

Testimonial from the Institute of Veterinary, Animal & Biomedical Sciences – January 2015

I have been involved with the Heyrex team from 2005, when the collar was a nascent concept and still foetal in development. Even then, it was clear that the vision of the company went far beyond simple activity monitoring. There were at that stage, and certainly since, several options for activity monitoring and crude pedometer devices, but none then nor since have managed to combine accuracy with the essential component of simplicity of use. We have used the Heyrex collar in several studies to date, with a diverse range of objectives. We have measured the amount of work performed by farm dogs fed different diets, we have monitored spontaneous activity of cats fed dry and wet diets, we have used the collars to quantify the efficacy of non-steroidal treatment in arthritic dogs, and we have compared video traces of normal and lame gaits with the traces recorded by the collars. We are currently validating the data produced by the collar against conventional measures of energy expenditure to determine if the collars can be used to measure energy expenditure over long periods of time in active dogs – something of a dream application for nutritionists and anyone interested in exercise and performance. In all of these applications, we have found the collar has performed exactly as desired.

Apart from research applications, activity monitoring is an underutilised clinical tool. We are fast becoming aware of the clinical scenarios that a collar such as the Heyrex collar could be of use. Quantifying pruritus as part of a treatment period or food trial would greatly increase our therapeutic and diagnostic accuracy. Monitoring sleep patterns to detect disturbances consistent with cognitive dysfunction or pain would be of use in elderly animals. Detecting seizure activity when owners are absent, evaluating the efficacy of therapy for managing degenerative arthritis, and monitoring prescriptions for exercise post operatively are just some of the applications where a monitor such as Heyrex would be invaluable.

A vital component to the use of such devices in research, and especially in the clinic, is ease of use. The plug-and-play concept of Heyrex expunges any concerns of complexity, and the on-line graphical interface is easy to access and use, and meaningfully informative. And with ease of use, a robust design is essential before veterinarians can confidently use in the field. I can attest to the excellent performance of the collars in working farm dogs under predictably testing conditions. When used as instructed, the units are trouble free, and cope with inclement weather and rough handling.

However, whilst the Heyrex collar is undoubtedly a fantastic product, the company and their determination for continued innovation is what is perhaps most extraordinary. I have always found them to be strongly customer orientated, open to suggestions, and the consummate example of approachability. They have a fabulous product that performs beyond expectations, and a great team working behind the scenes to support and continue to develop it. I believe strongly that continuous monitoring will play an increasingly important role in the care of the pets of our better clients, and that Heyrex will continue to stand head and shoulders above the competition in providing the tools to achieve that.



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