

Meta Title: CBD for Dogs: Benefits, Risks, Side Effects

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CBD for Dogs: Benefits, Risks, Side Effects

CBD is a compound extracted from the buds and flowers of cannabis or hemp plants, it isn't psychoactive, so it doesn't produce the high associated with marijuana. Hemp and marijuana belong to the same family of the cannabis plants and have different levels of THC; in hemp, the THC levels are only 0.3%. CBD oil is legal for medicinal and recreational use in some states and banned in others, while hemp oil is legal in all the 50 states of the US. CBD oil and other CBD products are becoming increasingly popular among dog owners these days because CBD is considered to treat several illnesses and to promote the well-being of their dogs. In this article, we'll take a look at the benefits, risks, and side effects of using CBD for dogs.

Benefits of CBD for dogs

There are several benefits of giving CBD to your dog, few of them are listed below.

It reduces pain

According to a [study](#), the endocannabinoid system (ECS) plays a critical role in pain management; CBD interacts with the ECS and enables better pain management. There are several ways CBD helps in pain management, according to [studies](#), it increases the levels of anandamide in the body by temporarily stopping anandamide absorption, which helps dampen the pain signals in the brain.

CBD is also well known for its anti-inflammatory properties, and by reducing inflammation in conditions like arthritis, which is common among large dog breeds, CBD alleviates the symptoms of pain in your dog.

It is anticonvulsant

CBD is considered to be a natural anticonvulsant, and it is the only FDA-approved medicinal use of CBD. It may help control spasms, tremors, tics, and seizures. CBD's use as a natural anticonvulsant became popular when a young girl with epilepsy named [Charlotte Figi](#) was able to successfully manage her 300 weekly seizures with a CBD rich tincture. After that, [research](#) began to determine the benefits of using CBD to manage or prevent seizures caused by epilepsy, and the results are promising.

[Studies](#) also show that a combination of THC and CBD can manage spasticity caused by MS and can also manage tremors and tics caused by Tourette's syndrome. It is not yet clear how CBD works as an anticonvulsant, but preliminary research suggests that CBD restores order to the neurons in the brain and enables them to fire normally, which in turn, prevents seizures.

It is anti-inflammatory

We mentioned the [anti-inflammatory properties of CBD](#) earlier, but now we are going to take a deeper look at those properties. CBD is believed to interact with the immune cell receptors, and this interaction is the primary reason this compound exhibits anti-inflammatory effects. According to [research](#), CBD

interacts and activates the CB2 receptors generally located inside immune cells, which jump-start various immune responses, including the anti-inflammatory response.

Chronic inflammation is the primary characteristic of conditions like irritable bowel disease, arthritis, and MS; this inflammation can lead to immune system malfunction in which the body starts attacking healthy cells instead of the unhealthy ones. Thanks to CBD, you may be able to prevent this in your dog; it lowers inflammation, reduces pain, and alleviates symptoms of conditions mentioned above.

It reduces stress and anxiety

CBD isn't just effective for treating physical symptoms of various conditions; it also deals with a variety of mental symptoms of various conditions such as anxiety and depression. Everyone knows that much like us dog owners, our pets also experience anxiety, get stressed, and suffer from phobias. The physical symptoms of these mental illnesses are very similar to human symptoms, even though the source of these illnesses is entirely different. Travel anxiety, separation anxiety, and noise anxiety are the common form of anxiety that affect our dogs; these conditions bring out repetitive and disruptive behavior in our dogs including;

- Aggression
- Persistent and unnecessary barking
- Terrers
- Chewing on shoes and furniture
- Abandoning their house training; urinating and defecating in the house

The good news is that CBD can alleviate all these symptoms by reducing the anxiety in your dogs. Research is still limited in this area, so we don't know for sure how CBD reduces anxiety in dogs, but if it works like the typical anxiety medications in it targets 5-HT1A, a serotonin receptor in their bodies. Stimulation of these receptors leads to [increased levels of serotonin](#) in the brain, which temporarily reduces anxiety and fear.

