

Holistic Therapies for Canine Hip Dysplasia

Many remedies are available to help treat a dog's symptoms by reducing swelling and minimizing pain.

Joan Hustace Walker

Therapy #7: Massage Therapy

Massage therapy is the practice of performing skilled massage on patients to provide comfort and to increase circulation, flexibility, and mobility. Additionally, many holistic practitioners believe that massage therapy can go beyond musculoskeletal benefits and may help restore an animal's natural balance of energy, boost his immune system, and help him to regain his health. Although most of the information on the benefits of massage therapy is anecdotal, massage has been proven clinically to help with hip dysplasia and work in concert with one or more alternative care modalities.

Though a massage sounds harmless enough, practitioners advise owners to be aware of some dangers. Massage can release toxins and lactic acid from the muscles. If the buildup in the muscles is severe, the sudden release could be detrimental to the dog's kidneys and liver. A complete blood workup is recommended to avoid potential complications, especially in geriatric patients.

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