



AN EVIDENCE-BASED CONSUMER SCORECARD

The Canine Supplement Scorecard

Score Any Dog Supplement Against 10 Questions and 30 Standards That Separate Real Formulas From Marketing

Stop trusting supplement labels and start scoring them. This is not an article. It is a tool you use. Pick any supplement, work through the 10 questions and 30 standards, and check every box that applies. Every box you check adds up to a final score that tells you exactly what you're dealing with, and whether the product is worth your money and your dog's health.

Most buyers complete the scorecard in 15 minutes or less. If it takes longer, ask yourself why a brand wouldn't make this information easy to find.

In a hurry? The Quick Checklist is on the last page.

A note before you start:

Some brands publish everything you need on their website. Others make you work for it. The more a brand withholds, the longer this scorecard will take, because you'll need to contact them directly for answers. That's worth noting before you buy.

If you need to contact a brand directly for answers, plan for 1–2 business days.

Short on time? Forward this PDF to the company behind the supplement you're considering and ask them to complete it. A brand with nothing to hide will answer. A brand that won't isn't worth your money, your time, or your dog's health.

Want to understand the reasoning behind each question? Work through the full scorecard.

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How to Use This Scorecard

1. Pick a product. Find its label and ingredient panel. Most brands post these on their website so you can check before you buy. If you already have it, keep the pouch and the brand's website open side by side.
2. Work through all 10 questions and 30 standards, then add up your two scores. Questions 1–9 can be answered before you buy and give you Score 1. Read that score before you spend anything. Question 10 is scored after you've used the product for up to 90 days and gives you Score 2. Score 1 tells you if the product is worth buying. Score 2 tells you if it's worth continuing.
3. Only check boxes you can actually verify: on the label, the brand's website, or by asking the company directly. If you can't find the information anywhere, don't check the box. A brand with nothing to hide makes their information easy to find. The ones that make you dig are counting on you to give up.
4. Watch for the walk-away boxes. Certain boxes throughout the scorecard are marked "If unchecked, WALK AWAY." These are all three Q3 boxes (independent testing, batch-specific testing, and CoA amounts matching the label), the full ingredient panel box in Q4, Q5 box 2 (core ingredients at effective levels), the food sensitivity box in Q7, the guarantee in Q8, and all four boxes in Q10 (palatability, tolerance, manufacturer accessibility, and improvement). A single "no" on any of these is an automatic walk-away, no matter how well the product scored everywhere else.

THE TAKEAWAY A great supplement has nothing to hide. The more boxes a product fails to check, the more it is counting on you not to look.

Where Is It Actually Manufactured?

WHY IT MATTERS

Some supplement brands manufacture their own product. Most hire a contract manufacturer to do it. Either way, the quality of what's in the bag depends on the company making it and the brand selling it, and you need to evaluate both. When they're two different companies, that's two sets of standards to check. Most brands do not publicly list who manufactures their product. If you can't find it on their website or packaging, contact them directly and ask.

Look for the contract manufacturer to hold certifications like SQF or NSF. These mean an outside company checked the facility and confirmed it meets strict safety standards. Contract manufacturers, ingredient suppliers, and lab testing services can earn NASC Preferred Supplier status. This means they passed an outside audit and meet strict quality rules set by NASC. NASC member brands can source from them with confidence, knowing they've already been vetted.

The NASC Quality Seal is held by the brand, not the manufacturer. To earn it, the brand must pass an outside quality inspection, have a system in place to track and report any bad reactions, follow strict label rules, and submit to random product testing by an independent lab. It's one of the strongest signs a brand takes accountability seriously.

"Made in the USA" tells you the country, not the facility.

CHECK EVERY BOX THAT APPLIES

- ☐ The company clearly states who the manufacturer is and the country of origin is disclosed: on their website, packaging, or upon request. If not listed publicly, contact the brand directly.
- ☐ The manufacturer holds an independent third-party certification such as SQF or NSF, not just a self-declared "cGMP" claim or "FDA registered facility."
- ☐ The brand holds the NASC Quality Seal and the manufacturer holds NASC Preferred Supplier status, ensuring accountability at both the brand and production level.
- ☐ A lot number and expiration date are clearly printed on the packaging, confirming the brand can trace any quality issue back to a specific production run. Don't have the physical package yet? This will need to be verified by the brand directly.

