

# Canine Orthopedic Problems at a Glance

DEFORMITY	DEFORMITY	SIGNS	TREATMENT
	Achondroplasia	Unusually short and bent limbs, abnormal gait, decreased agility, X-ray evidence.	Weight control, properly balanced diet, anti-inflammatory medications.
	Hip and elbow dysplasia	Limping, discomfort, swelling, joint looseness in hips, joint tension in elbow, abnormal shape of joint members, X-ray evidence.	Anti-inflammatory medications, physical therapy, weight control, and surgery to optimize joint function and alleviate pain.
	Patellar luxation	Limping, skipping, loose patellar supporting tissues, shallow patellar groove, line of tension between tibia-patella-quadriceps muscle is off-center, X-ray evidence.	Surgical correction in moderate to severe cases; otherwise, manage discomfort on an "as needed" basis with anti-inflammatory medications, nutraceuticals and weight control.

DISORDER	DISORDER	SIGNS	TREATMENT
	Hypertrophic osteodystrophy (HOD) (Seldom seen in dogs less than 40 pounds.)	Large breed, rapidly growing older puppy, limping, pain in all four limbs, fever, lethargy, X-ray evidence of distinctive patterns at and above the growth plates of long bones.	Evaluate the diet for imbalance of minerals and for over-supplementation, manage discomfort on an "as needed" basis with anti-inflammatory medications, rest and nutraceuticals in proper amounts. Consider antibiotic and cortisone therapy.
	Infection	Swelling, fever, pain, swollen regional lymph nodes.	Antibiotics, surgical drainage, anti-inflammatory medications.
	Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease (LCP), also called aseptic necrosis of femoral head (Seldom seen in dogs more than 40 pounds.)	Small breeds about 5 to 10 months of age, gradual disuse of a rear leg, pain and stiffness of a hip joint, X-ray evidence of distinctive patterns of degeneration within the femoral head.	Usually requires femoral head/neck resection and physical therapy; consider total hip replacement.
	Panosteitis (Seldom seen in dogs less than 40 pounds.)	Mid-sized to large breed, rapidly growing older pup, shifting lameness of all four joints, X-ray evidence of distinctive patterns within marrow cavity of long bones.	Rest and manage discomfort on an "as needed" basis with anti-inflammatory medications and nutraceuticals.

INJURY			
	Bone fracture	Crack or break in the shaft or end of a bone, sudden pain, swelling, X-ray evidence.	Surgery or precise splinting.
	Dislocation	Separation of two joint parts that results in tearing and trauma to joint supporting tissues, bleeding, swelling, pain, abnormal location of the anatomical part, X-ray evidence.	Surgery or manipulation to replace separated parts, immobilization and gradual return to function. May need surgical intervention.
	Epiphyseal fracture	Separation fracture near the end of a bone along a growth plate line, sudden pain, swelling, X-ray evidence.	Surgery or precise splinting.
	Osteochondritis dissecans	Limping on a front leg, discomfort when leg is fully extended or flexed, X-ray evidence of shoulder joint.	Surgical correction in most cases; otherwise, manage discomfort on an "as needed" basis with anti-inflammatory medications, nutraceuticals and extended forced rest.
Sprain	Stretched joint supporting tissues which leads to swelling, bruising, pain and disuse.	Rest, anti-inflammatory medications and physical therapy.	