

# Evaluate the evidence

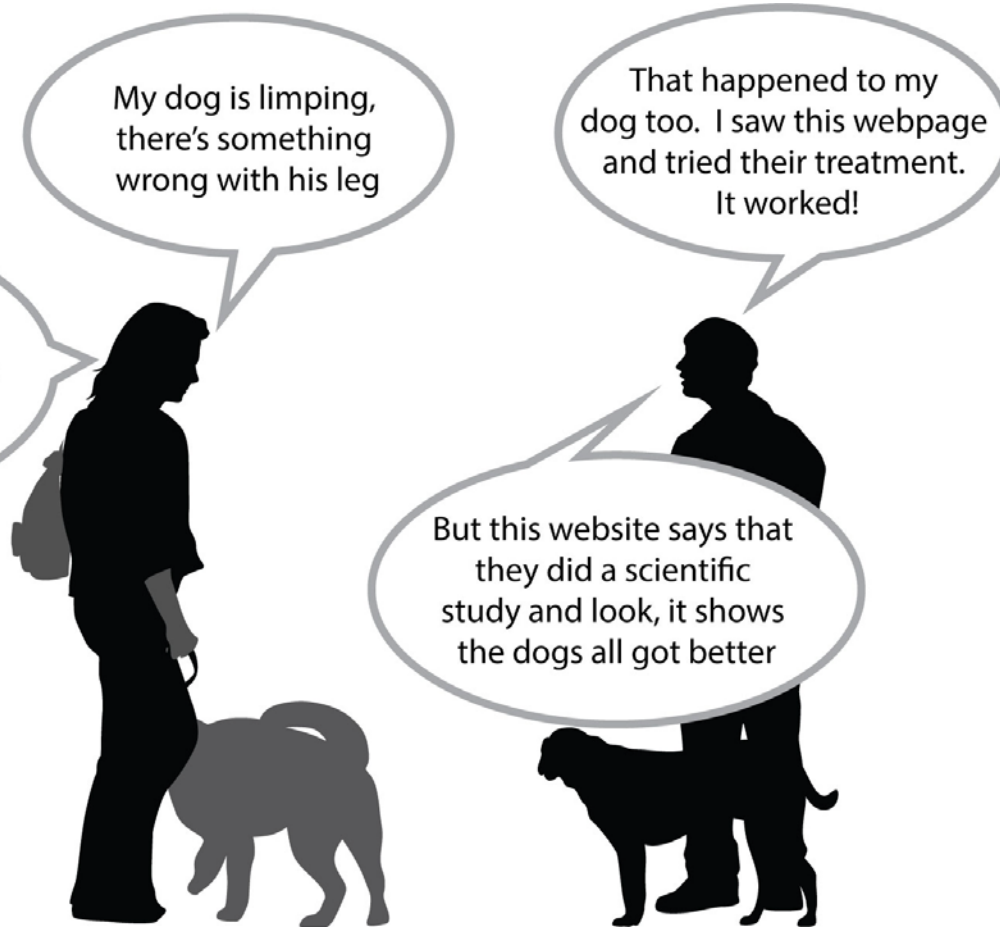
Check my working  
*Education in Chemistry*, July 2018

[rsc.li/2tBSMXI](https://rsc.li/2tBSMXI)





# What would you do?



Oh, I don't know about that, I'd take it to the vet. They'll know which treatments have been proven by peer-reviewed studies.

My dog is limping, there's something wrong with his leg

That happened to my dog too. I saw this webpage and tried their treatment. It worked!

But this website says that they did a scientific study and look, it shows the dogs all got better



# This is an extract from the website one of the dog-owners mentions:

The effect of green-lipped mussel extract on joint swelling in dogs

C N Herbie and T D Kanine


Dogs Meds Online Research Centre, Harlin, UK

**Summary:** Green-lipped mussel extract contains a unique form of hyaluronic acid proven to reach the joint within two hours, helping to lubricate and cushion the joint. Treatment was shown to improve joint swelling in dogs after one weeks' treatment.

**Method:** Dogs were given green lipped mussel extract every day for a week. Owners were given a questionnaire to report the effect.

**Results:** All of the owners commented positively that the treatment had improved their dog's mobility.

**Conclusion:** Green-lipped mussel extract is recommended for the treatment of joint swelling in dogs.



# Use these questions to decide if you trust the claim that joint swelling will improve for all dogs after taking green-lipped mussel extract. Would you recommend the study for publication?

Checklist	Comment
<input type="checkbox"/> Has the author been clear about the sample size in their study? How many dogs were involved?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Did the author describe the procedure they used to gather data?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Did the author describe how they analysed the data?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is there sufficient information to enable someone else to repeat the study?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is the conclusion consistent with the evidence?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Did the author discuss how well their claim agrees with the claims made by other groups?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Have the authors declared any conflicts of interest?	
<input type="checkbox"/> If you were peer reviewing this study, would you recommend it for publication?	
<input type="checkbox"/> If you wouldn't, what feedback could you give the authors to help them improve their work.	