sanctuary where pets and their owners leave with happy tails and renewed hope for a brighter, pain-free future.

# Canada's Veterinary Crisis: Urgent Call for Action to Fill Workforce Shortage

Amidst a growing crisis in Canada's veterinary industry, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is sounding the alarm, urging the federal government to take immediate action to address the severe workforce shortage.

CVMA President, Dr. Trevor Lawson, highlights the far-reaching implications of this shortage, emphasizing its impact on animal health and welfare, public health, the Canadian economy, and the well-being of individual veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals.

Dr. Lawson underscores the concerning mental health challenges faced by veterinarians, with a significant proportion experiencing burnout and mental health issues. Shockingly, statistics reveal that one in five veterinarians report suicidal ideation during their careers, with a staggering 89 percent suffering from burnout.

To combat this crisis, the CVMA proposes recruiting and onboarding foreign-trained veterinarians (FTVs) and establishing a national testing center for internationally educated veterinarians. Additionally, they advocate for dedicated funds to support veterinary infrastructure, emphasizing the vital role veterinary medicine plays in supporting animal health and welfare, public health, and a healthy environment.

Dr. Lawson stresses the urgency of implementing a veterinary workforce enhancement program to support the expansion and innovation of clinical teaching, training, and research, ensuring the development of the next generation of veterinarians to meet societal demands.

Without intervention, projections indicate that the shortage will persist until at least 2031, exacerbating the strain on Canada's veterinary professionals and compromising the health and well-being of animals across the country.

Representing over 25,000 veterinarians and registered technicians and technologists, the CVMA provides essential care and services for millions of clients, including small and large animals, underscoring the critical need for immediate action to address the workforce shortage in Canada's veterinary industry. Read original story here:

<https://www.ckdr.net/2024/03/22/69362/>

# 70 Years Later: How Nylabone Is Shaking Up the Pet World with Eco-Friendly Toys & Saving Dogs' Lives!

As Nylabone approaches its 70th anniversary, this titan in the pet care industry is embracing a transformative shift towards sustainability and social commitment. Known for their durable chew toys that cater to the natural instincts of dogs, Nylabone is now leading the charge in eco-friendly practices and philanthropy, proving that it's never too late to make a positive impact on the planet and its inhabitants.

## A New Leaf: Embracing Eco-Friendly Practices

In a significant pivot, Nylabone is evolving to meet the contemporary demands of pet owners who prioritize environmental sustainability alongside the well-being of their pets. Recognizing the urgent need to reduce plastic waste, the company is innovating its product lines to include sustainable options and introducing plastic-free packaging. This shift not only reflects Nylabone's commitment to minimizing its environmental footprint but also sets a new standard in the industry for eco-conscious product development and packaging.

## Supporting Shelters and Addressing Behavioral Issues

Beyond its environmental initiatives, Nylabone is deeply invested in the welfare of dogs beyond the home. The company recognizes that behavioral problems are the leading cause of euthanasia in dogs across shelters. To combat this heartbreaking issue, Nylabone is stepping up its support for shelters with donations, resources, and training tools aimed at addressing and mitigating behavioral issues in dogs. Through these efforts, Nylabone is not just saving lives but also enhancing the quality of life for countless dogs, giving them a better chance at finding forever homes.

## Aiding Veterans and Assisting Guide Dogs for the Blind

Nylabone's commitment to doing good extends to various sectors of society, including support for veteran programs and guide dogs for the blind. By providing resources and support to these groups, Nylabone is leveraging its success to give back to the community in meaningful ways. Their involvement with veteran programs highlights a dedication to those who have served, offering comfort and companionship through the healing power of dogs. Furthermore, their support for guide dog initiatives underscores a commitment to enhancing mobility and independence for the visually impaired, proving that the company's vision extends far beyond the realm of pet care.

## A Legacy Reimagined

As Nylabone celebrates nearly seven decades of success, its recent initiatives mark a reimagining of its legacy—one where sustainability and social responsibility are at the forefront. This evolution from a trusted name in pet care to a leader in eco-friendly practices and philanthropy demonstrates a profound understanding of the role businesses play in shaping a better world.

Nylabone's journey from its origins to embracing sustainability and social commitment is a powerful testament to the impact that established companies can have in driving positive change. As they step into their 70th year, Nylabone is not just celebrating a legacy of innovation in pet care but also paving the way for a future where businesses are active participants in environmental stewardship and societal well-being. In doing so, Nylabone is setting an inspiring example for others to follow, proving that it's indeed never too late to be eco-friendly and contribute to the greater good.





