

Research Ethics Statement

Comparison of infrared thermal imaging with two canine pain assessment tools in dogs undergoing treatment for chronic back pain.

November 23, 2021

To Veterinary Sciences:

We the undersigned, as the authors of the above paper, submit this ethics statement in support of our clinical research.

In the United States, there are no regulations or guidelines that specifically apply to private practices that wish to conduct research¹. This study was performed in a private clinical practice, using client-owned animals, where a valid Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) existed. The therapy treatments and data collection described (PBMT, medical thermal imaging, and the use of pain score questionnaires) are treatments and interventions that are within the normal scope of routine veterinary practice and are considered standard of care.

Informed client consent was obtained from each owner, is certified in the manuscript, and a copy of the informed consent is attached for your review. The owners were fully informed that the research was to be published and there were no inherent risks to any data collection or treatment.

The study design followed ARRIVE compliance with regards to inclusion and exclusion criteria. The medical thermography reviewers were blinded to the pain scoring. There was no control group in this study.

We attest that this research received no funding.

¹ Baneux PJ, Martin ME, Allen MJ, Hallman TM. Issues related to institutional animal care and use committees and clinical trials using privately owned animals. *ILAR J.* 2014;55(1):200-9. doi: 10.1093/ilar/ilu005. PMID: 24936040.

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