



CBD Oil for Dogs: What You Need to Know

By [Randa Kriss](#) October 27, 2019

As with any pet wellness trend, when it comes to CBD oil for dogs, there's a lot of information floating around online. Of course, you want to do what's best for your pup, which leads to the question: What do I need to know about CBD oil?

The [AKC's Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Jerry Klein](#), explains what CBD oil is, what it does, and its safety concerns and side effects.

What Is CBD Oil?

CBD, or cannabidiol, is a compound found in cannabis and hemp. Dr. Klein says it is essential to note that in most cases, CBD does not contain delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the compound that gives marijuana its psychoactive properties. In fact, most CBD products are derived from **hemp** and *not* from marijuana.

How Does CBD Affect Dogs?

Currently, there has been no formal study on how CBD affects dogs. What scientists do know is that cannabinoids interact with the endocannabinoid receptors located in the central and peripheral nervous systems, which help maintain balance in the body and keep it in a normal healthy state.

What Dog Health Problems Can CBD Oil Treat?

While there's no definitive scientific data on using CBD to treat dogs, there's anecdotal evidence from dog owners suggesting it can treat pain, especially [neuropathic pain](#), as well as helping to control [seizures](#).

According to Dr. Klein, CBD is also used because of its anti-inflammatory properties, cardiac benefits, anti-nausea effects, appetite stimulation, anti-anxiety impact, and for possible anti-cancer benefits, although there's no conclusive data on this use.



The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) is [sponsoring a study](#), through the Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, that will evaluate the use of CBD in treatment-resistant epileptic dogs. The CHF hopes that this will be the first study to gain scientific data on the use of CBD in dogs with this condition.

Possible Side Effects of CBD in Dogs

While there's no scientific data on the side effects of CBD usage for dogs, there are potential side effects based on how CBD affects humans. To minimize any potential side effects, make sure you are following [the proper dosage](#).

- **Dry mouth:** Research has shown that CBD can decrease the production of saliva. For dogs, this would manifest as an increased thirst.
- **Lowered [blood pressure](#):** High doses of CBD have been known to cause a temporary drop in blood pressure. Even though the drop is small, it might [create](#) a brief feeling of light-headedness.
- **Drowsiness:** Dog owners have used CBD to treat anxiety. The calming effect of CBD can also cause slight drowsiness, especially when using higher doses.

Risks of Using CBD Oil for Dogs

The safety and risks of using CBD for dogs have not yet been researched. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not approved CBD and has not issued a dosing chart. Therefore, we do not know what size dosage would be toxic. Any medication or supplement carries the risk of a reaction. It is always advisable, when giving your dog something new, to start out with small amounts and then closely monitor the effects. And always check with your veterinarian first.



CBD Products on the Market

If you and your veterinarian decide that you should try CBD as a treatment for your dog, there are a few things to keep in mind when purchasing CBD oil. Not all oils are the same; you'll want high-quality CBD oil to have a better chance of it working.

- **Look for organic.** If the CBD oil is not organic, it at least should not contain pesticides, fungicides, or solvents.
- **Don't price shop.** The higher the quality and purity, the higher the cost. You don't want to go for a cheaper option that could have toxic substances such as pesticides, herbicides, or heavy metals. Make sure your CBD oil is free of additives.
- **Get the analysis.** The manufacturer should provide a certificate that tells you the amount of CBD that is in the product. Many CBD products contain only small amounts of CBD. You'll also want to make sure there is little or no THC in the product.
- **Buy CBD as a liquid.** You can buy dog treats containing CBD, but the best form to administer is an oil or tincture. This way, you can adjust your dog's dose drop by drop.

The CBD Wellness Trend

Why are we hearing so much about CBD oil now? Dr. Klein points to the legalization of marijuana in many places, which has triggered interest in potential health benefits of marijuana-related products. "We are likely to see continued interest in CBD and an increase in research about its uses and efficacy in the coming years," he says.

Learn more about the [CBD study](#) funded by the Canine Health Foundation.