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LAMENESS

What is lameness?

Lameness refers to the disability of one or more limbs. It is most often associated with pain or injury resulting in a pet holding the injured limb up or avoiding using it. The most common causes of lameness in dogs is injury to a joint, bone fracture or dislocation. Osteoarthritis and hip dysplasia also cause lameness in dogs. Lameness can affect dogs of any age from growing puppies to senior dogs.

Puppies – growth defects or injury

Adult Dogs – Limb injuries sometimes without any history of accident

Senior Dogs – Degenerative joint disease (DJD) or arthritis

My dog suddenly develops lameness and there is no obvious cause on examinations or x-ray. What can be done?

Lameness of unknown origin is common in dogs of all types and sizes. If they could only talk! Depending on the severity and duration, additional testing or anti-inflammatory medications may be necessary. We will determine the best course of action for your pet's condition.

If my dog continues to be lame, will he be on medication forever?

Not necessarily. Most of the time, we are able to accurately diagnose the cause of lameness and provide your pet with specific treatment. Some forms of lameness require lifelong treatment while others can be treated with surgery or weight reduction.

