

# VOACON

## PROGRESS IN MOTION

24th and 25th May 2023 at the Grand Hotel Leicester

The VOA's congress, organised by *The Veterinary Edge* in association with Nupsala



### PLATINUM SPONSORS



### GOLD SPONSORS



#### What is the VOA?

The primary effort and purpose of the Veterinary Osteoarthritis Alliance is the creation of a platform to advance the management of osteoarthritis by developing theoretical and practical training opportunities, by providing access to the latest research, evidence and technologies and by the facilitation of a multi-professional collaboration to address and improve the results of disease management.

With over 300 members in the UK, the alliance is growing month on month. It also offers non-veterinary memberships to animal physiotherapists and other related professionals.

This inaugural two-day Veterinary Osteoarthritis Congress brings together the foremost minds at the cutting-edge of osteoarthritis treatment and management and the companies pushing the developments in technology and treatment.

- Managing OA in general practice
- Chronic pain – multi-disciplinary approach
- Equine mobility and OA
- Feline OA
- Biomodulation v. regenerative – new perspectives on biologicals
- Rehabilitation in action
- Surgical techniques and post-surgical rehabilitation
- Managing working and sporting dogs with mobility problems
- Current controversies

#### Plus:

- Interactive multi-disciplinary case presentations
- New Horizons – short presentations of current cutting-edge research and new techniques

#### Our great value delegate rates:

##### VOA members\*

- Veterinary surgeon: two days £250; one day £140
  - Veterinary nurse/physio: two days £160; one day £90
- \*Join the VOA when you book to qualify for members' rates!

##### Non-members

- Veterinary surgeon: two days £310; one day £170
- Veterinary nurse/physio: two days £210; one day £125

**NB. NO ROOMS AT THE INN!** – but if you book at the nearby Gresham Aparthotel ([www.thegreshamaparthotel.com](http://www.thegreshamaparthotel.com)) using the code **MERCURE** you will receive a 15% discount. There are other hotels less than a minute's walk from the venue, including the Premier Inn.

## DAY ONE

### MAIN STREAM

#### Session 1: Managing OA

- How to effectively communicate with clients
- How to be sure it's OA – clinical assessment and differentials

#### Session 2: Managing OA

- A process for OA management planning *Sponsored by Animalcare*
- A practical approach to integrating physiotherapy into OA management

LUNCH

#### Session 3: Managing OA

- Educating the pet owners – the key to successful OA management

#### Session 4: Owner questionnaires for OA assessment – present and future

### STREAM TWO

#### Session 1: Dealing with chronic pain

- Understanding pain in chronic OA
- Managing chronic pain – medical options for long-term management  
*Sponsored by Animalcare*

#### Session 2: Dealing with chronic pain

- The role of obesity and weight management in OA chronic pain

LUNCH

#### Session 3: Dealing with chronic pain

- Rehab strategies for chronic pain management
- How to set up a mobility clinic: what are the foundations?

#### Session 4: INTERACTIVE CASE

Multi-disciplinary case presentation

PANEL

— KEYNOTE FOR ALL DELEGATES —

### EQUINE

#### Session 1: Multidisciplinary management of OA

- Corrective farrier options in OA management. Latest developments
- Objective assessment tools in equine mobility assessment

#### Session 2: Multidisciplinary management of OA

- A physio perspective in equine rehabilitation

LUNCH

#### Session 3: OA treatment options

- Update on intra-articular injectables
- Autologous v. allogenic stem cells treating OA conditions

#### Session 4: Unusual presentations

OA in less common sites. How to recognise and manage

## DAY TWO

### MAIN STREAM

#### Session 1: Biomodulation in OA

- Using Intra-articular therapies in practice
- Stem cells: a new dawn. Reviewing the evidence  
*Sponsored by TVM*

#### Session 2: Working dogs

- Working with sporting and working dogs. Where do you start and what do you need to know?
- Managing specific injuries in sporting and working dogs

LUNCH

#### Session 3: Mobility clinic

- Innovation and latest thinking for us to create objective data in our practices

#### Session 4: Mobility clinic

- Using an OA management assistant programme in a mobility clinic – guide to success
- How can VOA help? Blue Paw and Practice Accreditation explained

### STREAM TWO

#### Session 1: Feline OA focus

- Feline OA – an update on its impact and owner perception
- Diagnosis and management options for feline OA  
*Sponsored by VetzPetz – Antinol*

