

What should you know about canine arthritis?

Canine arthritis is more common than you may think. It can affect dogs of any age, breed or sex. In fact, studies have shown that as many as 1 in 4 dogs in the United States has been diagnosed with some degree of osteoarthritis.² Although there is no cure, chronic arthritis pain can be managed with the help of diet, exercise, proper medication and surgery, if necessary.

Certain types of physical activity can damage your dog's cartilage, putting strain on joints and inducing arthritis, a degenerative joint disease. Unfortunately, the early signs of arthritis can be easily missed and often misinterpreted. Contact your veterinarian if you notice any of the following signs:

- Trouble getting up
- Tires easily
- Climbs stairs reluctantly
- Limp or lags behind
- Trembles or shakes
- Reluctant to play



General risk factors – how does your dog measure up?

Age	Up to 20 lbs	21-50 lbs	51-90 lbs	Over 90 lbs
5	36	37	40	42
6	40	42	45	49
7	44	47	50	56
8	48	51	55	64
9	52	56	61	71
10	56	60	66	78
11	60	65	72	86
12	64	69	77	93
13	68	74	82	101
14	72	78	88	108
15	76	83	93	115
16	80	87	99	123
17	84	92	104	
18	88	96	109	
19	92	101	115	
20	96	105	120	

Orange numbers = senior Green numbers = geriatric

Chart developed by Dr. Fred L. Metzger, DVM, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa.

Arthritis can affect dogs of all ages.

AGE

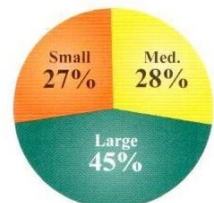
There are many factors that contribute to the biological age in dogs: breed, size, weight and activity level. The chart above provides a general reference which helps to determine the biological age of a dog using science and statistics. This replaces the old, inaccurate "times 7" method and allows you to know how old your dog really is.

SIZE & WEIGHT

Heavier dogs have more stress placed on their joints. Your dog is at considerably higher risk for arthritis and other joint problems if overweight.

Arthritis by Dog Size³

Small (under 25 lbs)
Medium (25-50 lbs)
Large (50+ lbs)



What are additional risk factors?

BREED

Breeding involves years of careful genetic selection. While this process has produced many of the traits you love, it also can predispose dogs to certain hereditary conditions. For example, hip dysplasia is a common joint disease that can become a serious issue in certain breeds as young as 1-3 years old.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Just as with humans, an active pet is a healthy pet. Frequent exercise can help stretch the muscles and keep joints functioning well. See your veterinarian to develop an exercise regimen that's right for your pet's specific needs.



What can you do to help manage canine arthritis?

Although canine arthritis is incurable, it can be managed. By following a few steps, you can ensure that you and your dog will have many healthy and happy years together.

- **Lighten their load**

If needed, reducing your pet's weight can significantly decrease the burden on load-bearing joints. Consult your veterinarian for a weight management program for your pet.

- **Get their paws in gear**

Moderate exercise can help strengthen joints and reduce the chances of further damage. To establish an adequate, low-impact routine, consult your veterinarian.

- **Get safe and effective help from RIMADYL**

With modern advances in medication, there's no reason for your dog to be slowed down by the pain and discomfort caused by arthritis. RIMADYL® (carprofen) administered once a day provides safe and effective 24-hour relief.

- **Stick with the program**

Arthritis is a chronic disease that requires continuous treatment. Although you will probably notice an improvement with medication and therapy, it is important to stay faithful to your veterinarian's instructions in order to maintain your dog's quality of life.