# THE FIRST AND ONLY FELINE BROAD-SPECTRUM PARASITE PROTECTION THAT TREATS TAPEWORMS



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- ✓ First-of-its-kind formulation includes esafloxolaner—specifically developed for use in cats
- ✓ Easy-to-apply monthly topical solution
- ✓ Safe for use in kittens as young as 8 weeks, weighing 1.8 lbs or more

[Contact your Boehringer Ingelheim Representative to learn more](#)

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:** NexGard® COMBO (esafloxolaner, eprinomectin, and praziquantel topical solution) is for topical use only in cats. Use with caution in cats with a history of seizures or neurologic disorders. The most frequently reported adverse reactions include vomiting, application site reactions, lethargy, and anorexia. If ingested, hypersalivation may occur. Avoid direct contact with application site until visibly dry. For more information, see full prescribing information or visit [NexGardCOMBOclinic.com](http://NexGardCOMBOclinic.com).

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# NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO

## (esafloxolaner, eprinomectin, and praziquantel topical solution)

### For topical use in cats only

**CAUTION:** Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

#### Description:

NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO is a topical solution containing esafloxolaner, eprinomectin and praziquantel available in 0.3 mL and 0.9 mL unit applicators to treat cats from 1.8 lbs to 33 lbs. Each mL of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO contains 12 mg of esafloxolaner, 4 mg of eprinomectin, and 83 mg of praziquantel. Inactive ingredients: dimethyl isosorbide, unstabilized glycerol formal, and butylated hydroxytoluene.

Esafoxolaner is a member of the aryl isoxazoline class of compounds. Its chemical name is 4-[(5S)-5-[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-5-(trifluoromethyl)-4, 5-dihydro-1,2-oxazol-3-yl]-N-[2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)aminoethyl]-1-naphthamide.

Eprinomectin belongs to the avermectin class of anthelmintics and is a mixture of homologous components referred to as eprinomectin B1a and B1b. The chemical name for eprinomectin B1a is (4'R)-acetylamino-5-O-demethyl-4'-deoxyavermectin A<sub>1a</sub>. The chemical name for eprinomectin B1b is (4'R)-acetylamino-5-O-demethyl-25-de(1-methylpropyl)-4'-deoxy-25-(1-methylethyl) avermectin A<sub>1a</sub>.

Praziquantel is a pyrazinoisoquinoline anthelmintic. Its chemical name is 2-(Cyclohexylcarbonyl)-1,2,3,6,7,11b-hexahydro-4H-pyrazino[2,1-a]isoquinolin-4-one.

#### Indications:

NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO is indicated for the prevention of heartworm disease caused by *Dirofilaria immitis* and for the treatment and control of roundworm (fourth stage larval and adult *Toxocara cati*), hookworm (fourth stage larval and adult *Ancylostoma tubaeforme*, adult *Ancylostoma braziliense*), and tapeworm (*Dipylidium caninum*) infections. NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO kills adult fleas (*Ctenocephalides felis*) and is indicated for the treatment and prevention of flea infestations and the treatment and control of *Ixodes scapularis* (black-legged tick) and *Amblyomma americanum* (lone star tick) infestations for one month in cats and kittens 8 weeks of age and older, and weighing 1.8 lbs or greater.

#### Dosage and Administration:

NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO is dosed at a minimum of 0.055 mL/lb (0.12 mL/kg), which delivers a minimum dose of 0.65 mg/lb (1.44 mg/kg) esafloxolaner, 0.22 mg/lb (0.48 mg/kg) eprinomectin, and 4.53 mg/lb (9.98 mg/kg) praziquantel.

**For heartworm disease prevention, apply once monthly for at least three months after last exposure to mosquitoes (see Effectiveness).**

Administer the entire contents of a NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO unit applicator topically once a month as specified in the following table:

#### Dosing Schedule

| Cat Weight (lb) | Volume (mL) | Esafoxolaner (mg) | Eprinomectin (mg) | Praziquantel (mg) |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1.8-5.5         | 0.3         | 3.6               | 1.2               | 24.9              |
| 5.6-16.5        | 0.9         | 10.8              | 3.6               | 74.7              |
| 16.6-22         | 0.3 + 0.9   | 14.4              | 4.8               | 99.6              |
| 22.1-33         | 0.9 + 0.9   | 21.6              | 7.2               | 149.4             |

A veterinarian or veterinary technician should demonstrate or instruct the pet owner regarding the appropriate technique for applying NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO topically to cats and kittens prior to first use.

