

CORIO LARA

VETERINARY CLINICS

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter



Arthritis

As it is now the start of winter you may notice your animal getting a bit stiff and

sore and showing signs of arthritis. Old age arthritis (or osteoarthritis) is common in ageing pets. It is usually a result on ongoing wear and tear and instability in the joints, although other factors such as injury, genetic makeup, infection, immune disease and cancer can also affect the progress of the disease.

Some signs you may notice include pain or stiffness when getting up or down, inability to climb steps and general slowness on walks. It is worth noting that about one in six adult dogs suffer from this disease. And recent studies have shown that up to 90% of cats over the age of 12 years are showing signs of the disease.

Arthritis is not a disease that we can cure but we can do a lot to manage the disease and reduce the amount of discomfort for our animals. Overweight animals will place proportionally more weight on their joints and therefore cause more localised inflammation and irritation to the joint and this will hasten the progress of arthritis.

Various treatments are available to manage osteoarthritis in dogs & cats. The 'best' option for your animal will depend on a number of different factors involving your animal; such as age, severity of signs, progression of the disease process, whether they have any other diseases. Importantly all arthritis patients should be accurately diagnosed before starting a treatment plan.

Some of the treatments that we may offer are below:

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID's)

These medications are specially formulated for use in dogs and cats. They act in two ways by providing pain relief as well as reducing the inflammation in and around joints. With regular monitoring of the liver and kidney function, and communication with your vet about the most appropriate NSAID and dose rate to administer, most patients respond very well to their use.



ZYDAX Injections

ZYDAX is a disease modifying osteoarthritis drug. Unlike anti-inflammatories

which tend to treat the symptoms of osteoarthritis, Zydax targets the progression of the disease.

Zydax is an injection and is administered by one of our vets/nurses weekly for 4 weeks.

ZYDAX injection acts in multiple ways:

Stimulates cartilage producing cells to produce healthy cartilage

Slows cartilage damage by destructive enzymes

Stimulates joint capsule cells to produce lubricating joint fluid

Reduces swelling and blocks inflammatory processes

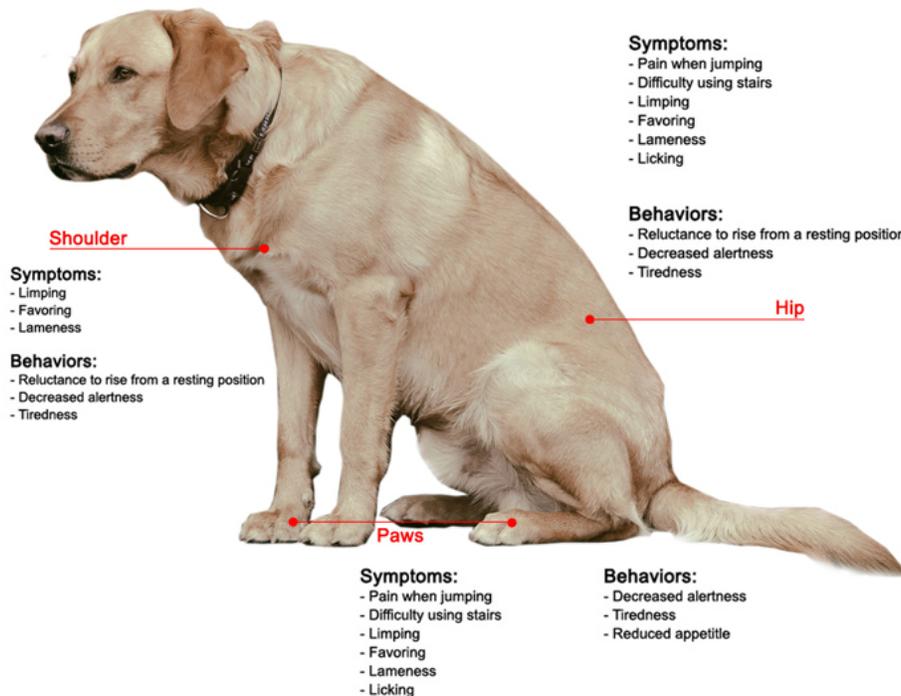
*Improves blood flow and nutrition to joint structures

Usually you will see a reduction of osteoarthritis signs after 2 or 3 injections. The initial course of injections typically provides 3 – 6 months of relief from the problems associated with osteoarthritis. After this time we may recommend another course of 4 injections.

Nutriceuticals (Hill's j/d, Glyde powder & chews)

These are food products that have "pharmaceutical" effects, they can contain ingredients such as glucosamine, chondroitin sulphate or specific extracts of Green Lipped Mussel and Shark Cartilage that mimic the building blocks of the joint lining and thus improve joint function and can help to reduce inflammation over time.

Joint Pain Symptoms



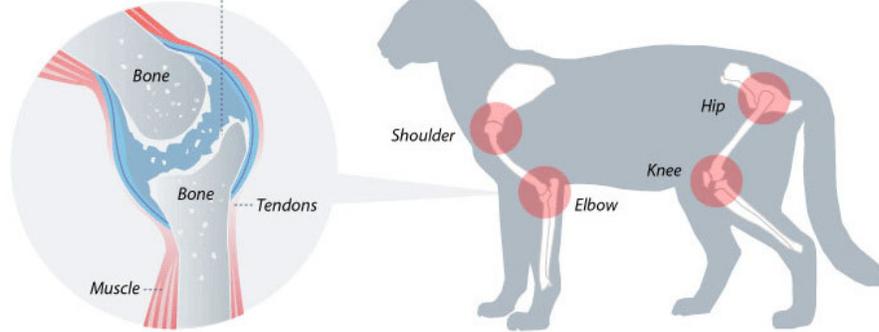
Feline Arthritis

Arthritis in felines is often caused by age, weight issues or injury to the joint. It is under-diagnosed in cats because the symptoms are usually subtle and slowly progressive.

The arthritic joint

In an arthritic joint, the cartilage has deteriorated, causing the exposed bones to grind into each other.

The cartilage is normally smooth and acts as a cushion between the bones at the joints.



Welcome Back Laura!

We would like to welcome back one of our wonderful nurses Laura. She is returning from maternity leave after having her second baby.

You will see Laura's friendly face back at the Corio Clinic a couple of days a week, and we are very delighted to have her back with her wealth of knowledge.

Queens Birthday Holiday

The Corio & Lara Clinics will be **CLOSED** for the Queens Birthday Holiday on
Monday June the 10th.

Any Emergencies please call Geelong Animal Emergency on 52 222139

Located at 102 Fyans St South Geelong



Make sure you like our facebook page!
Keep up to date with our clinic news and special promotions for your furry friends.

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