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CANINE KNOWLEDGE BASE • INGREDIENT SCIENCE

Devil’s Claw Root for Canine Mobility & Musculoskeletal Wellness

A Southern African botanical rich in harpagoside, studied to support mobility, joint comfort, and musculoskeletal wellness in dogs.

ActivPower ATLAS® for Dogs | Harpagophytum procumbens | Harpagoside

What Is Devil’s Claw Root?

Devil’s Claw Root (*Harpagophytum procumbens*) is a botanical native to Southern Africa, used traditionally for generations and now extensively studied for its role in supporting mobility, physical activity, and musculoskeletal wellness. The root contains naturally occurring iridoid glycosides — notably **harpagoside**, harpagide, and procumbide — along with phenolic compounds such as acteoside, considered major contributors to its biological activity. It is included in **ActivPower ATLAS® for dogs**.

Botanical Composition & Biological Activity

Harpagoside is regarded as the principal phytochemical marker of Devil’s Claw and has been studied for its interaction with pathways involved in the body’s normal inflammatory response. Laboratory and mechanistic studies report that Devil’s Claw constituents may interact with NF-κB signaling, cyclooxygenase-related pathways, cytokine networks, and oxidative-stress mechanisms, with observed effects on mediators such as IL-6 and TNF-α under experimental conditions. These findings underpin scientific interest in Devil’s Claw as a botanical for mobility and musculoskeletal wellness.

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Mobility Research & Canine Context

The strongest clinical evidence for Devil's Claw concerns mobility and musculoskeletal comfort. In dogs, botanical joint-support research provides the relevant canine context.

Canine herbal-blend pilot (2022). A pilot study evaluated a proprietary botanical joint-support blend for the treatment of osteoarthritis pain in dogs, reflecting interest in plant-based mobility ingredients for canines.

Canine botanical RCT (2014). A randomized, placebo-controlled trial reported that a medicinal herb-based natural health product improved the condition of dogs in a natural osteoarthritis model.

Complementary canine orthopedics (2022). A veterinary review of evidence-based complementary and alternative canine orthopedic medicine summarizes botanical approaches to mobility support in dogs.

Devil's-Claw–specific canine clinical trials remain limited; its inclusion draws on the substantial human musculoskeletal evidence for Harpagophytum together with the canine botanical-nutraceutical literature. Current evidence supports it as a nutritional ingredient for musculoskeletal wellness, not a disease-modifying intervention.

Mobility & Musculoskeletal Wellness

Across the literature, Devil's Claw is associated with support for measures relevant to a dog's daily movement:

- Joint comfort and willingness to move
- Physical function and mobility
- Everyday activities and active play
- Owner-reported quality of life

Healthy Aging & Tissue-Health Research

Devil's Claw has demonstrated antioxidant properties and interactions with cellular stress-response pathways, generating hypotheses about its role in healthy aging through mobility and wellness mechanisms. Direct evidence for wound-healing or longevity outcomes remains limited and is largely from traditional use and laboratory studies.

Safety Considerations

Published reviews generally report Devil's Claw preparations to be well tolerated when used appropriately. Reported effects may include mild gastrointestinal discomfort or loose stools. Pet owners managing veterinary conditions or medications should consult their veterinarian before introducing new supplements.

The ActivPower Perspective

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ActivPower includes Devil's Claw Root powder in ATLAS® for dogs because of ongoing scientific interest in botanical ingredients that may support mobility, physical function, and musculoskeletal wellness as part of comprehensive nutritional programs.

FEATURED IN

ActivPower ATLAS® for Dogs

Selected References — Canine & Veterinary Literature

1. A pilot study examining a proprietary herbal blend for the treatment of canine osteoarthritis pain. *Can Vet J.* 2022. (PubMed 34975168)
2. A medicinal herb-based natural health product improves the condition of a canine natural osteoarthritis model: a randomized placebo-controlled trial. *Res Vet Sci.* 2014. (PubMed 25311158)
3. Evidence-based complementary and alternative canine orthopedic medicine. *Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract.* 2022.
4. Barbeau-Grégoire M, Otis C, Cournoyer A, et al. A 2022 systematic review and meta-analysis of enriched therapeutic diets and nutraceuticals in canine and feline osteoarthritis. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2022;23(18):10384.

DISCLAIMER

This article is provided solely for educational and informational purposes and summarizes selected scientific literature concerning Devil's Claw Root (Harpagophytum procumbens) as a nutritional ingredient in dogs. Nothing herein is intended to diagnose, treat, cure, mitigate, or prevent any disease, injury, arthritis, inflammatory disorder, or medical condition in animals.

Statements regarding dietary supplements have not been evaluated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Individual responses may vary. Pet owners should consult a qualified veterinarian before introducing any new supplement or nutritional ingredient into an animal wellness program. No claim beyond the educational discussion of current scientific literature is stated or implied.