Keep product in original packaging until ready to use



- Use scissors to cut the blister along the dotted line.
- Then pull the lid away.
- Remove the applicator from the package and hold it upright. Pull back the plunger slightly.
- Twist and pull off the cap.
- Part the hair on the midline of the neck, between the base of the skull and the shoulder blades until the skin is visible. Place the tip of the applicator on the skin and apply the entire contents directly onto the skin in one spot. The product should be applied to dry skin on an area where the cat cannot lick it off. If the weight of the cat requires a second application, apply the contents in the same manner as described above in the same location.
- Wash hands after use with soap and water.

#### Heartworm Prevention:

For the prevention of heartworm disease, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should be administered once a month year-round. At a minimum, administration of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should start at least 1 month before the cat's first expected exposure to mosquitoes and monthly thereafter until at least 3 months after the cat's last seasonal exposure to mosquitoes (see Effectiveness). If a dose is missed and a 30-day interval between doses is exceeded, administer NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO immediately and resume the monthly dosing schedule. Treatment with fewer than 3 monthly doses may not provide complete heartworm prevention. When replacing another monthly heartworm preventive product in a heartworm prevention program, the first treatment with NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should be given within one month of the last dose of the former medication. At the discretion of the veterinarian, cats older than 6 months of age may be tested to determine the presence of existing heartworm infection before treatment with NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO. Cats already infected with adult heartworms can be given NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO monthly to prevent further infections.

#### Flea Treatment and Prevention:

For the treatment and prevention of flea infestations, the use of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO may begin at any time of year. NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should be administered year-round at monthly intervals or begin at least one month before fleas become active. However, an environmental infestation may persist for a short time after beginning treatment with NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO because of the development of adult fleas from eggs that were laid prior to the initiation of treatment.

#### Tick Treatment and Control:

For the treatment and control of infestations with *Ixodes scapularis* and *Amblyomma americanum*, the use of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO may begin at any time of year. NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should be administered year-round at monthly intervals or begin at least one month before the ticks become active.

Treatment and Control of Roundworms, Hookworms, and Tapeworms: NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO provides treatment and control of roundworms (adult and fourth stage larval *Toxocara cati*), hookworms (adult and fourth stage larval *Ancylostoma tubaeforme*, adult *Ancylostoma braziliense*), and tapeworms (*Dipylidium caninum*). For the treatment of hookworm, roundworms and tapeworm infections, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO should be administered once as a single dose. Monthly use of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO will control any subsequent infections. Cats may be exposed to and can become infected with roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms throughout the year, regardless of season or climate.

#### Contraindications:

There are no known contraindications for the use of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO.

#### Human Warnings:

Not for human use. Keep this and all drugs out of sight and reach of children.

**Avoid direct contact with application site for 4 hours or until visibly dry.**

**This product may act as a mild to moderate eye irritant.**

Keep product in the original packaging until use. Wash hands after product administration. If the product accidentally gets into the eyes, rinse thoroughly with water. If wearing contact lenses, flush the eyes first with water and then remove the lenses and continue to flush thoroughly with water. In case of accidental ingestion, or if skin or eye irritation occurs, contact a poison control center or physician for treatment advice.

#### Precautions:

Esafoxolaner, one of the ingredients in NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO, is a member of the isoxazoline class. This class has been associated with neurologic adverse reactions including tremors, ataxia, and seizures. Seizures have been reported in cats receiving isoxazoline class drugs, even in cats without a history of seizures. Use with caution in cats with a history of seizures or neurologic disorders.

Do not administer orally. Cats may salivate excessively if NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO is accidentally administered orally or is ingested through licking/grooming the application site (see **Target Animal Safety**).

The safety of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO has not been fully evaluated in breeding, pregnant, or lactating cats.

The safety of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO has not been tested in kittens less than 8 weeks of age or weighing less than 1.8 lbs (0.8 kg).

#### Adverse Reactions:

In a field safety and effectiveness study, which included a total of 201 households and 380 treated cats (244 cats treated with NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO, 136 cats treated with an active control), the safety of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO was evaluated over a 90-day period through in-clinic physical examinations or through reporting of abnormalities by the owner. The most frequently reported reactions in the NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO and active control groups are presented in the following table.

