



## HOW NATURALPET.HEALTH CAN HELP YOUR DOG'S SPINE

### TESTS YOUR VETERINARIAN SHOULD RUN FOR AN ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS

- Radiographs to evaluate bony structure of the spine
- CT/MRI to evaluate soft tissue of the spine— mandatory pre-surgery
- Blood panel to evaluate for underlying systemic disease

### HOLISTIC CARE OF THE DOG WITH SPINAL DISEASE

- Curcumin** 50 mg per lb body weight per day to reduce inflammation and pain
- Laser therapy to improve blood supply and promote healing of the spine
- Massage therapy for muscle relaxation and spoiling
- Fish Oil** to provide 50 mg per lb body weight of Omega 3 Fatty Acids per day
- Lipoic Acid** is used in human medicine to protect neurons

### DRUGS

EVERY ACUTE SPINAL PATIENT SHOULD BE TREATED WITH...

- Potent pain relievers— usually NSAIDS.
  - Rimadyl, Metacam, Deramaxx very potent but can have side effects.
  - New NSAID Galliprant is almost as potent, has no side effects
  - Gabapentin is commonly used for spinal pain in both humans and pets.
  - Tramadol can be tried but many consider it ineffective in dogs.
- Methocarbamol pills to improve comfort and reduce muscle spasm
- Pepsid AC 0.5 mg per lb body weight/day to reduce GI effects of medications and stress
- IF SURGERY IS NOT AN OPTION, STRONGLY CONSIDER STEROID USE (injectable dexamethasone or oral prednisone). Steroids are the DRUG OF CHOICE to reduce damaging inflammation in the spine but can slow healing from surgery. Chat with your vet about this!!

**SURGERY— Early is best, benefits vs risks.** The clock is ticking and so early decisions need to be made.

### ADJUNCTIVE MEDICAL CARE

- Laser therapy by your vet is very helpful in reducing pain and inflammation
- Acupuncture
- Stem Cell Therapy

**DIET—**  Soft stool will be easier to pass— canned food, dairy products, olive oil in diet

### HOME CARE

- ABSOLUTE REST x 7 d
- Monitor ability to poop and pee
- Long term— Avoid jumping, stairs, twisting play
- WEIGHT LOSS— every ounce worsens spinal stress