RED FLAGS

- ▶ Vague or missing manufacturing location.
- ▶ "cGMP" claimed with no indication of who verified it: no SQF, NSF, or other independent certification.
- ▶ U.S. brand address with no statement of where the product is actually made.
- ▶ "Made in the USA" with no facility named. Country of origin is not the same as manufacturing disclosure.
- ▶ No lot number or expiration date on the packaging, meaning there is no mechanism to trace a quality issue to a specific production run.

Boxes checked this question: ____ / 4

THE TAKEAWAY A domestic brand address is not the same as domestic manufacture. The certifications that matter, SQF, NSF, and NASC Preferred Supplier status, belong to the manufacturer. The NASC Quality Seal belongs to the brand.

Who Reviewed or Formulated It?

WHY IT MATTERS

Most supplements are built around a price, not around science. To look credible, brands feature a vet's name or face in their marketing and call it "veterinarian formulated." The credential is real, but the formula is often questionable.

What you want is a board-certified veterinary specialist: someone with years of advanced training beyond a regular vet degree. The brand should be able to tell you what that specialist actually did. Not just "a vet reviewed it," but what was reviewed, what was validated, and what actions were taken.

And even a real specialist review doesn't excuse a bad formula. If a vet signed off on a product full of unnecessary fillers, added sugars, or core ingredients included at amounts too small to do anything, that review wasn't worth much. Vet-founded doesn't mean well-formulated. The credential and the product are two different things. Hold every product to the same standard, regardless of who founded it, formulated it, or reviewed it.

CHECK EVERY BOX THAT APPLIES

- ☐ A licensed veterinarian was involved in the development or review of the formula, and the brand discloses more than "veterinarian formulated" or "vet approved." It specifies what was actually reviewed, validated, or what actions were taken.
- ☐ That involvement was by a board-certified veterinary specialist (a credential requiring years of advanced, post-doctoral training beyond a general veterinary degree), not a general-practice veterinarian or a celebrity endorsement.

RED FLAGS

- ▶ Generic "veterinarian formulated" or "vet approved" claims that fail to specify board-certified specialist involvement.
- ▶ A "celebrity vet" face or heavy endorsement marketing paired with a weak, proprietary, or padded ingredient list.
- ▶ Using a doctor's endorsement to distract from active ingredients included at amounts too small to work.

Boxes checked this question: ____ / 2

THE TAKEAWAY Look for board-certified specialist review, but never let a title or a photo blind you. The ultimate proof of elite veterinary involvement is a well-formulated ingredient panel that speaks for itself.

Has It Been Independently Tested?

WHY IT MATTERS

The government does not check supplement labels before products hit shelves. The company making it checks its own work, which is like grading your own test. The only real proof is a Certificate of Analysis (CoA), a document from an independent lab that confirms what's actually in the product. It needs to be for a recent production batch and under two years old. A CoA from years ago tells you nothing about the product on shelves today. Don't let a brand just tell you they do third-party testing. Ask them to show you the actual document. Some ingredients don't have independent testing available yet. In those cases, supplier paperwork and facility certifications are the next best thing.

CHECK EVERY BOX THAT APPLIES

- ☐ An independent lab has tested the finished product, the brand can provide the Certificate of Analysis (CoA) to prove it, and the CoA is published on their website or provided upon request without resistance. **◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY**
- ☐ Testing is batch-specific: the CoA on file is for a recent production batch and is under two years old. **◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY**
- ☐ The amounts declared on the supplement label are verified: either by a CoA from an independent lab for ingredients where testing protocols exist, or by supplier documentation for ingredients where no testing protocol is available. **◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY**

RED FLAGS

- ▶ "Lab verified" claims with no document to back them.
- ▶ CoA only available for old batches, or not available at all.
- ▶ Testing done solely in-house by the manufacturer.
- ▶ A brand that refuses to provide any quality documentation on request: CoA, supplier certs, or facility credentials.

