



Aireworth Vets 
SMALL ANIMAL  

Arthritis



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Aireworth Veterinary Centre
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If you have any further queries regarding the welfare of your pet, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff

We are happy to assist!

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Arthritis?

Slowing down in dogs may be due to arthritis, not simply "old age". Arthritis is a very common, painful disease, affecting one in five dogs and one in three cats. Arthritis is very similar to osteoarthritis in people. One or more joints become inflamed and painful. Dogs especially are reluctant to move painful joints and they may get stiff. Although it is most common in older dogs it can start quite early in life. Arthritis tends to get worse with time. It often goes unrecognised because of the gradual onset.

What Changes Should I Look For?

Arthritis will cause your dog to suffer discomfort, pain and reduces it's quality of life, so it's essential to closely observe your dogs behaviour for any of the following changes:

1. Has it reduced it's activity, including a reluctance to walk, play, jump or climb stairs?
2. Difficulty getting up to a standing position in the morning, or after a long rest?
3. Limping, lagging behind on walks or having difficulties getting into the car?
4. Is your pet more aggressive, irritable or yelping in pain when touched?
5. Is your pet licking, chewing or over-grooming a particular joint or joints?
6. Is your pet generally subdued and unenthusiastic?

The signs of arthritis are slow in onset and varied, but these are the most prevalent and easily identified by yourself.

What Can I Do To Help?

In mild cases, you can take some simple steps at home to reduce any initial pain or discomfort:

1. Your dog should always have a warm, comfortable place to sleep with plenty of bedding to protect sore joints.
2. Keep your dog as dry as possible and out of draughty areas.
3. Gentle exercise is advisable, as vigorous games will aggravate the disease and discomfort.
4. Obesity is also detrimental as the joints are made to carry extra weight.

So, for the well-being of your pet, please check with your nurse about any recommended weight loss. Sadly, as the disease progresses, the signs become even more obvious and your pet becomes more distressed as the pain increases. So, it's advisable to consult your veterinarian as soon as possible.



What Can Aireworth Vets Do For Your Pet?

There is a large range of things Aireworth Vets can offer to aid in alleviating your dogs condition, they range from chew treats, to a liquid, to injections. Make an appointment with your veterinarian today and discuss the options available, such as:

Easeflex Chews - These chews contain high levels of glucosamine and chondroitin for joint protection and natural renewal of cartilage. These chews are soft textured and can be used as treats or during a meal.

Seraquin - This flavoured tablet helps maintain normal function in joints and tendons. Regular use of seraquin could contribute to your pets ability to maintain and renew joint structure.

Arthri-Aid - This flavoured liquid contains glucosamine and chondroitin and is very easily introduced to your pets food, which with it's flavourings are easily accepted.

Rimadyl - This prescription only flavoured tablet is helpful for advanced arthritis. Rimadyl reduces inflammation in the joints and is pain relieving thus making day to day mobility easier and exercise more enjoyable.

Metacam - This prescription only liquid helps alleviate advanced arthritis. Metacam reduces inflammation in the joints and is pain relieving thus making day to day mobility easier and exercise more enjoyable. This liquid is easily disguised in your pets diet.

Cartrophen - This injection relieves pain and lameness and dramatically increases the range of pain free movement by treating the underlying disease processes. It involves an initial course then "booster" shots varied on the severity on the condition.