

## Dog Paralysis

### **The causes and treatments of paralysis in dogs.**

#### CAUSES OF DOG PARALYSIS

**Congenital/Inherited disorders:** Intervertebral disk disease (in Dachshunds, Pekingese, Beagles, and other small breeds), caudal cervical spondylomyelopathy (wobbler syndrome; most common in Dobermans, Great Danes, Borzois, Basset Hounds), or atlantoaxial subluxation (young toy or miniature breeds, occasionally in large breeds, including Rottweilers and Doberman Pinschers).

**Trauma:** Nerve injury, spinal cord injury (spinal fracture or luxation), or intervertebral disk injury.

**Tumors:** In brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, or nerve roots.

**Miscellaneous:** Fibrocartilagenous embolism (blockage of spinal cord blood vessels with fragments of fibrocartilage, probably from intervertebral disks); granulomatous meningoencephalomyelitis (an inflammatory disease of the brain/spinal cord, possibly due to a viral infection); paraneoplastic neuropathy (a non-metastatic complication of cancer).

**Infectious diseases:** Distemper, rabies, or cryptococcus infection (fungal) of spinal column/cord. Note: Never handle a dog who may have rabies. If possible, without touching the dog, confine him in a room, pen, or yard, and call your local animal control for assistance.

**Parasites/Parasite-borne diseases:** Tick paralysis, chronic ehrlichiosis, or neosporosis (usually in puppies).

**Toxicity:** Bromethalin (rodenticide).

**What to do:** Paralysis is always an emergency. Restrain your dog to prevent further injury, then take him to your veterinarian or emergency clinic immediately. Have a family member or friend call ahead to let them know you're coming.

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Have a health question about your dog? Ask our vet expert or ask other dog owners on our forums.