Boxes checked this question: ____ / 3

THE TAKEAWAY A company confident in its product publishes its testing. One that makes you chase it, or can't produce it, is telling you something.

Is the Label Fully Transparent?

WHY IT MATTERS

Supplement labels are one of the easiest places for brands to mislead you, and most do.

The first trick is the proprietary blend. Instead of listing each ingredient with its exact amount, brands lump them together under one total. You have no idea if the ingredient on the front of the bag is at an effective level or just a trace amount.

The second trick is serving size games. Every buyer assumes the number on the label is the minimum serving amount. Brands know this, so they set their serving size to two or three chews and let buyers think they're getting more than they are. If your dog is small, the real amount your dog gets is much less than what the label shows.

The third trick is filler padding. Cheap, heavy ingredients like bone broth, beef liver, or pumpkin get added to inflate the serving weight, making a mostly-filler product look like a full formula. This is especially common in powders.

One more thing to watch for: some brands list ingredient amounts as percentages instead of milligrams or CFUs. A percentage tells you nothing about whether the amount is actually enough to work. You need the actual milligrams or CFUs to know.

CHECK EVERY BOX THAT APPLIES

- ☐ Every active ingredient's amount is listed in milligrams or CFUs, not as a percentage or left blank.
- ☐ No proprietary blend or complex hides individual ingredient amounts. Every ingredient inside one still shows its own milligram or CFU number. (If no blend is used, check this box.)
- ☐ The serving size is not artificially inflated: values reflect a single, honestly defined unit (one chew, one capsule, one scoop, or a stated liquid measure), not a multi-unit serving disguised as one.
- ☐ The full ingredient panel, active and inactive, is published on the brand's website, product listing, or provided upon request. **◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY**

RED FLAGS

- ▶ "Proprietary blend" or "complex" used with only a combined total weight. Individual ingredient amounts are hidden.
- ▶ Front-panel callouts or supplement facts calibrated to a large dog (2 or 3 units), requiring you to divide to find a smaller dog's true serving amount.
- ▶ Heavy food-type ingredients (broths, fibers, meals) near the top of the panel inflating the total serving weight.
- ▶ Active and inactive ingredients listed together in a single combined panel, making it impossible to distinguish what is functional from what is a filler or binder.

Boxes checked this question: ____ / 4

THE TAKEAWAY Transparency is not a courtesy. It is an obligation. If a company will not tell you exactly what is in each serving, they are not confident you would buy it if they did.

Are the Core Ingredients Backed by Science and at Effective Levels?

WHY IT MATTERS

Every core ingredient in a formula should be backed by research at the amount it's actually used. The problem is that most brands don't hold themselves to that standard. They add ingredients at amounts too small to do anything, or cite research that doesn't actually apply to what's in the bottle.

Not every active ingredient is a core ingredient. Many are supportive: vitamins, minerals, structural nutrients that round out a formula at levels appropriate to their role. That's expected.

The core ingredients doing the heavy lifting need to be identifiable: clearly named on the label or the brand's website. If you can't identify them, ask the brand directly: "What are the core ingredients that drive the expected results?"

If they tell you every ingredient is core, then every ingredient must meet or exceed the level used in the supporting research or the manufacturer's recommended level.

If they tell you no single ingredient is core and the formula works by combining all ingredients together, ask them to point you to research that supports the full combination at the amounts they use. If they can't provide that research, the formula was built on marketing, not science.