#### Session 2: Feline OA focus

- The role of the RVN as a feline OA ambassador

LUNCH

#### Session 3: New horizons

- Ultrasound: a new perspective in mobility cases
- OA is a disease of old dogs – think again! New information about juvenile OA

#### Session 4: Interactive session

- Multidisciplinary case presentation

PANEL

#### Main Hall

- How can VOA help? Blue Paw and Practice Accreditation explained

### STREAM THREE

#### Session 1: Rehab in action

- What evidence is there for the use of electrotherapies?
- How can clinical massage help? The evidence

#### Session 2: Rehab in action

- The role of hydrotherapy in the senior patient  
*Sponsored by the Canine Hydrotherapy Association*

LUNCH

#### Session 3: Surgery in OA

- Surgical options for OA joints
- Post-surgery rehabilitation: plans improve recovery post joint surgery

#### Session 4: Dietary supplements

- What role do nutraceuticals and dietary supplements play in OA management?

#### Main Hall

- How can VOA help? Blue Paw and Practice Accreditation explained

*NB. Programme is subject to change.*

**To book or to keep up with news and updates, visit [vet-oa.com/voacon](http://vet-oa.com/voacon)**

**Experts from around the world will be delivering the latest thinking and techniques for OA treatment**



**Stuart Carmichael**



**Colin Capner**



**Ross Allan**



**John Innes**



**Stephanie Dakin**



**Natalie Lenton**



**Andrew Armitage**



**Mike Farrell**



**Siobhan Menzies**

## **From our sponsors**



United Kingdom

Animalcare UK Ltd is really pleased to be supporting the first VOACON as a Platinum sponsor. This event is important, bringing together those interested in improving the treatment and management of osteoarthritis (OA) from across the veterinary sector.

Osteoarthritis is a complex condition which may remain with affected animals for many years. There is no single strategy that can effectively deal with the full range of issues that arise for the animal and owner from the point of diagnosis and which may vary over time. It is only by using a range of approaches that we can fully safeguard the welfare of the animals we seek to treat. Many of these strategies are brought together for the first time in the UK and highlighted in the exciting programme at VOACON. We hope to see this event well supported and look forward to talking to delegates.

Daxocox®, the first and only weekly oral NSAID for the treatment of pain and inflammation associated with osteoarthritis in dogs, seeks to help owners with convenient and effective long-term pain control for their dog; and Danilon for horses with osteoarthritis and other painful musculo-skeletal conditions. Both these products provide the veterinary professional with tools in the armoury to assist with the long-term management of OA.

Animalcare is a sustainable and passionate organisation committed to leading in animal health through innovative and trusted products and services to support the veterinary profession. Please visit us on our stand and also join us in our presentations at VOACON where we will be highlighting the role that non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can play in long term condition management for OA.

■ [www.animalcare.co.uk](http://www.animalcare.co.uk)

**The Canine Hydrotherapy Association (CHA)** was established in 2000 and is the regulating association for the canine hydrotherapy industry which aims to be the gold standard in the delivery of excellent and professional canine hydrotherapy treatment within the UK.

We work closely with the veterinary industry and multi-disciplinary teams to deliver optimal treatment programmes for our clients and their owners, upholding the high standards required by the association for their member centres. All our members operate with care, compassion and integrity, giving you the trust and confidence in the quality of treatment and welfare standards of any animal referred to one of our members.

■ [www.canine-hydrotherapy.org](http://www.canine-hydrotherapy.org)



**TVM-UK** is delighted to sponsor the

**tvm DogStem®**

VOACON with the launch of DogStem®. DogStem is the first and only licensed stem cell therapy for mild to severe canine osteoarthritis of the elbow and hip.

- Ready-to-use intra-articular injection containing ~7.5 million equine umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells
- Long-lasting efficacy (from 3 months to more than 12 months) following a single, intra-articular injection
- Clinically proven to reduce pain and lameness and improve quality of life
- Targeted, locally acting with no systemic contraindications
- Ethical, non-invasive sourcing
- Regulated quality, safety and manufacturing
- Convenient ordering, easy refrigerated storage

Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) have immunomodulatory, anti-inflammatory and potential tissue regenerative properties. Through these actions, MSCs transform the joint environment from inflammatory to non-inflammatory, reduce pain and inflammation and have the potential to slow disease progression.