#### Adverse Reactions by Treatment Group

| EVENT                        | Treatment Group |           |                |           |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
|                              | NexGard COMBO   |           | Active Control |           |
|                              | n <sup>1</sup>  | % (n=244) | n <sup>2</sup> | % (n=136) |
| Vomiting                     | 16              | 6.56      | 8              | 5.88      |
| Application Site Hair Change | 9               | 3.69      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Anorexia                     | 7               | 2.87      | 4              | 2.94      |
| Lethargy                     | 6               | 2.46      | 5              | 3.68      |
| Bacterial skin infection     | 4               | 1.64      | 1              | 0.74      |
| Itching                      | 4               | 1.64      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Sneezing                     | 4               | 1.64      | 5              | 3.68      |
| Skin Peeling                 | 3               | 1.23      | 2              | 1.47      |
| Diarrrhea                    | 3               | 1.23      | 3              | 2.21      |
| Epiphora                     | 3               | 1.23      | 1              | 0.74      |
| Hypersalivation              | 3               | 1.23      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Hyperthermia                 | 3               | 1.23      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Alopecia                     | 2               | 0.82      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Dermal thickening            | 2               | 0.82      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Ear Pruritus                 | 2               | 0.82      | 1              | 0.74      |
| Application Site Redness     | 2               | 0.82      | 0              | 0.00      |
| Conjunctivitis               | 1               | 0.41      | 1              | 0.74      |

<sup>1</sup>Number of cats treated with NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO with the identified abnormality.

<sup>2</sup>Number of cats treated with Active Control with the identified abnormality.

#### Contact Information:

To report suspected adverse events, for technical assistance or to obtain a copy of the SDS, contact Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc. at 1-888-637-4251 or [www.nexgardforpets.com](http://www.nexgardforpets.com).

For additional information about reporting adverse drug experiences for animal drugs, contact FDA at 1-888-FDA-VETS or online at [www.fda.gov/reportanimalae](http://www.fda.gov/reportanimalae).

The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) provides additional occupational safety information. For customer service or to obtain product information, including the SDS, call 1-888-637-4251.

#### Clinical Pharmacology:

##### Mode of Action:

Esafoxolaner is a member of the isoxazoline family, shown to bind at a site to inhibit insect and acarine ligand-gated chloride channels, in particular those gated by the neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), thereby blocking pre- and post-synaptic transfer of chloride ions across cell membranes. Prolonged esafoxolaner-induced hyperexcitation results in uncontrolled activity of the central nervous system and death of insects and acarines. The selective toxicity of esafoxolaner between insects/acarines and mammals may be inferred by the differential sensitivity of the insects/acarines' GABA receptors versus mammalian GABA receptors.

Eprinomectin is an endectocide in the macrocyclic lactone class that binds to glutamate gated chloride channels that are present in invertebrate nerve and muscle cells and increases the permeability of the cell membrane to chloride ions that triggers hyperpolarization of the nerve or muscle cell in susceptible parasites, resulting in paralysis and death of the parasite.

Praziquantel's mode of action is not precisely known, but treated tapeworms undergo muscular paralysis accompanied by a rapid influx of calcium ions and the disruption of the tegument.

#### Pharmacokinetics:

After a single topical administration to healthy male and female cats of a combined topical formulation containing esafoxolaner (12 mg/mL), eprinomectin (4 mg/mL), and praziquantel (83 mg/mL), at dose volumes of 0.06, 0.12, or 0.24 mL/kg, there was a dose proportional increase in the exposure of each ingredient based on maximum plasma concentration (C<sub>max</sub>) and area under the plasma concentration time curve (AUC). After repeated monthly doses of the combined topical formulation at the target dose of 1.44 mg/kg esafoxolaner, 0.48 mg/kg eprinomectin, and 9.98 mg/kg praziquantel, steady state was reached by the fourth dose for esafoxolaner and after the second dose for eprinomectin and praziquantel. Additionally, modest accumulation was observed for esafoxolaner (approximately 3-fold) and praziquantel (approximately 1.5- to 2-fold) between the first and fifth dose, whereas no accumulation was observed for eprinomectin.

#### Effectiveness:

##### Heartworm Prevention:

In well-controlled laboratory studies, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO (esafoxolaner, eprinomectin, and praziquantel topical solution) was 100% effective in preventing the development of heartworms in cats inoculated with infective larvae of *Dirofilaria immitis* 30 days prior to the first of three consecutive monthly treatments.