CHECK EVERY BOX THAT APPLIES

- ☐ The brand can point to published research or a manufacturer's recommended level for the ingredients they claim drive results.
- ☐ The amounts in the formula meet or exceed what the research or manufacturer's recommended level supports.
◆ **If unchecked, WALK AWAY**

RED FLAGS

- ▶ Borrowed Science: citing research on a specific patented or branded ingredient form, then substituting an unrelated generic that has no research of its own.
- ▶ The Diluted Amount: pointing to research that used a high level of an ingredient, but only including a fraction of that amount in the actual formula.
- ▶ Hidden Amounts: hiding the individual milligram amounts of the primary functional ingredients behind a single proprietary blend weight.

Boxes checked this question: ____ / 2

THE TAKEAWAY Supporting nutrients round out a great formula, but the core ingredients driving the results must match the math of the science.

Is the Formula Made With Quality Ingredients?

WHY IT MATTERS

Every ingredient in the inactive panel was a choice. Some brands choose ingredients that serve the formula: making it easier to manufacture, cheaper to produce, or more palatable to your dog. Others choose ingredients that serve your dog. The difference shows up in the inactive panel.

Added sugars like maltodextrin, molasses, honey, and powdered sugar are common in soft chews, often added to improve palatability or help bind the formula. The problem is that simple sugars feed opportunistic bacteria and yeast in your dog's gut. In a supplement designed to support gut and immune health, that's a direct conflict of interest. Some brands use honey or molasses because they sound natural. They're still simple sugars. Natural doesn't mean appropriate for a dog supplement.

Refined starches like tapioca starch, corn starch, pea starch, and potato starch are cheap binders used to inflate serving weight. They add bulk without adding benefit. A formula relying heavily on refined starches is prioritizing cost over quality.

Cellulose is added to inflate serving weight without any nutritional benefit. Silica (silicon dioxide) is an anti-caking agent used to prevent clumping during manufacturing. It serves the production process, not your dog.

Most dogs already get too much omega-6 from their food: soybean oil, corn oil, and safflower oil are all high in it. What most dogs don't get enough of is omega-3. Adding more omega-6 in a supplement pushes that balance further in the wrong direction.

Synthetic preservatives like potassium sorbate, sodium benzoate, and BHA/BHT are cheap synthetic chemicals used to protect shelf life. A premium formula does not use them.

CHECK EVERY BOX THAT APPLIES

- ☐ No added sugars (maltodextrin, molasses, honey, or powdered sugar) in the inactive panel.
- ☐ No refined starches (tapioca starch, corn starch, pea starch, or potato starch) in the inactive panel.
- ☐ The formula contains no omega-6-dominant seed oils (soybean, corn, safflower, cottonseed, peanut, or generic "vegetable oil") in the inactive panel.
- ☐ The formula contains none of the following preservatives: potassium sorbate, sodium benzoate, propionic acid, calcium propionate, or BHA/BHT.

RED FLAGS

- ▶ Added high-glycemic ingredients or palatability enhancers near the top of the inactive panel.
- ▶ Soybean, corn, safflower, cottonseed, peanut, or generic "vegetable oil" in the inactive panel: all are omega-6 dominant. Palm oil is also a red flag.
- ▶ Potassium sorbate, sodium benzoate, propionic acid, calcium propionate, or BHA/BHT in the ingredient panel: all synthetic preservatives that extend shelf life at the expense of your dog's health.

Boxes checked this question: ____ / 4

THE TAKEAWAY Inactive ingredients are never truly neutral. What a brand puts in the inactive panel tells you exactly what they prioritize: your dog's health, or their margins.

Is the Formula Transparent and Safe for Your Dog?

WHY IT MATTERS

A brand with nothing to hide names every ingredient specifically. "Sunflower lecithin" not just "lecithin." "Coconut glycerin" or "vegetable glycerin" not just "glycerin." "Natural chicken flavor" not just "natural flavor." Vague terms are a choice, made because the brand doesn't want you to know exactly what's in there.

If your dog has any known food sensitivities, the inactive panel is just as important as the active one. The most common triggers are beef, chicken, fish, shellfish, dairy, egg, wheat, corn, soy, and lamb, but your dog may react to other ingredients not on this list. If any of those appear in the inactive panel and your dog reacts to them, the supplement could make things worse.

