

## Scratching your head?

# How to reduce the impact of neuropathic pain in dogs.



### Why?

Neuropathic pain (NeP) is pain resulting from nervous tissue damage. It is chronic, affects activity and quality of life.

NeP is difficult to recognise in animals who can't report how they feel. We use clinical signs for diagnosis of NeP. However, we don't know if they are reliable.

Sensory testing devices (thermal and pressure) have improved clinical assessment of human NeP.

### What will it involve?

- As an owner you might need to complete a questionnaire to try to identify clinical signs and behavioural disturbances likely to be associated with neuropathic pain in your dog.

- Test thermal and pressure thresholds in affected and unaffected areas of dogs. We will also enrol unaffected dogs and dogs with non-neuropathic pain to establish the range of threshold in normal dogs for standardisation. Clipping off fur in small areas may be necessary.

- Quantify behaviour from video footage and accelerometers at home. Equipment will be supplied by the researchers.

### What kind of dogs do we need for the study?

- Dogs with suspected NeP (intervertebral disc disease, Chiari-like malformation and Syringomyelia, lumbosacral pain, etc.) between 6 months and 10 years old.
- Dogs with chronic osteoarthritis between 6 months and 10 years old.
- Healthy control dogs between 6 months and 10 years old.

The study is non-invasive, interactive and interesting for both owners and dogs. Each session would take a maximum of 2 hours and would be scheduled at a time that suits best with you as an owner.

### Outcomes of the study

Findings from this study will allow us to identify which clinical signs and sensory tests should be included in assessment and management of NeP in dogs.



