

glucosamine sulfate 500 mg and zinc acetate 10 mg , twice a day for 11 months until his death. While on the maintenance dose he continued to demonstrate strength in his hind legs.

Although illustrative embodiments of the invention have been shown and described, a wide range of modifications, change, and substitution is contemplated in the foregoing disclosure and in some instances, some features of the present invention may be employed without a corresponding use of the other features. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the appended claims be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating arthritis in mammals by administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising

- a) an inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase, and
- b) an aminosugar.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said aminosugar in the composition is selected from the group consisting of: glucosamine, glucosamine hydrochloride, glucosamine sulfate, N-acetyl-glucosamine, and mixtures thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition optionally contains additional agents selected from the group consisting of glycosaminoglycans, vitamin A, vitamin B, vitamin E, selenium, silica, manganese, magnesium, copper, boron, analgesics, anti-inflammatory agents, methyl-sulfonyl-methane, S-adenosylmethionine, alpha-

lipoic acid, aloe vera extract, antioxidants, anti-infective agents, adjuvants, anthocyanadins, proanthocyanadins, and herbal derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said composition has an enteric coating to deliver the composition orally in a controlled release into the gastrointestinal tract.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a carrier suitable for oral, rectal, parenteral, intravenous, topical, transdermal, subcutaneous, and intramuscular administration.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said inhibitors of nitric oxide synthase include zinc compounds, arginine derivatives, flavoprotein binders, diphenylene iodonium and derivatives thereof, omithine and derivatives thereof, N-imino-ethyl-L-ornithine, tetracycline, L-canavanine, citrulline, redox dyes, methylene blue, calmodulin binders, trifluoropiperazine, calcinarin, heme binders, tetrahydropyridin derivatives, aminoguanidine, depleters of biopterin, methotrexate, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, sodium salicylate, and mixtures thereof.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said arginine derivatives include methylated arginines, substituted L-arginine, nitro-arginine, L-N<sup>G</sup>-nitroarginine, N<sup>G</sup>-monomethyl-L-arginine (NMA), N-nitro-L-arginine methyl ester, N-amino-L-arginine, N-methyl-L-arginine, N<sup>G</sup>-monomethyl-L-arginine (L-NMA), and L-N<sup>G</sup>-monomethylarginine (L-NMMA).

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