CHECK EVERY BOX THAT APPLIES

- ☐ Every inactive ingredient is explicitly named (e.g., 'sunflower lecithin,' not just 'lecithin'; 'natural chicken flavor,' not just 'natural flavor'), leaving zero transparency gaps.
- ☐ The full panel is free of your dog's known food sensitivities (beef, chicken, fish, shellfish, dairy, egg, wheat, corn, soy, lamb, or other). **◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY**

RED FLAGS

- ▶ Generic, unsourced terms like "artificial flavor," "natural flavor," or bare "starch" or "lecithin" that don't name what they're made from.
- ▶ A formula that sources ingredients from multiple common allergen categories: beef, chicken, shellfish, dairy, soy, and grains can all appear across different active and inactive ingredients in a single formula. A dog with more than one sensitivity may react without the owner being able to identify why.

Boxes checked this question: ____ / 2

THE TAKEAWAY A brand with nothing to hide names every ingredient specifically and discloses everything in the panel. Vague terms and hidden preservatives are a choice, and not one made in your dog's favor.

Does the Brand Offer a Money-Back Guarantee?

WHY IT MATTERS

A money-back guarantee isn't just a sales trick. It's a confidence signal. If a brand truly believes their product works, they'll stand behind it long enough for you to find out. Many of the best ingredients take up to 90 days to show their full impact. A brand willing to guarantee their product for that long is telling you something. A brand with no guarantee at all is asking you to carry all the risk yourself.

CHECK EVERY BOX THAT APPLIES

- ☐ A clear, no-questions-asked money-back guarantee. **◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY**
- ☐ The guarantee window is clearly stated in days (30, 60, or 90), not vague language like "satisfaction guaranteed" with no defined timeframe.
- ☐ The guarantee policy is easily accessible on the brand's website and clearly outlines the timeframe, how to initiate a return, and what the refund covers, not just a generic tagline with no process.

RED FLAGS

- ▶ No refund policy or satisfaction guarantee offered.
- ▶ A guarantee window with no number of days stated. "Satisfaction guaranteed" with no defined timeframe is not a guarantee.

Boxes checked this question: ____ / 3

THE TAKEAWAY A guarantee is a brand's promise that their product will work, or they'll make it right. No guarantee means they want you to carry all the risk.

Is the Brand Transparent About Pricing?

WHY IT MATTERS

A brand that's confident in what they're selling makes their pricing easy to understand. You should be able to see exactly what you're paying per serving and per container without doing math.

Watch out for auto-ship programs that don't clearly disclose what the renewal price will be after any introductory offer. If the renewal price is buried or hard to find before you subscribe, that's usually on purpose.

CHECK EVERY BOX THAT APPLIES

- ☐ The price per serving and recommended daily serving amount by weight are clearly stated, and the total cost per pouch or jar is disclosed.
- ☐ Subscription or auto-ship terms are fully disclosed before purchase: the renewal price is clearly stated and any price changes are disclosed upfront.

RED FLAGS

- ▶ Hidden fees, return-shipping penalties, or complex hoops required to get your money back.
- ▶ No price per serving listed. The buyer has to do the math themselves from the total price and serving count.
- ▶ Total cost per pouch or jar is not disclosed. Only cost per serving is shown.
- ▶ Auto-ship terms that are buried, vague about the renewal price, or difficult to cancel.

Boxes checked this question: ____ / 2

THE TAKEAWAY Transparent pricing is a sign of a brand that respects the buyer. If you have to dig to find out what you'll actually pay, that's by design.

Did It Work for Your Dog?

WHY IT MATTERS

This is the only section you complete after purchasing and giving the product a fair trial: the correct amount for your dog's weight, consistently, for up to 90 days.

Before you start, consider asking your vet to document a baseline: a simple note on your dog's mobility, coat, stool, energy, or whatever area the supplement is intended to support. It gives you something concrete to compare against, and it removes the guesswork from deciding whether anything has actually changed.

