



HILLSDALE ANIMAL HOSPITAL ARTHRITIS



Five Times –

Pets age at a rate of five to seven times our aging process, so regular exams are important to your pet's health and happiness.



HILLSDALE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

ARTHRITIS

Screening Program
ask about our
one free radiograph
plus a 25% discount

The Key To A Healthy Pet and Increasing
Your Pet's Life Expectancy Is Early
Detection and Prevention of Disease!

please present this coupon

Is Your Best Friend Suffering From Unnecessary Pain?



Arthritis affects one in five adult dogs!

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Ask us how we can
help keep your pet
happy & comfortable!

What is arthritis?

Arthritis in pets is very similar to the disease in humans. It is a condition where your pet's joints become inflamed. As the inflammation increases the joints become swollen, and this results in pain, stiffness and immobility.



What is your cat hiding?

Because our cats are so agile, they easily conceal signs of chronic pain and often just appear to be slowing down.

Arthritis symptoms range across a wide spectrum from mild to severe, and may be hard to spot at first. You may notice your dog taking a little longer to get up in the morning, or your cat not able to jump as high as she used to.

As symptoms grow worse it becomes more clear that your pet is having a hard time getting around. If she could talk, she would tell you she was in pain.

Treating your pet right



As your pet ages you'll notice subtle changes.

It's important to understand normal aging versus abnormal changes in your pet's health. Pet owners will sometimes attribute initial arthritis signs to "old age" or "slowing down."

Watching your pet carefully as you interact with them and knowing the warning signs, a pet owner can detect changes and symptoms early. **This allows your veterinarian to begin treatment before symptoms advance to a more severe and debilitating level.**

Obtain an accurate diagnosis!

The key to proper treatment is to obtain an accurate diagnosis. The symptoms of arthritis can be hard to distinguish. A combination of medical history, physical exam, radiographs, and blood tests are required to make an accurate diagnosis and provide the appropriate medical therapy.

ARTHRITIS SCREENING PROGRAM

Gait Evaluation	✓
Comprehensive Joint Exam	✓
Spinal Exam	✓
Radiographs	✓
Pre-medication blood profile	✓



Signs of Arthritis

Does Your Pet...

- Exhibit stiffness, or lameness?
- Seem reluctant to rise or walk?
- Whine or whimper?
- Find climbing steps, or jumping difficult?
- Exhibit pain when touched?
- Exhibit a reduced range of motion?

If your pet shows any of these symptoms, call us right away. She may be suffering from painful arthritis. Pets can't tell you when they hurt. It's up to you to recognize the signs of chronic pain.

Individual Treatment

Each pet is unique and every treatment program is different. After completing your pet's arthritis screening, your veterinarian will customize a treatment program to best meet your pet's special requirements.

Treatment may include dietary changes, exercise, drug therapy, and weight management. Together, these elements can help relieve joint stress and build muscle strength to help your pet remains an active part of your family.

- **Weight management:** The less an animal weighs, the less stress their body places upon overstressed joints. Maintaining your pet's weight in the low to normal range will be important in helping relieve the pain of arthritis, as well as slowing the rate of degeneration by lessening the overall strain on the joint.
- **Exercise management:** It is important to encourage a program of exercise that will help keep weight down, and improve flexibility and joint movement. Too much exercise, going up and down stairs, inclines etc. should be avoided. You'll want to warm up, not overstress your pet's joints.
- **Diet management & supplements:** Prescription joint food has been a recent advance that has actually shown anti-inflammatory activity in dogs. Specific formulations of nutritional supplements are another option for inflammation and cartilage support in both dogs and cats. Both are useful non-drug therapies for use alone in early arthritis, or as a way to help decrease drug dosages for animals in more severe pain.
- **Drug therapy:** There are medical treatments for dog arthritis sufferers to help alleviate your pet's pain. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) are indicated for the relief of pain and inflammation.