



Pet Arthritis

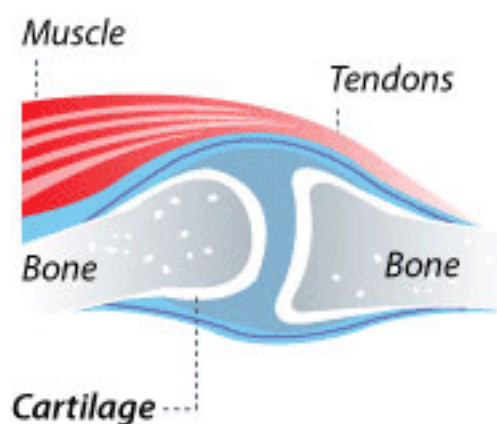


Arthritis affects not only people of all ages but also strikes pets, too. It is one of the most common sources of chronic pain that veterinarians treat, affecting millions of cats and dogs

Joint damage

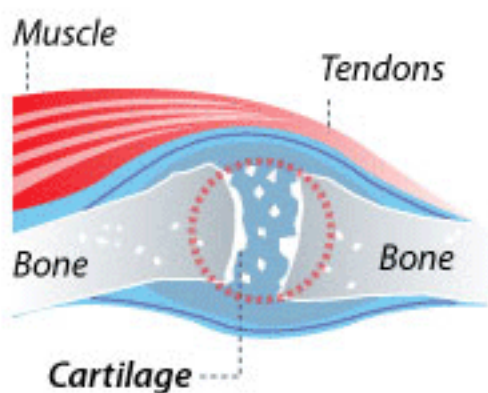
Cartilage acts as a cushion preventing bone from hitting bone as the joint moves.

Healthy joint

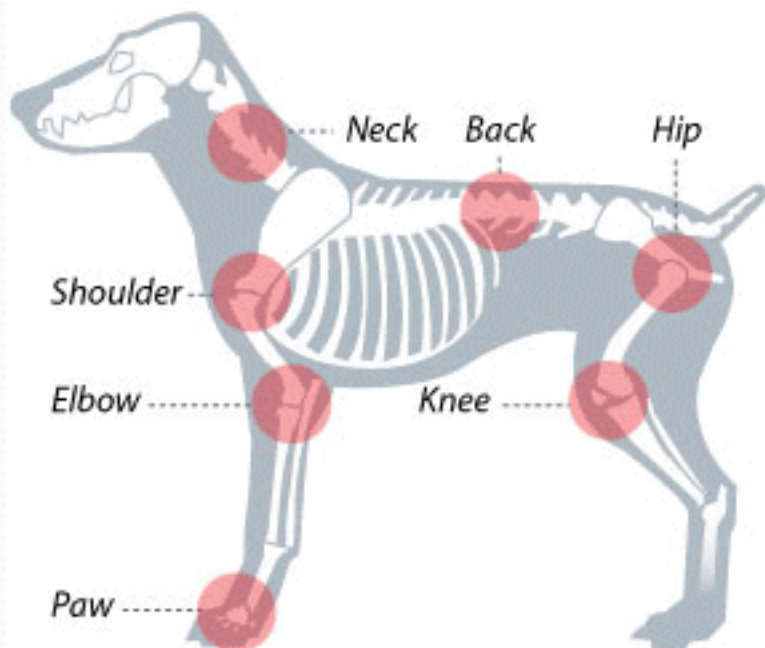


Arthritic joint

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



Problem areas and symptoms




- Pain
- Limping
- Loss of interest to play or walk
- Difficulty rising
- Difficulty with stairs
- Snaps when petted

Predisposition to arthritis

Working, athletic, obese dogs — and those with diabetes or Cushing's disease — are especially prone. Trauma and injury, hip dysplasia or elbow dysplasia also predispose pets to arthritis.

Treatment

- Arthritis pain pet medication
- Joint supplements (glucosamine, chondroitin, perna and fatty acids)
- Helping overweight and arthritic pets lose weight
- Swimming improves muscle mass without overstressing the joints.

 **NOTE:** Never give your dog human medication without checking first with your veterinarian.

Cold weather

Cold, damp weather can be especially hard on arthritic pets. The cold can leave their joints extremely stiff and tender.

- Shorten the usual exercise times if your pet is having difficulty exercising
- Make sure they have a thick, soft bed in a warm room for the chilly nights
- Modify their environment to make it easier for them to get around