Start with the basics: does your dog eat it willingly and tolerate it well? A supplement your dog refuses or reacts to can't work regardless of how good the formula is.

Then compare consistently over time. One good day doesn't count. You're looking for changes that show up again and again. If you've given the correct amount every day for 90 days and nothing has changed, the most likely explanation is the formula itself. A product with the right ingredients at the right levels should produce results you can observe.

CHECK EVERY BOX THAT APPLIES

- ☐ Your dog consistently and willingly consumes the supplement. ♦ **If unchecked, WALK AWAY**
- ☐ After a brief adjustment, zero ongoing adverse signs (stool, energy, appetite, coat, behavior). ♦ **If unchecked, WALK AWAY**
- ☐ The manufacturer is accessible and takes adverse-event reports seriously, with a clear way to contact them on the packaging. ♦ **If unchecked, WALK AWAY**
- ☐ In the area(s) the supplement is intended to support, you observe consistent, meaningful improvement that was not present before starting the product and that persists with continued use. ♦ **If unchecked, WALK AWAY**

RED FLAGS

- ▶ Your dog flatly refuses the product or meticulously eats around it.
- ▶ Gastrointestinal upset that is severe, includes vomiting, or persists well past a standard few-day transition.
- ▶ A manufacturer that is difficult to contact, defensive, or dismissive when an ongoing reaction is reported.
- ▶ No measurable change after a full, consistent 90-day trial.
- ▶ Marketing that promised visible, dramatic results in just days or a few short weeks.
- ▶ An under-formulated product that lacks the active-ingredient volume required to produce measurable outcomes.

Boxes checked this question: ____ / 4

THE TAKEAWAY A supplement that works shows up in your dog's body: in how they move, eat, recover, and feel. If nothing has changed after a fair trial, the formula is the most likely reason.

TALLY YOUR RESULTS

Your Final Score

◆ **STEP 1 · CHECK THE WALK-AWAY BOXES FIRST.** The boxes below are marked “If unchecked, WALK AWAY”: all three Q3 boxes (independent testing, batch-specific testing, and CoA amounts matching the label), the full ingredient panel box in Q4, Q5 box 2 (core ingredients at effective levels), the food sensitivity box in Q7, the guarantee in Q8, and all four boxes in Q10 (palatability, tolerance, manufacturer accessibility, and improvement). Miss any one and the product is out.

STEP 2 · SCORE 1: BEFORE YOU BUY

Q01 · Where Is It Actually Manufactured?	____ / 4
Q02 · Who Reviewed or Formulated It?	____ / 2
Q03 · Has It Been Independently Tested?	____ / 3
Q04 · Is the Label Fully Transparent?	____ / 4
Q05 · Are the Core Ingredients Backed by Science and at Effective Levels?	____ / 2
Q06 · Is the Formula Made With Quality Ingredients?	____ / 4
Q07 · Is the Formula Transparent and Safe for Your Dog?	____ / 2
Q08 · Does the Brand Offer a Money-Back Guarantee?	____ / 3
Q09 · Is the Brand Transparent About Pricing?	____ / 2

SCORE 1 TOTAL: BEFORE YOU BUY

____ / 26

STEP 3 · READ YOUR SCORE 1

24–26

The Standard: buy with confidence. Cleared every walk-away box and missed almost nothing in the pre-purchase evaluation.

22–23

Proceed with caution: better supplements exist.

Below 22

Do not buy: too many pre-purchase standards missed. A product that cannot pass the evaluation before you spend a dollar will not improve once you have.

STEP 4 · SCORE 2: AFTER YOU BUY

Complete Score 2 only after purchasing the product and giving it a fair, sustained trial: the correct serving amount for your dog's weight, consistently, for up to 90 days.

Q10 · Did It Work for Your Dog?	____ / 4
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SCORE 2 TOTAL: AFTER YOU BUY

____ / 4

STEP 5 · READ YOUR SCORE 2

4 / 4

Working as expected: your dog eats it, tolerates it, the manufacturer is accessible, and you see measurable improvement. Continue.

