

Your dog....and Osteoarthritis (OA)

Your dog's OA diagnosis and the role of high-energy, shock wave sound healing

THE DIAGNOSIS

OA is a chronic degenerative joint disease that develops as a result of an injury, age, or obesity. Canine OA often develops in elbows, shoulders, or hips

VISIBLE SIGNS

- Jumping or even walking is a chore
- Behavior seems to signal pain and discomfort
- The spring in your dog's step is replaced with a limp

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Inflammation and deterioration of the soft tissue, cartilage, and bone in joints causes pain and decreased mobility

Treatment Goals

While there is no cure for osteoarthritis, the goals of any treatment program are to:

- reduce pain and inflammation
- repair damaged tissue whenever possible
- enhance joint function
- eliminate the cause of arthritis and slow the disease progression, whenever possible
- improve quality of life

Why Shock Wave?

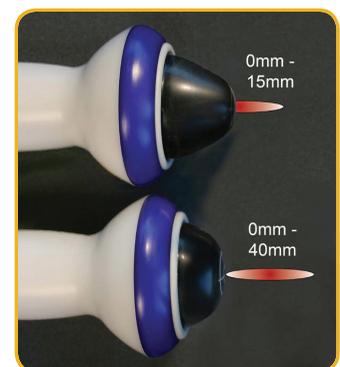
In studies, high-energy sound wave technology has demonstrated success in:

- Decreasing lameness and pain
- Reducing inflammation
- Encouraging bone healing and slowing the process of cartilage deterioration that may lead to OA
- Stimulating proteins (also called growth factors) that increase blood flow and promote healing

Plus, veterinarians and owners report improvement in quality of life, reduced use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAID's), and fewer treatments than other therapies.

What to Expect

An average shock wave treatment is relatively fast and easy. Because we are dealing with sound energy and deep healing, your dog will need a short-acting sedation to ensure optimal comfort. Your veterinarian will deliver high-energy sound wave pulses to a treatment area using a conductive gel to optimize transmission. Depending on the severity of the disease, your dog will likely require 1-3 treatments, 2-3 weeks apart. Even if you notice immediate improvement, it is important to keep exercise and high-impact activity to a minimum in the days following treatment as the healing process stimulated by shock wave takes time.



The Shock Wave Difference.

Case reports and clinical studies in human and veterinary medicine have proven that high-energy shock wave, sound healing is an effective option for reducing both the underlying causes of OA and subsequent pain and lameness commonly associated with the disease.

Positive Impact on Dogs with Elbow OA

- 15 dogs with end-stage elbow OA were treated with shock wave – 2 treatments, 2 weeks apart
- About 3/4 responded favorably and had an improvement in lameness compared to those not treated with shock wave
- About half of the dogs had a 10% increase in weightbearing, which is better than most NSAID's
- Dogs consistently improved when evaluated at a trot and walk for range of motion

BOTTOM LINE: Shock wave offers an alternative option for dogs with end stage OA showing minimal improvement with standard therapies, including NSAID's.

"Our studies show that about 70 to 80 percent of dogs have a positive, measurable response to shock wave," Dr. Darryl Millis, orthopedic surgical specialist, Dept. of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, University of Tennessee

Shock Wave Protects Cartilage and Slows OA Disease Process

- Knee damage leading to OA was evaluated using an animal model put into 3 groups:
 1. Control group with healthy knees
 2. Knee-damaged group that were treated with shock wave
 3. Knee-damaged group not treated with shock wave
- At 12 weeks, the group with knee damage that received shock wave had results similar to the healthy knee control group. The group with knee damage and NO shock wave showed significant OA with bone and cartilage breakdown

BOTTOM LINE: The use of shock wave to reduce inflammation and cartilage breakdown may help to reduce pain and slow joint damage caused by OA.

**Wang CJ, et al.
Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan.
March 2011.*

Case Report: Shoulder and Elbow OA

- 6-year old Labrador Retriever
- Pain/lameness evaluations showed only 8% of total body weight vs. normal 30% on front limb
- 2 treatments of shock wave were administered 3 weeks apart
- 600 pulses total on elbow with 5 mm trode on energy level 3
- 800 pulses on shoulder with 20 mm on energy level 5

Owner testimonial/Follow-up: 19% total body weight after first treatment. Owner reported huge improvement in lameness. – *Courtesy of Animal Medical Center, NY*

BOTTOM LINE: Shock wave may help to reduce lameness in dogs with OA.

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