

ARTHRITIS CAN AFFECT DOGS TOO!

Arthritis is inflammation of a joint.

It can cause stiffness and swelling thereby limiting movement. If left untreated, arthritis can also cause a fair amount of pain. As with most aspects of pet healthcare, prevention is the best medicine. The first line of defense in warding off mobility issues is to keep your dog at a healthy weight. To know your pet is within ideal weight ranges, you should be able to see a distinct tuck at your dog's waistline, and when applying moderate pressure, you should easily be able to feel your dog's ribs. Keeping your pet trim reduces stress on his or her joints. A couple extra pounds is a lot on a dog, eight extra pounds on a Golden Retriever is equivalent to 14 extra pounds on a person.

A supplement you might want to consider for your dog is glucosamine. Glucosamine is a food supplement that helps lubricate joints. You can give it to your pet orally in tablet, chewable, or powder form. If your pet is a terribly picky eater there is also an injectable form available through your veterinarian. Recent studies have also shown the anti-inflammatory properties of Omega 3 fatty acids to be beneficial in the treatment of arthritis. Several companies have created prescription diets with therapeutic levels of Omega 3's to aid in arthritis treatment. For pets with significant joint pain, some of these diets have even been shown to reduce the need for anti-inflammatory medication by 25%.

So if you have noticed your dog hesitating to go up the stairs or needing a boost to get into the car, please don't think they are just getting old and there is nothing you can do, speak to your veterinarian about the different options for arthritis treatment.

This information is provided by:

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