##### Flea Treatment and Prevention:

In a well-controlled laboratory study, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO killed >92% of fleas within 24 hours. During subsequent weekly infestations, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO killed >95.5% of fleas within 24 hours through Day 31 and killed fleas before they could lay eggs. The effectiveness against adult fleas at 24 hours post-infestation in the treated cats virtually eliminated flea egg production (99.8 – 100% control of flea egg production by 24 hours) throughout the remainder of the month. In a field safety and effectiveness study in the United States, conducted in households with existing flea infestations, the effectiveness of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO against fleas was 97.8%, 99.6%, and 99.9% when assessed on Days 30, 60, and 90, respectively. Cats with signs of flea allergy dermatitis showed improvement in alopecia, dermatitis/ pyodermatitis, pruritus, erythema, papules, and scaling, as a direct result of eliminating fleas.

##### Tick Treatment and Control:

In well-controlled laboratory studies, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO demonstrated ≥95.1% effectiveness against *Ixodes scapularis* 48 hours post-infestation for a month and ≥95.6% effectiveness against *Amblyomma americanum* 72 hours post-infestation for a month.

Treatment and Control of Roundworms, Hookworms, and Tapeworms: In 2 well-controlled laboratory studies, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO provided 98.9% and 100% effectiveness against natural and/or induced roundworm infections with the dose-limiting gastrointestinal nematode species (adult *Toxocara cati*), respectively. Effectiveness studies against fourth stage larval *Toxocara cati* and hookworms (adult and fourth stage larval *Ancylostoma tubaeforme*, adult *Ancylostoma braziliense*) were conducted with an early formulation. The doses of eprinomectin in this early formulation are equivalent to that of the final formulation of NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO. In well-controlled laboratory studies, NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO provided an average 92.8% effectiveness against natural and/or induced infections with *Dipylidium caninum*.

#### Target Animal Safety:

##### Margin of Safety Study:

NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO was applied topically to healthy kittens (8 to 9 weeks of age) at 1X, 3X, or 5X the maximum exposure dose six times at 28-day intervals; kittens in the control group were dosed with mineral oil. One kitten in the 5X group exhibited recumbency, tremors, hypothermia, ataxia, disorientation, and pupil dilation (responsive to light) 9 hours after the third dose. This kitten received supportive care, including washing the application site, and recovered within 48 hours post-dose. During necropsy, a dark red subcutaneous area (<5 mm diameter) was observed in the treated site area of three cats in the 5X group, but microscopic examination revealed no histologic abnormalities. No significant changes related to NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO were observed for physical examination, body weight, clinical pathology (hematology, coagulation, and serum chemistry), histopathology, or organ weights.

##### Study in Heartworm Positive Cats:

Adult cats, 4.7 to 6.6 months of age, were experimentally infected with adult heartworms (*D. immitis*) by venous transplantation. All cats were negative for heartworm antibody, antigen and microfilariae prior to transplantation. Two weeks after transplantation, immunoserology verified positive antigen and the presence of microfilariae in all enrolled cats. A combination of ivermectin, eprinomectin, praziquantel, and (S)-methoprene was applied topically to cats at 1X or 3X the maximum exposure dose every 28 days for three consecutive treatments; cats in the control group were dosed with mineral oil. One cat in the 1X group exhibited cyanotic mucous membranes and tachypnea for 24 hours following the first treatment. The cat recovered and exhibited no abnormal signs following two subsequent treatments. There was no difference between the treatment groups in the number of adult *D. immitis* recovered at the end of the study.

##### Oral Administration Study:

Oral tolerance was evaluated to assess the effects of accidental oral ingestion. Kittens (male and female) ranging in age from 7.4 to 8.9 weeks were orally administered NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO at 1X the maximum exposure dose; kittens in the control group were dosed with saline. Cats were observed for adverse reactions at 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 hours following administration, then twice a day until Day 14. All 8 cats administered NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO immediately exhibited excessive hypersalivation after oral administration. However, all cats stopped salivating within 1 hour after exposure. No additional health-related observations were seen for the remainder of the study.

##### How Supplied:

NexGard<sup>®</sup> COMBO is packaged as a single dose in 0.3 mL (for cats 1.8 – 5.5 lb) and 0.9 mL (for cats 5.6-16.5 lb) applicators. Each size applicator is available in cartons containing 1, 3 or 6 applications.

##### Storage Information:

Store at 59° – 86°F (15° – 30° C). Brief periods up to 104° F (40° C) are permitted. Protect from light.

Approved by FDA under NADA # 411-570

**Marketed by:** Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc., Duluth, GA 30096  
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