

Willowbark Newsletter

Does your dog have
arthritis?

Issue 1, June 2014



This is the first of
three articles on
canine arthritis.

We discuss what
arthritis is, what to
look out for in
your dog & discuss
supplements that
can help

What is arthritis?

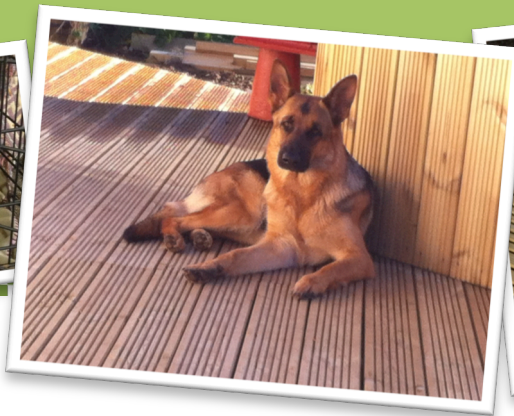
A high proportion of dogs suffer from arthritis, particularly the older they get, just as people do. Arthritis is a degenerative condition of the joints and usually the result of wear and tear over time. In some dogs it can be a sequel to an inherited condition such as hip dysplasia and in others subsequent to an injury such as a ruptured cruciate ligament. The most commonly affected joints are the hips, spine, elbows, knees & wrists. We know that arthritis is a painful condition so read on to find out what to look out for & some things you can do to make sure your dog is as comfortable & pain free as possible.



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medications



Common signs to look out for:

1. Lameness on walks (Limping)
2. Being slow to rise after rest
3. Reluctance to jump in to the car
4. Slowing down or refusal to go on walks

What can you do to help your dog?

Arthritis is a condition that can be managed not cured. Supplements including but not limited to Synoquin EFA & Cosequin DS help maintain healthy joints. These palatable supplements contain high quality glucosamine & chondroitin, which are recognized key ingredients used in the fight against joint disease. Some supplements also contain high levels of omega 3 fatty acids, which have been shown to stop destruction of the cartilage in joints. They can also be found in some diets (discussed next month). Many dogs with arthritis can be maintained drug free long term with supplements.

Other anecdotally helpful products containing NZ green-lipped muscle extract are available but there is limited evidence of their effectiveness in dogs. Whilst deer velvet products are also available, we do not support their use on welfare grounds.

Joint supplements are considered very safe and effective in many animals and can also be used prophylactically.

See your vet for a full orthopaedic examination if you are concerned

In the next edition...

We look at weight management, diet & exercise regimes

