



Home Care Instructions: Chronic Pain/ Arthritis/ Degenerative Joint Disease/Geriatric Support

As our pets get older pain can affect them greatly. We have multiply options to help them with this condition, it's a balancing act of what works for your pet the best. When our pets are limping and having a hard time getting up, this is pain. Continued movement and exercise is vital to maintain muscle strength. It is very important to minimize pain and support joint/skeletal health so that our companions will want and be able to exercise and maintain physical strength. Multimodal pain management is most affective, adding layers as they age.

SUPPLEMENTS:



Dasuquin is a joint supplement formulated specifically for our dogs and cats. It is clinically proven to help with arthritis. See hand out



EFA fatty acid supplements such as fish oil supplements are an important part of helping control chronic pain conditions. Salmon or Krill is the best option



Duralactin is a natural supplement for long term management of chronic inflammatory conditions in dogs. It is made up of dried milk proteins that help with the inflammatory response.

DIET:



Royal Canin Veterinary Diet® Mobility Support JS® and **Hill's® Prescription Diet® j/d®** help improve your dog's mobility and is as easy as feeding the right nutrition. Both Royal Canin and Hills Joint diets help your dog walk, run and jump more. These foods are a complete and balanced foods that provide all the nutrition your dogs needs.

MEDICATIONS:

RIMADYL[®]
(carprofen)

Rimadyl can be a vital tool in managing chronic pain. Rimadyl is an NSAID so we need to run bloodwork before starting and 30 days after being on it to watch for any changes in liver or kidneys levels. After that we need to run bloodwork every 6 months.



Gabapentin is a pain medication that can be an important part in managing chronic pain.

Treatments:



Veterinary Medical Acupuncture is another good option for our pets to help with a wide array of conditions including arthritis and chronic pain. Treatment available here at Northgate Animal Hospital. See handout



Veterinary Medical Medical massage has several positive effects for our canine and feline companions . Gentle, careful, scientific and evidence-informed massage can work wonders for those patients who accept touch and need help recovering from surgery, trauma or a variety of medical conditions. Treatment available here at Northgate Animal Hospital.



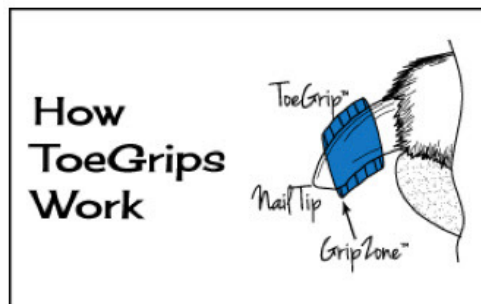
Nail trims are very important to managing chronic pain and arthritis. Keeping nails trimmed and short as possible allows dogs better traction and comfort.

SUPPORT:



Help'EmUp Harness with "Hip Lift." A complete shoulder and hip harness system that literally lifts the lives of aging or recovering dogs! By placing a pair of handles where you can quickly reach them, this unique dog harness allows you to lend support at any time.

<https://www.helpemup.com>



Toe grips can aid if your dog is slipping on floors from age, injury, surgery, or disability. Dogs have the natural ability to walk on any surface. Slipping dogs just need a little help on hardwood or tile floors. ToeGrips create a "Grip Zone" where the toenail meets the floor to provide traction with each step.

<https://www.toegrips.com>