

Managing Your Pet's Arthritis



It would be easy to know if our pets were arthritic if they looked like this.....

But this is how arthritic dogs usually look....

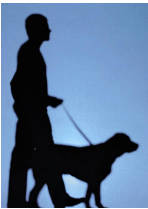


Can't you tell I'm in Pain????

SUBTLE SIGNS OF ARTHRITIS....

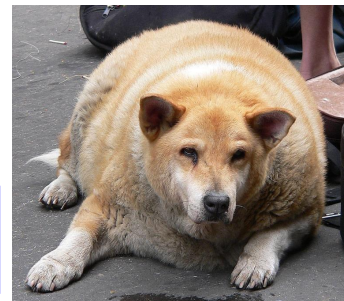
- *Stiffness to rise after being down a while...*
- *Moving better after "warming up"...*
- *Not wanting to walk or exercise as much...*
- *Trouble jumping up...or doing stairs...*
- *A tendency to "go down" or collapse when discomfort is felt...*
- *"Bunny Hopping" both back legs together when moving...*

So...what can we do for our dog's arthritis?????



Consistent, low impact exercise maintains muscle strength and promotes joint mobility to help carry painful joints.

Maintain an ideal weight...Less weight to carry around will place fewer demands on sore joints.



Maintain Joint Health and Minimize Future Damage...

Glucosamine increases the thickness of joint fluid to help slow wear and tear of the joint cartilage. Veterinary and human supplements may be used. Start at the higher end dose for the first four weeks of treatment (or in times of increased discomfort). Use the lower range as a maintenance dose. *Glucosamines* must be given every day to be effective and it usually takes 1-2 months before their full benefit can be seen.

-Under 25 lbs: 250-500mg daily	-25-50lbs: 500-1000mg daily
-50-100 lbs: 1000-1500mg daily	-Over 100 lbs: 1500-2000mg daily

NSAID's

Medications like Rimadyl, Previcox and Metacam are stronger than aspirin and Tylenol and can be given daily as needed to manage pain.

It is better to give lower doses consistently to prevent pain rather than wait for severe pain to develop and attempt to treat at higher doses of the drug.

Blood work is recommended for long term use of NSAID's

Stop giving NSAID's if your pet's appetite decreases or they stop eating!!!