Below 4

Walk away: all four after-you-buy boxes are non-negotiable. A single miss is an automatic walk-away regardless of your Score 1 result.

If You Have Scored This Far, You Already Know.

You came to this scorecard because you wanted to do right by your dog. You have spent the money, stayed consistent, and watched product after product fall short of what the label promised. Now you have something better: a clear method for judging any supplement on its merits, so no label can mislead you again.

What if one formula could do the job of three?

Your dog's gut, joints, and immune system are more connected than most people realize. The gut plays a big role in how the immune system works and how the inflammatory response is supported, which directly affects how your dog moves and recovers. Most owners don't think about these three things together. They buy a joint chew, a probiotic, and something for immune and skin support: three products, three price tags, three routines to manage. More bottles. More guesswork.

Be careful though. The market is full of "all-in-one" products that look great on paper. Most of them put too many ingredients on the label at amounts too low to do anything, betting that a long ingredient list looks impressive. Run any of them through this scorecard and you'll see the gaps fast.

A formula genuinely built to cover all three, with the right ingredients at the right levels, is rare. It is also harder to build. Now that you have this scorecard, you'll know one when you find it.

You now have the scorecard. Use it on everything. Hold every product to all 10 questions and 30 standards without exception. And when you find one that passes them all, and covers all three in a single formula, you will not just have found a better supplement. You will have found the standard the rest of the market should have been holding itself to all along.

About GAIT Sciences

GAIT Sciences started with two Newfoundlands: Lexi Bear and Marley Chill. For years we managed their joint, gut, and immune health with three separate products. Then the joint piece stopped working. We cycled through glucosamine formula after glucosamine formula. We doubled the amount, tripled the amount, and nothing moved the needle. Then we discovered UC-II® collagen. That discovery led us to question everything else we thought we knew about the market.

Most supplements start with a budget and fill in the rest. The result is cheap fillers, core ingredients listed at amounts too small to do anything, and labels designed to look good rather than be honest.

We built GAIT Sciences to do the opposite. Clean formulas with no unnecessary fillers, no added sugars or refined starches, and minimal allergen profiles. Every active ingredient named and sourced. The core ingredients included at the levels the research actually supports. One formula designed to replace three.

Your dog deserves at least that much.

ROMatrix™: Canine Health System. Coming October 2026.

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IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: This scorecard is provided for educational and informational purposes only. It does not constitute veterinary medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always consult a licensed veterinarian before initiating any supplement program for your dog. Nothing in this document is intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease or medical condition in animals.

The Canine Supplement Quick Checklist

01 BEFORE YOU BUY

Where Is It Actually Manufactured?

- ☐ The company clearly states who the manufacturer is and the country of origin is disclosed: on their website, packaging, or upon request. If not listed publicly, contact the brand directly.
- ☐ The manufacturer holds an independent third-party certification such as SQF or NSF, not just a self-declared "cGMP" claim or "FDA registered facility."
- ☐ The brand holds the NASC Quality Seal and the manufacturer holds NASC Preferred Supplier status, ensuring accountability at both the brand and production level.
- ☐ A lot number and expiration date are clearly printed on the packaging, confirming the brand can trace any quality issue back to a specific production run. Don't have the physical package yet? This will need to be verified by the brand directly.

02 BEFORE YOU BUY

Who Reviewed or Formulated It?

- ☐ A licensed veterinarian was involved in the development or review of the formula, and the brand discloses more than "veterinarian formulated" or "vet approved." It specifies what was actually reviewed, validated, or what actions were taken.
- ☐ That involvement was by a board-certified veterinary specialist (a credential requiring years of advanced, post-doctoral training beyond a general veterinary degree), not a general-practice veterinarian or a celebrity endorsement.

03 BEFORE YOU BUY

Has It Been Independently Tested?

