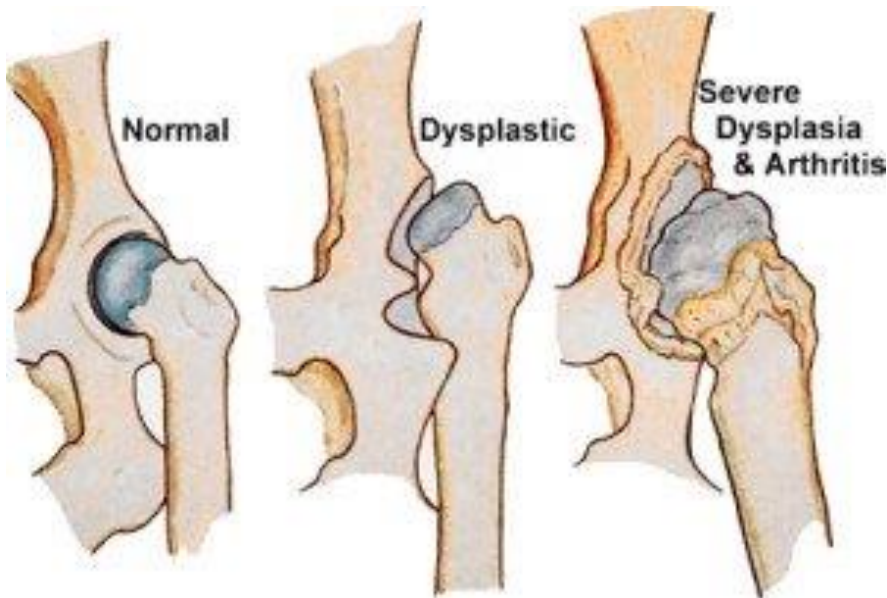


OSTEOARTHRITIS/ DYSPLASIA

JOINT • DISEASE



OSTEOARTHRITIS/DYSPLASIA

What is dysplasia?

Dysplasia refers to joints that are not properly formed; There is a measurable gap. When the cartilage covered surfaces of bone rub against each other it wears out. These normally slick surfaces can become rough. Dysplasia can lead to arthritis. Arthritis is bony changes caused by chronic inflammation.

Please visit <https://www.acvs.org/small-animal/canine-hip-dysplasia> to learn more about this disease.

Also check out this helpful link from our website <https://www.rowananimalclinic.com/drugs--diseases--surgical-procedures.html>

QUESTIONS?

Please contact your veterinarian via email or phone.

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What comes next?

Diagnosis of joint disease is supported by symptoms such whining, limping, slow to get up, takes a while to get going, muscle wasting, decreased activity.

Joint disease is diagnosed with the combination of two methods. Detailed palpation (feeling) of the joints and specially positioned x-rays. X-rays are a key part of diagnosis because they help us tailor your pets' treatment with specific drugs. These drugs help control pain and inflammation. Since inflammation is the catalyst for arthritis decreasing it will help slow the disease process.

What comes later?

Once the diagnosis has been made, treatment with pain and/or anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDS for example) will begin. Some of these medications will have close monitoring. It is advised that your pets liver and kidneys be assessed prior to and during treatment with some of these drugs. Initially a blood test will be run in the office to get things started. Then a similar panel will be repeated each year. The annual preventive care bloodwork we offer includes the testing needed to make sure your pet is healthy enough to continue medication. Testing will be performed:

1. Before starting medication
2. As advised by the veterinarian
3. Annually along with an Annual Preventive Examination
4. Any time you notice a return of symptoms or your pet just doesn't feel well

NOTE: It is also advised that your pets joints be x-rayed every 6-12 months to monitor progression of the disease. As joint disease progresses treatment also changes.

What should you plan for?

Management of this disease usually includes twice daily medication and close monitoring. Some patients require special diets to aid in weight loss. Exercise is

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Please contact our reception staff today!

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704-636-3408

EMAIL

rowananimalreception@gmail.com

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key to helping your pet lose weight. Also budget for annual testing, exams, and the purchase of medications and/or supplements. We have all this in stock or on our online store for your convenience.

What should you watch out for?

One of the biggest concerns with Joint disease is decreased exercise leading to weight gain. Monitor weight closely. You should also be very aware of your pets' pain level. Use Table 1 and communicate with your veterinarian to better assess your pets' pain level. Also read about possible side effects of the medications used to manage this disease.

NOTE

THERE ARE SURGICAL OPTIONS FOR MANY TYPES OF JOINT DISEASE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THESE REFERRAL PROCEDURES PLEASE CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN.

A FEW POSSIBLE TREATMENTS

Gabapentin, Tramadol, Rimadyl (Carprofen), Previcox (firocoxib), Deramaxx (derocoxib), Galliprant, Buprenorphine, Metacam (Meloxicam)

Pain Assessment in Dogs

Some signs of pain in dogs are apparent and easily detectable, while others are subtle. Table 1 lists the most common signs of pain in dogs

Table 1. Signs of Pain in Dogs

Category	Clinical Signs
Attitude/Mentation	Scared, submissive appearance Unwilling to eat or interact with people Inability to lay down
Body Movement	Constant trembling with/without stimulation and/or handling Flinching from fingertips lightly brushed over the body
Facial Expression	Tense facial muscles with furrowed brows Lips drawn back Grimace with unfocused or fearful look in eyes Dilated pupils Ears flattened against head
Guarding	Guarding or biting at a painful area Tensing abdomen when palpation is attempted Growling when approached
Posture	Back or abdominal pain: Hunched up or tense appearance Severe abdominal pain: Prayer position (standing on the hindlimbs, with sternum and forelimbs flat on the floor) May move to back of cage or into corner
Respiratory Pattern	Short, shallow breathing pattern
Vocalization	Crying, whining, whimpering