



ALL ABOUT DOGS

tion should take a look at the parents of the puppies before they commit to buying the dog. If the condition becomes known after the owner has the dog, exercises and other treatments should be considered. In some cases, a replacement of the hip with an artificial joint may be recommended by the vet.

What You Should Know About Hip Dysplasia

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Hip Dysplasia can be common in some larger breeds of dogs, especially Labradors. It is a condition that is often attempted to be bred out of the dogs by responsible dog breeders. Hip Dysplasia usually presents in older dogs, although younger dogs can be affected by this condition as well. There are several options to treat and even try to cure Hip Dysplasia in dogs that may work in some cases. For the most part, this is a deteriorating condition that leads to arthritis as the malformed hips grind against the cartilage and gradually wear it down, causing the inflammation of the hip joints.

Causes of hip dysplasia in dogs

This is an inherited condition that affects certain breeds of dogs more than others. Larger dogs are more prone to this condition than smaller dogs. Despite the fact that since it was first discovered in 1930 breeders have been trying to breed out the condition, it still remains a problem with certain breeds, especially larger hunting dogs such as the Labrador. Dogs with tighter hips have less of a chance of hip dysplasia than dogs with looser hips.

Symptoms of hip dysplasia in dogs

Dog owners may assume that the dog is suffering from arthritis or some other ailment while not suspecting the truth. It is important to have a dog that is exhibiting any signs of hip dysplasia examined by a qualified vet. Some of the symptoms are as follows:

- Unsteady gait
- Trouble walking up the stairs
- Trouble getting up from a resting position
- Limping and Whining

A vet will want to do a physical examination of the dog as well as x-rays to check for hip dysplasia. If the condition is found, then the vet will be able to recommend a series of treatments. In some cases, surgery is an option. In others, it is not. Surgery depends on the severity of the situation as well as the age of the dog.

Treatment of hip dysplasia in dogs

Treatment of hip dysplasia in dogs includes some exercise, such as swimming, chiropractic care and also acupuncture. In some rare cases, a hip transplant can be an option when

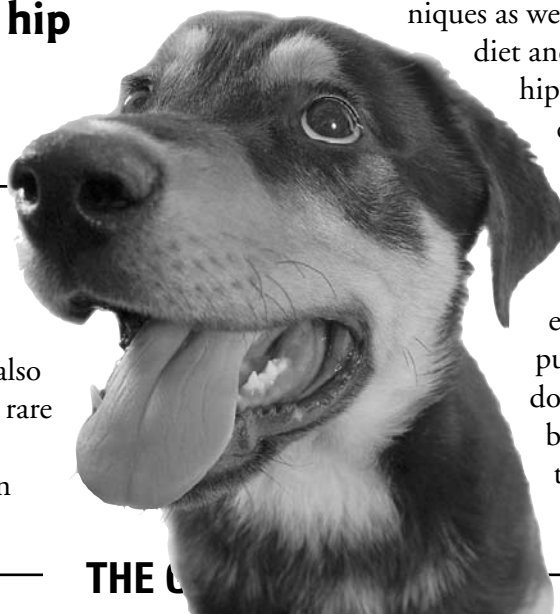
it comes to treating this condition. Anti-inflammatory drugs are also administered for dogs with this condition that can ease the pain.

Prevention of hip dysplasia in dogs

The best prevention for hip dysplasia in dogs is to look for puppies and dogs that do not have loose hips. Purchase your dog from a responsible breeder who is aware of the genetic component of the disease and has bred it out of their litters.

Because dog obesity can also be a factor in hip dysplasia, owners of dogs should make sure that their dogs get a proper diet and the right amount of exercise. Swimming is one of the best exercises for dogs that are prone to this condition because it exercises the joints. Making sure that a dog has adequate rest and is comfortable is also recommended for this condition.

Through proper breeding techniques as well as good diet and exercise, hip dysplasia can be prevented. Those who are interested in purchasing a dog that may be prone to this condi-



HEALTH NOTE:
Dogs can beg and tempt you to feed them tidbits of chicken, turkey, or ham (especially with the fat included) during the Thanksgiving & Christmas Season. This can cause severe digestive problems and/or pancreatitis which is life threatening in dogs. Bones from turkey carcasses present the biggest threat because they are hollow and can splinter into sharp pieces. The splinters can lodge in an animal's throat or esophagus, puncture the stomach, cause blockages, or perforate the intestinal tract. Also, chocolate is toxic to dogs.



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