

HEALTH & WELLNESS

owners are trying to offer them pain relief or provide them with something that might comfort them. I've seen the limits of a lot of prescription medications."

For pet owners interested in finding a naturopathic, non-toxic treatment for seriously ill animals or pets near the end of life, CBD is emerging as a viable alternative for pain management. A tincture like Vet CBD can be added to food or administered by eyedropper in easily measured doses and is ideal for pets that won't eat treats. Currently, Vet CBD is available only through medical marijuana dispensaries in California, though Dr. Shu may be contacted through the product website to answer questions for consumers and other veterinarians.

In various formulations and formats, CBD pet products promise to help with many common conditions including arthritis, anxiety, nausea, pain, and even skin problems.

"CBD is basically really, really good at one thing in particular, and that is the relief of inflammation. When you go to the source of what it is that's causing problems in most animals and people, it goes back to some sort of inflamed something or other that causes the ailment," said Frank Registrato, owner of YourCBDSource, an online resource for human and pet CBD products.

"So for people that use CBD, they use it to relieve the inflammation that's causing the joints to be painful or some phantom pain that's been there for a long time. They release the inflammation in those areas, so the brain doesn't send those pain signals because the brain sees it's no longer inflamed... It's the same thing with the dogs, it's the inflammation," he added.

YourCBDSource's cookie-shaped CBD treats are called Sweet Nibbles, marketed under the Benny's Healthy Hemp brand. Benny, the logo Chihuahua, is a rescue-turned-therapy dog for Registrato's partner, who is autistic. Both he and Benny are helped with CBD therapy, which keeps Benny "chill." The treats are available at the YourCBDSource online store, in 4-16 ounce containers retailing from \$24.99 to \$74.99.

My own dog, Jackson, definitely enjoyed the "chicken soup" flavor, though it was hard for me to tell if he was more relaxed after he'd had one or two. His favorite things to do are eat and sleep. He seemed to like them, though, so I tried one, too. Pretty darn tasty, I must say! Animal nutritionist Kris Otto says she likes them better with a little butter for a smidge of saltiness.

"The yummy stuff is nutritional yeast," explained Otto, who developed the Sweet Nibbles recipe. "That is a) very healthy and, b) it smells like yummy-yummy to dogs. It makes their noses go crazy. We knew going in that a lot of the dogs eating the CBD treats might be compromised health-wise—that's why they're eating them—but they might not want to eat anything. So, one of our goals was to make a treat that even dogs with no appetite would want to eat. Once you can get something to appeal to a dog's nose, then you can get it to appeal to their tummy."

Jackson and I also tucked into some Treatibles, by Auntie Dolores, which has specialized in cannabis-infused edibles for humans since 2008. Sweet and crunchy, the bone-shaped biscuits were really good with milk (Jackson had water). Vegan and gluten-free, a 3.25-ounce bag of treats retails for \$24 and comes in regular or blueberry flavors. They're available on the product's website and in dispensaries.

"They're all human-grade ingredients," said CEO and founder

THE FOUR Ts OF CBD FOR PETS



TINCTURES

Proprietary formulations like **Vet CBD** and **Treatwell's Pet Cannabis Tincture** are a good choice for pets unable to eat treats. Treatwell's product comes in two strengths: a 20:1 ratio (CBD:THC) for common ailments and a stronger 1:1 ratio for seriously ill animals. Tinctures are available through dispensaries and a few medical professionals.



TOPICALS

Starting with the CBD gel pen at **Mary's Pet Shop**, topical or transdermal application of CBD for pets is sure to become more popular. Cannabinoid blends play a big role in the effectiveness of any CBD product, so specialized training is needed for retailers of these products. All the manufacturers we talked to were pro-active about providing education to consumers and professionals.



TREATS

Sweet Nibbles and **Treatibles** were highlighted here, but there are many options for, in particular, dog treats. It only makes sense that man's best friend would crave edibles as much as humans. All contain healthy "nutraceutical" ingredients, like **Canna-Pet's Canna-Biscuits** for dogs, which are labeled non-GMO.



THE REST

Caring owners of various animals experiment with CBD products to enhance their quality of life. Non-toxic products like tinctures, topicals and treats (unless otherwise specified) are used for cats, horses, birds, rabbits, and in one case even a tame skunk. New products include capsules for cats from **Hemp Health Inc.'s Pharma brand** and **Canna-Pet** make it a little easier to dose finicky eaters. **Hemp Health** also offers a CBD oral spray for pets that could stand a minty-fresh spritz.



Julianna Carella. "They're all really healthy. We've got a couple of employees that eat them in the morning as cereal with milk on top. They're quite good."

"We've always been a company that infuses cannabinoids into food products, so that's really our specialty," she continued. "Dogs are more likely to eat a treat where they like the taste than a pill or a tincture. So these treats are really medicine disguised as a treat, and it's easier to get the dog to eat it because they love the flavor. There's also a lot of superfood ingredients in the treats, so there's a synergy that goes on there with, like, coconut oil. It has some of the same benefits as cannabinoids do, and because [the cannabinoids are]