- ☐ An independent lab has tested the finished product, the brand can provide the Certificate of Analysis (CoA) to prove it, and the CoA is published on their website or provided upon request without resistance. (◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY.)
- ☐ Testing is batch-specific: the CoA on file is for a recent production batch and is under two years old. (◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY.)
- ☐ The amounts declared on the supplement label are verified: either by a CoA from an independent lab for ingredients where testing protocols exist, or by supplier documentation for ingredients where no testing protocol is available. (◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY.)

04 BEFORE YOU BUY

Is the Label Fully Transparent?

- ☐ Every active ingredient's amount is listed in milligrams or CFUs, not as a percentage or left blank.
- ☐ No proprietary blend or complex hides individual ingredient amounts. Every ingredient inside one still shows its own milligram or CFU number. (If no blend is used, check this box.)
- ☐ The serving size is not artificially inflated: values reflect a single, honestly defined unit (one chew, capsule, scoop, or stated liquid measure), not a multi-unit serving disguised as one.
- ☐ The full ingredient panel, active and inactive, is published on the brand's website, product listing, or provided upon request. (◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY.)

05 BEFORE YOU BUY

Are the Core Ingredients Backed by Science and at Effective Levels?

- ☐ The brand can point to published research or a manufacturer's recommended level for the ingredients they claim drive results.
- ☐ The amounts in the formula meet or exceed what the research or manufacturer's recommended level supports. (◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY.)

06 BEFORE YOU BUY

Is the Formula Made With Quality Ingredients?

- ☐ No added sugars (maltodextrin, molasses, honey, or powdered sugar) in the inactive panel.
- ☐ No refined starches (tapioca starch, corn starch, pea starch, or potato starch) in the inactive panel.
- ☐ The formula contains no omega-6-dominant seed oils (soybean, corn, safflower, cottonseed, peanut, or generic "vegetable oil") in the inactive panel.
- ☐ The formula contains none of the following preservatives: potassium sorbate, sodium benzoate, propionic acid, calcium propionate, or BHA/BHT.

07 BEFORE YOU BUY

Is the Formula Transparent and Safe for Your Dog?

- ☐ Every inactive ingredient is explicitly named (e.g. 'sunflower lecithin,' not 'lecithin'; 'coconut glycerin' or 'vegetable glycerin,' not 'glycerin'; 'natural chicken flavor,' not 'natural flavor').
- ☐ The full panel is free of your dog's known food sensitivities (beef, chicken, fish, shellfish, dairy, egg, wheat, corn, soy, lamb, or other). (◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY.)

08 BEFORE YOU BUY

Does the Brand Offer a Money-Back Guarantee?

- ☐ A clear, no-questions-asked money-back guarantee. (◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY.)
- ☐ The guarantee window is clearly stated in days (30, 60, or 90), not vague language like "satisfaction guaranteed" with no defined timeframe.
- ☐ The guarantee policy is easily accessible on the brand's website and clearly outlines the timeframe, how to initiate a return, and what the refund covers.

09 BEFORE YOU BUY

Is the Brand Transparent About Pricing?

- ☐ The price per serving and recommended daily serving amount by weight are clearly stated, and the total cost per pouch or jar is disclosed.
- ☐ Subscription or auto-ship terms are fully disclosed before purchase: the renewal price is clearly stated and any price changes are disclosed upfront.

10 AFTER YOU BUY

Did It Work for Your Dog?

- ☐ Your dog consistently and willingly consumes the supplement. (◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY.)
- ☐ After a brief adjustment, zero ongoing adverse signs (stool, energy, appetite, coat, behavior). (◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY.)
- ☐ The manufacturer is accessible and takes adverse-event reports seriously, with a clear way to contact them on the packaging. (◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY.)
- ☐ In the area(s) the supplement is intended to support, you observe consistent, meaningful improvement that was not present before starting the product and that persists with continued use. (◆ If unchecked, WALK AWAY.)

SCORE 1 (Q1–9): "If unchecked, WALK AWAY" boxes must pass first. 24–26 = standard · 22–23 = caution, better exists · below 22 = do not buy. **SCORE 2 (Q10):** All walk-aways. 4/4 = continue · below 4 = walk away.