

# CANNABIS FOR PETS

## Benefits

- Stress Relief
- Pain Relief
- Brain Health
- Cancer Care
- IBS Care
- Immune Balancing
- PTSD Recovery
- Anti-Inflammatory
- Epilepsy Care
- No contraindications
- No drug interactions

### “Hemp Without The High”

Cannabis for pets is made from “industrial” hemp which is the kind of hemp that fiber and food such as hemp seeds are derived from. This is the same plant that has been used medicinally for thousands of years. The main benefit of hemp plants come from the many *cannabinoids* that it possesses. The legal definition of “hemp” is plants that have no more than 0.3% THC.

### The Endocannabinoid System (ECS)

Mammals (not just humans) have an Endocannabinoid System (ECS) with receptors for all cannabinoids, which is why Cannabis plant products work for dogs and cats; they are similar to our own ECS. Only discovered in the 1990s, this ECS acts as a “global protection system” and influences the body’s wellbeing and *perception of wellbeing*. These receptors are in the brain and other parts of the body.

**These receptors can be damaged by chronic stress, pain, and inflammation.** Animals with a chronic deficiency in ECS function may exhibit anxiety, depression, an inability to forget/unlearn fear, IBS, chronic pain, auto-immune disease, anorexia, and nerve damage.

### CBD

The two cannabinoids that get most of the attention are CBD and THC. CBD (cannabidiol) is the cannabinoid that’s been researched the most for medicinal properties. While CBD has the most known benefits it should always be used in a whole plant form so that other phytochemicals (including all the other cannabinoids) are present to help increase its efficiency (the “entourage” effect).

It’s only recently that this plant has been bred to change its chemical balance to increase the THC in order to offer a “high.” This high THC plant (with about 18% THC) is what is commonly called Marijuana, and can be acquired for medicinal use for humans.

**Dogs and cats can experience severe overdose symptoms from THC, so never give medical or recreational marijuana (with high THC) to pets.**

**Pet products that are high in CBD and very low in THC are completely safe.**

There are no documented negative side-effects, nor are there contraindications for pets who are also on pharmaceutical medications or additional herbal protocols.

### Dosing

There is no clinical standardized dose for cannabis products, though companies have used research to establish recommendations. The amount you eventually use will depend on each animal’s needs according to their size, metabolism, and reason for using cannabis. It is a very safe product with a wide range of dose options.



## Learn More

Feeding probiotics and Omega-3 fatty acids help build more receptors and thus help repair the endocannabinoid system.

You can give cannabis once every two weeks to help maintain the endocannabinoid system for pets without deficiency symptoms.

Only use products from companies that will openly provide you with sourcing, processing, and testing information

Only use whole plant extracts, not isolates.

Never use cheap products processed with butane. Co2 extraction and ethanol extraction are the current standards for oil-based products.



**The best advice is to use the smallest dose that's effective.** For ongoing conditions give that dose 2-3 times a day. If your pet experiences relief on a smaller dose that's fine. If a more serious and acute situation requires a larger dose that's fine too.

**Best absorption, especially of liquid products, is on an empty stomach;** 20 minutes before a meal is fine. It's best to divide the daily dose between morning and evening, though more frequent dosing may be beneficial for certain acute situations.

**Some conditions require more time to see results.** These would be chronic conditions where multiple parts of the body's terrain are involved such as autoimmune disease, systemic inflammation, and ECS Deficiency.

Results should be visible sooner with acute problems such as post-operative pain relief or situational anxiety (parties, thunderstorms, etc).

Treatment for cancer should be done with the guidance of a holistic vet or non-vet practitioner who can guide you through changes in your pet's condition.

### Which Type Of Product Is Best?

#### Biscuits or Treats

Giving a biscuit daily is similar to you having a smoothie with some superfoods in it.

- Mild to moderate conditions
- Promoting a healthy endocannabinoid system for life

#### Dried Whole-Plant Powders

These absorb more slowly through the digestive tract (like the treats), but allow for larger doses without the worry of overfeeding treats.

- Chronic mild to moderate conditions
- As a foundation for more severe conditions (with liquid extract as-needed)
- Bi-monthly ECS boosts for generally healthy dogs

#### Whole-Plant Liquid Extracts

Liquid allows for concentrated doses and quick absorption. They're most effective when given directly by mouth so they can absorb directly into the mucous membranes, though some companies make specially processed products that may be just as effective when given with food. Liquids also allow for easy dose adjustments on an as-needed basis. For ease of use some liquid products are available in capsules, which will slow absorption.

- Acute situations such as post-operative pain
- serious chronic health challenges such as epilepsy, severe arthritis, cancer, auto-immune disease, brain injury.