It is antiemetic

Vomiting and nausea are very common among dogs; both can be caused due to specific conditions or manifest as a reaction to treatments like chemotherapy. If this vomiting and nausea get serious, it can reduce the appetite of your dog, cause dehydration and fatigue, and lead to severe weight loss. If your dog is suffering from these conditions, then you should take your furry friend to a vet. The vet may recommend a change in diet and prescribe medications like aminopentamide, acepromazine, and chlorpromazine.

These medications are very effective for treating vomiting and nausea but can cause various side effects such as lethargy, hypotension, diarrhea, excessive drooling, drowsiness, lack of appetite, etc. So if you don't want to treat your dog with a conventional antiemetic, then you may use CBD to treat vomiting and nausea. According to [research](#), it may be even better than conventional modern antiemetic medication and may not cause the harmful side effects mentioned above. We mentioned earlier that CBD stimulates 5-HT1A receptors, which leads to a significant reduction in the feeling of nausea and suppresses vomiting reflex.

It may reduce tumor growth

Cancer and tumors are common in both cats and dogs, and often the primary cause of various complications and even death. Currently, we haven't found a cure for cancer, the treatment we have only focused on slowing tumor growth and managing symptoms. Although chemotherapy is the most common treatment of tumors and cancers in both humans and pets, it is not the first choice of many as it produces a variety of unbearable side effects such as;

- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea
- Lethargy
- Pain
- Tiredness
- Fatigue
- Vomiting, etc.

Thankfully new research suggests that CBD and similar cannabinoids may provide unique anti-cancer effects. Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, located in Boston, conducted a [study](#) in 2017, which shows that CBD inhibits the growth of breast cancer and causes programmed cell death.

Another [study](#) suggests that CBD provides protection against the growth of cancer, causing cells in rats' colon and stops the development, spread, and growth of malignant tumors. Another [study](#) suggests that when used along with chemotherapy, CBD increases the effectiveness of the treatment.

Experts believe that CBD protects healthy cells and increase the absorption rate of chemotherapy agents in cancer cells. SO if you are looking to increase the effectiveness of your dog's cancer treatment, then CBD might be the safest option; however, we recommend that you consult with a veterinarian first.

It promotes homeostasis

Homeostasis is the proper equilibrium of functions within our bodies, meaning that the biological functions are working optimally, and the body is in balance. When the homeostasis goes out of whack, that's when diseases and illnesses swoop in; research [suggests](#) that the ECS plays an integral role in maintaining homeostasis and regulates several bodily processes.

CBD and other cannabinoids are well-known for [stimulating the ECS](#) within our bodies, which in turn promotes homeostasis. This is the primary reason why dog owners are choosing CBD to treat various illnesses, to promote the well-being, and to maintain the overall health of their furry friend.

Risks of CBD for dogs

Although [CBD is considered safe for humans](#), still, the risks and safety of using CBD for dogs are not yet known due to lack of research in this area. The FDA has not yet approved any CBD products for dogs and hasn't provided a dosage chart; however, anecdotal evidence suggests that appropriate doses of CBD aren't harmful to dogs.

There's always a risk of reaction when you give a new medication or supplement to your dog, so it's best to consult a veterinarian first, and if they approve, start off with small doses. Choose the lowest possible amount of CBD for the first dose and monitor the effects closely, if there are any negative effects, then

stop giving your dog CBD. If the negative effects don't go away after 12-24 hours, then immediately contact a veterinarian.

Side effects of CBD for dogs

Currently, due to lack of scientific data, we can't say for sure what side effects CBD will have on your dogs, but based on the side effects that humans experience, CBD may have the following side effects on your furry friend.

Low blood pressure

If you are giving high doses of CBD to your dog, then there is a chance of your dog's blood pressure getting low. The drop in blood pressure is not drastic, but there is still a chance of your dog feeling light-headed.

Dry mouth

According to anecdotal evidence, CBD may decrease saliva production in your dog's mouth, which usually leads to increased thirst.

Drowsiness

If you are using CBD to treat your dog's anxiety and the dosage is high, then there is a chance of your furry friend feeling drowsy due to the calming effect.