Due to the immune-privileged status of stem cells, the use of xenogeneic stem cells, such as using equine umbilical cord MSCs is possible. Umbilical cord is considered the best source of consistent quantity, quality and safety of ethically harvested stem cells, with extremely low immunogenicity. This consistency isn't always possible with autologous stem cells, which also require an additional surgical harvesting procedure.

To find out how you can unleash the transformative power of stem cells, with DogStem, visit our stand.

■ [www.dogstem.co.uk](http://www.dogstem.co.uk)

**Vetz Petz® Antinol®**

is a clinically proven, highly palatable and pierceable capsule for the support and management of healthy joints. The concentrated formula supports the natural anti-inflammatory action of the body's metabolism, helping to keep joints healthy and maintain mobility. Antinol® is a fast-acting formula that, when taken daily, will help your pet maintain an active lifestyle and help support their joint metabolism.

To support veterinary professionals just like you, we have now launched the Pro Portal for veterinary nurses, veterinary surgeons and the wider veterinary team; register to receive a wide range of benefits:

- Vetz' Petz' Feeding Program = a scheme exclusive to clinic staff which offers Antinol® at a fraction of the RRP, with the ability to subscribe and receive regular deliveries at no extra cost.
- Antinol® Academia = our knowledge hub, which includes exclusive CPD and educational content and resources
- Online ordering = purchase Antinol® directly via our Pro Portal at any time convenient to you.

We are so excited to be Gold sponsors at the inaugural VOACON and cannot wait to meet like-minded professionals to chat all things mobility and how we can support you and most importantly your pets and patients.

■ [antinol.co.uk](http://antinol.co.uk)



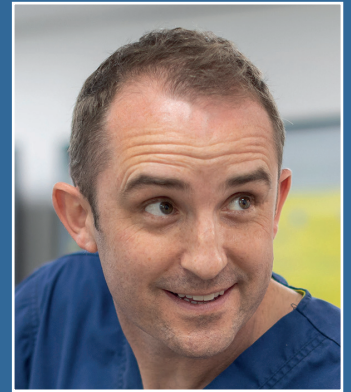
**Nichi Cockburn**



**Russell Chandler**



**Duncan Lascelles**



**Jamie McClement**



**Sarah Cochrane**



**Didier Serteyn**



**Marc Koene**



**Alexandra Keller**

It wouldn't be a decent congress without a vibrant trade exhibition – speak to the companies behind the latest tech, product and service developments in OA treatment and management. Some will be running workshops too – details will be published in due course.



As the world's leading animal health company, Zoetis exists to nurture our world and humankind by advancing care for animals. With nearly 70 years of experience innovating a leading portfolio and pipeline of medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and technologies, Zoetis stands by those caring for animals by providing solutions worldwide.

At this year's VOACON, you will be able to join the Zoetis team on their stand to discuss their latest small animal innovations Librela and Solensia, two species-specific, anti-NGF monoclonal antibodies for the alleviation of pain associated with osteoarthritis (OA) in dogs and cats.

As the first and only monthly monoclonal antibody

injections to alleviate OA pain, Librela and Solensia aim to provide a convenient and compliant way for vets and owners to manage pets' OA pain for a full month. You can find out more about the products ahead of the congress at [Librela.co.uk](http://Librela.co.uk) and [Solensia.co.uk](http://Solensia.co.uk).

The team will be on hand to discuss the science behind Nerve Growth Factor (NGF) and monoclonal antibodies, as well as the latest information and insights on Librela and Solensia.

Edwina Gildea, Companion Animal Veterinary Lead, will also be presenting at the congress around feline OA, providing more insight and understanding around pain in feline patients and what cat owners are willing to do.

With a lot of educational and support resources available to vets and nurses around OA, the Zoetis team is looking forward to connecting with delegates over the two-day congress and continuing to provide on-going support across the whole practice team around canine and feline OA.

■ [librela.co.uk](http://librela.co.uk) | [solensia.co.uk](http://solensia.co.uk)



**Join us in the King's Hall on the Wednesday evening for a gala dinner – sponsored by the Canine Hydrotherapy Association – full details coming soon! There will be a Happy Hour before the dinner too – meet the speakers and network over a drink and nibbles.**

**To book or to keep up with news and updates, visit [vet-oa.com/voacon](http://vet-oa.com/voacon)**