

## Aratana secures periodontal pact with Traverse

BY JOSEPH HARVEY



**US firm Aratana Therapeutics has signed an agreement with Traverse Biosciences to develop a candidate for the treatment and control of periodontal disease in dogs and cats.**

Despite Aratana's existing wide-ranging product pipeline, this will be the company's first potential treatment for pet oral health.

The deal will see Aratana pay Traverse \$250,000 to conduct a proof-of-concept efficacy study to evaluate TRB-N0224, a proprietary chemically-modified curcumin.

Stony Brook, New York-based Traverse also plans to conduct pilot pharmacokinetic, pre-formulation and preliminary safety studies during the term of the agreement.

Traverse has also granted Aratana an exclusive option to sublicense TRB-N0224 for the treatment and control of periodontal disease in companion animals. If Aratana chooses to exercise this option, Traverse will be eligible for up to \$8.25 million in upfront and milestones payments, as well as "mid-single-digit to low double-digit royalties on net sales of the drug candidate worldwide".

Earlier this year, Traverse received tech transfer funding of \$205,709 to conduct research into periodontal disease. Traverse also recently signed an exclusive, worldwide license agreement with the Research Foundation for the State University of New York, to gain drug candidates which can be used to treat inflammation.

According to Traverse, canine periodontal disease affects approximately 80% of dogs by the age of three, with the highest incidence in smaller breeds and older animals. Periodontal disease in dogs can lead to serious oral health complications and can impair liver, kidney, cardiac and metabolic function. Advanced periodontal disease can cause death, especially in older animals.

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