



*Cognitive Strategies For
Therapeutic Development*

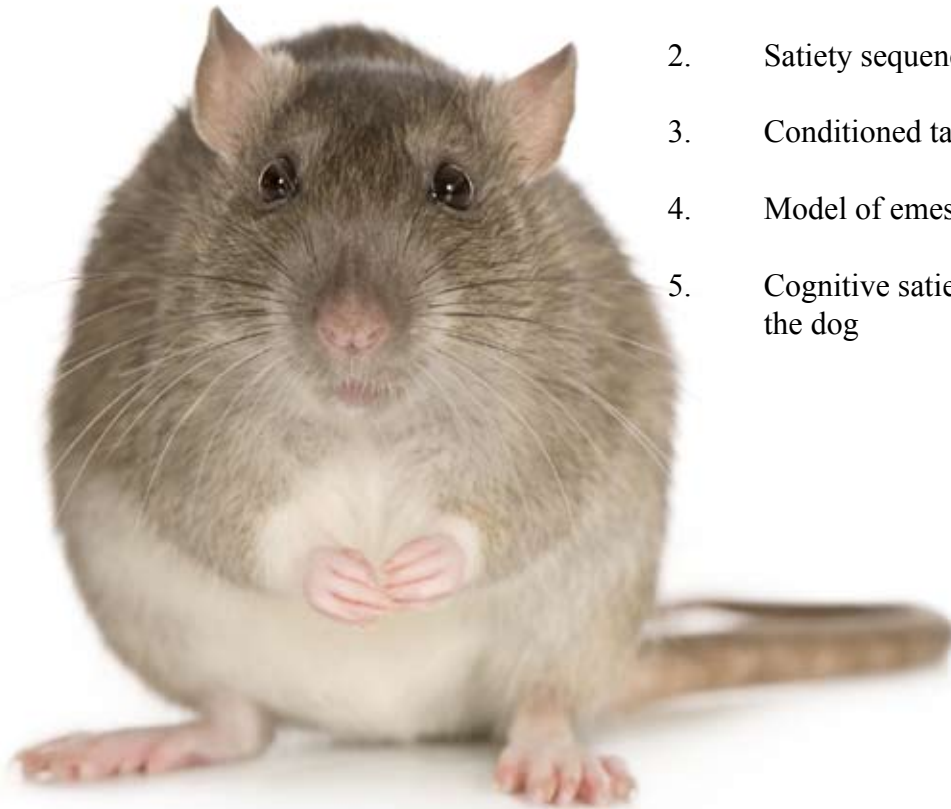
OBESITY

CanCog offers a suite of behavioral models as well as state of the art imaging services to evaluate potential treatments for obesity. Studies can be undertaken in the rodent, cat and dog. Consequently, CanCog offers a seamless transition from preclinical efficacy in rodents through to early safety in dog via a 3 tier approach.

Behavior

Establishing that a lead compound reduces food intake should represent the first step in its characterization as a potential medication for obesity. CanCog can provide a suite of rodent models to assess drug effect on satiety (2), nausea and emesis (3,4). Consequently, CanCog can identify how your lead compound reduces food intake.

1. Acute or chronic feeding assays in rats, mice, cat or dog. Rodent studies could be undertaken in general or genetically obese strains (e.g. Zucker)
2. Satiety sequence evaluation in rats or mice
3. Conditioned taste aversion in the rat
4. Model of emesis – The ferret
5. Cognitive satiety, psychomotor performance in the dog



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Imaging Technologies

CanCog also offer state of the art imaging technologies relevant to obesity research, to provide important information on lean and fat body mass.

Rat whole body magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) with quantitative analysis of visceral and subcutaneous fat depots (Figure 1).

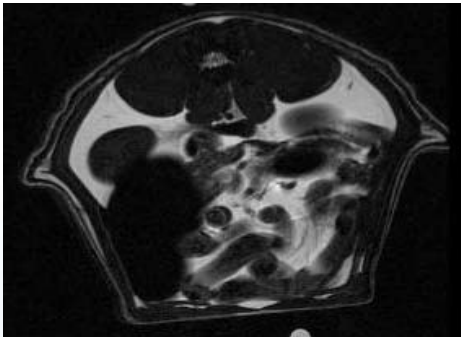


Figure 1. Transverse MRI Scan of Rat Abdomen (CanCog Technologies).

Dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) evaluations in the dog (Figure 2).

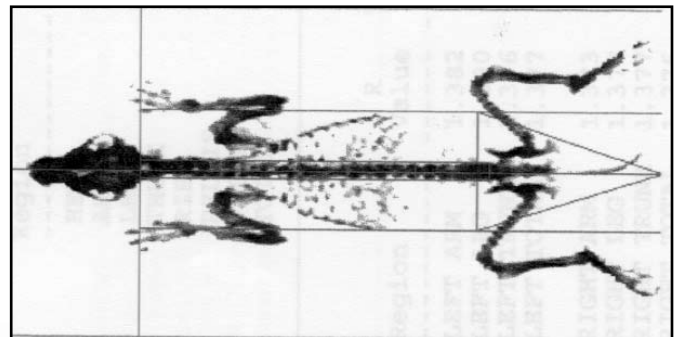


Figure 2. DEXA Image of a Dog (CanCog Technologies).



Efficacy vs. Safety

Perhaps more than any other indication, the safety requirements of a new obesity therapeutic are critical. Because the dog is the primary non-rodent toxicology species, efficacy can be combined with early safety assessment to define efficacy vs. safety margins in the same species.

1. Echocardiographic evaluation for cardiac abnormalities secondary to therapeutic intervention.
2. Traditional safety evaluation, e.g. toxicokinetics, clinical blood chemistry, behavioral observations.