

# ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

## Canine Hip Dysplasia

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

Hip dysplasia is one of the most common joint problems in dogs. When the **hip socket is too shallow** to securely hold the ball portion of the leg bone, then the resulting looseness causes arthritis and pain.

Hip dysplasia is an **inherited condition** although environment and nutrition contribute to the disease. The signs of the disease often include **lameness, hopping or swaying gait, morning stiffness, difficulty rising, even snapping and yelping when touched around the hips**. However, the amount of pain seen can range from non-apparent to completely debilitating and begin as early as 6 months to as late as 16 years of age. **Radiographs are necessary** to confirm a suspected case of hip dysplasia.

While there is no "cure" for hip dysplasia, appropriate therapy and management can help affected dogs live a more comfortable life.

A buffered **aspirin (given at 1 tablet per 70 pounds twice a day)** can help with pain. Do not use Tylenol, Advil, or other aspirin substitutes, only real aspirin. If aspirin doesn't seem to help, there are **prescription pain medications and joint lubricants** that can be given. **Rimadyl and Etogesic are medications that have had very good success in relieving pain from arthritis. Chondroitin and Glucosamine** are supplements that can be added to your pet's diet that may help with lubrication and pain in the joints. Hill's and Eukanuba Senior Diets contain Glucosamine and/or Chondroitin.

**Surgery** is usually reserved for those cases where medical therapy has been unsuccessful or in cases where the disease is severe in young dogs. The various surgeries can range from the relatively inexpensive to several thousand dollars. A total hip replacement can be done at any time on one or both legs and has the best results for pain relief.

Proper nutrition when young, frequent, low stress exercise and soft, warm bedding will also help. **Keeping your pet's weight correct and preventing obesity** is extremely important in slowing the progression of the disease.

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Unfortunately, as the pet ages pain and weakness can increase to the point where he can no longer get up. Then euthanasia may be the only option.

The disease has been reported in 36 breeds and in many mixed breeds. **Never breed your dog without having hip x-rays taken first and never buy a dog for breeding purposes unless both parents have been OFA Certified.** Dog breeds in high-risk groups include German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Rottweilers, Chow Chows, St. Bernards, Cocker Spaniels, Shelties, Old English Sheepdogs, and Newfoundlands.

If you have any questions or concerns about Hip Dysplasia, please call the Animal Hospital of Lanesville at 952-3643. 🐾