



# Natural Help for...

## Pet Joint Disease



### What is Degenerative Joint Disease?

Degenerative joint disease, also referred to as osteo-arthritis is a very common condition in both cats and dogs, and is often seen in older animals. In **degenerative joint disease**, the cartilage surrounding the joint changes, breaks down slowly and deteriorates as a result of wear and tear.

The cartilage actually erodes together with areas of bone. The most **common areas of the body that are affected** include the hip, spine knees, elbows and wrist joints. This is an extremely painful, progressive disease that will continue to worsen.

Dogs tend to be more susceptible to degenerative joint disease than cats but certain breeds, especially large breeds such as Labrador-retriever, German shepherd, or Golden retrievers suffer more from joint and bone problems. As soon as you notice any signs that may indicate that your **dog or cat has difficulty walking**, consult your vet. Degenerative joint disease is manageable and animals can enjoy quality of life if treated early

The common symptoms and signs of degenerative joint disease include:

- Reduced level of activity
- Difficulty getting up and down, running, jumping, climbing stairs or grooming
- Stiff-legged gait
- Sore or swollen joints
- Stiffness
- Lameness
- Limping
- Lagging behind on walks
- Cries or whines in pain when the affected joint is touched
- Sensitive to cold weather
- Lethargy

In addition, behavioral changes such as irritability, aggression, nervousness, depression or withdrawal may also be present.

### What causes Degenerative Joint Disease?

The exact cause of degenerative joint disease has not yet been established. There are various causes that may contribute to secondary degenerative joint disease and these include:

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It is not intended to diagnose or treat any medical condition. Nothing in this ebook is intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your veterinarian or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.

Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this ebook or on ANY website.

- Excessive wear and tear on the joints and cartilage
- Trauma
- Obesity
- Congenital defects from birth, for example hip or elbow dysplasia
- Osteochondritis dissecans
- Dislocation of the shoulder or kneecap
- Underlying disorders such as diabetes, hyperlaxity or the overuse of steroid medication

## Diagnosing Degenerative Joint Disease

The [diagnosis of degenerative joint disease](#) is based on the symptoms, a **thorough orthopedic exam and review** of the pet's history. Certain tests such as x-rays, contrast studies, a force plate or aspiration of joint fluid may be performed to determine the diagnosis of degenerative joint disorders.

## Help for Degenerative Joint Disease

Depending on the cause, severity of [degenerative joint disease](#) and your pet's overall health, there are various treatment options available to alleviate symptoms. Your vet may prescribe anti-**inflammatory and analgesic medications** which include acetaminophen, NSAIDS, and corticosteroids to control pain and reduce joint swelling.

More serious cases of arthritis or osteoarthritis may require surgery such as joint replacement or removal as well as reconstructive procedures to **repair or rebuild joint cartilages**. Alternative treatments such as physical therapy, hydrotherapy and massage may also be beneficial in increasing range of motion.

A few things that you as a pet owner can do at home is to **ensure that your pet maintains a healthy weight**, eats a well balanced, premium diet to boost the immune system and encourage gentle exercise such as walking and swimming.

## Natural Remedies

Natural and holistic treatments have been found to be highly effective in **supporting the joints and skeletal system** as well as overall health of your pet. Herbal ingredients, biochemic tissue salts and nutritional substances are a safe and gentle alternative without any unwanted side effects.

Herbal ingredients such as Harpagophytum procumbens (Devil's Claw) and Arthrospira platenis (Spirulina) have **anti-inflammatory properties** and are beneficial in the [treatment of degenerative joint diseases](#). Biochemic tissue salts and nutritional substances such as Calcium Fluoride, Natrium Phosphoricum and Glucosamine Sulphate strengthen and support healthy joints and alleviate pain and inflammation.

## More Information on Degenerative Joint Disease

Treatment for arthritis may be medical or surgical. Nonsurgical therapies include weight reduction (never underestimate the importance of this), **controlled exercise on soft surfaces** and/or hydrotherapy, and applying warm



### Michele Carelse, Clinical Psychologist



All of our natural remedies are formulated by our expert team of herbalists, naturopaths and homeopaths, and headed by Michele Carelse.

Michele has had years of experience in the manufacturing and use of natural remedies for both people and pets. In addition, she is a trained Clinical Psychologist and has been incorporating natural remedies into her treatment of patients with depression, anxiety, ADD, ADHD and stress for many years with spectacular results.

compresses, such as hot water bottles to those aching, stiff joints.

Conventional medicine also makes use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) such as aspirin, meloxicam, carprofen, phenylbutazone and corticosteroids. These act by **blocking certain pathways in the pain response** but long-term use must be carefully considered as adverse effects include gastro-intestinal problems such as poor appetite, vomiting and gastro-intestinal ulcers.

Certain NSAIDs can also cause damage to the kidneys. Great care must be used when treating cats with NSAIDs. Surgical options include **joint fusion, joint replacement** such as hip replacement, joint excision and amputation.

There's no way to prevent arthritic changes whether they're simply due to the ageing process or because of earlier trauma to the joint. Certainly prompt treatment of any **suspected joint or bone injury is highly recommended** and making sure that your pet doesn't become overweight will minimize the chances of arthritis developing.

**Although degenerative joint disease is painful and causes discomfort, there are a number of things that pet owners can do to alleviate the symptoms:**

- Manage your pet's weight by controlling his diet – if your pet is overweight, it puts more strain on their joints and exacerbates symptoms
- Make sure that your pet receives adequate but gentle exercise – walking your dog three times per day and swimming will help to maintain muscle strength and movement. Steer clear of strenuous activities that involves lots of running such as playing fetch or throwing a Frisbee
- Feed your dog or cat a healthy, high quality or all natural diet that contains all the essential vitamins, minerals and nutrients
- Build ramps so that your pet does not have to walk up stairs
- Elevate food and water bowls to make eating and drinking easier for pets
- Provide a soft and comfortable sleeping environment (like an old mattress) or invest in an orthopedic foam bed for your pet
- Keep your dog warm during cold weather when joint conditions usually worsen – make sure you add more blankets to his bed, slip a pet sweater on him and keep your home heated
- Apply a hot water bottle, heating pads or warm, soaked towels on the affected areas to relieve pain and stiffness
- Massage your pet or ask your vet to perform physical therapy on the affected area to soothe and promote range of movement
- Ensure that your pet has sufficient rest, especially during the recovery period

## **The Natural Approach**

While Western medicine has become the norm in many cultures, it is not the only treatment option. Conventional western medicine, often called allopathic medicine, is the system of medicine taught at most medical schools and most pharmaceutical and synthetic medicines are manufactured and marketed according to the principles of allopathic medicine. Allopathic medicine is also sometimes called orthodox medicine.

Because most of us in the Western world have grown up in a society in which

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[Native Remedies - Natural & Herbal Remedies](#)

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allopathic medicine is the prevailing norm, we forget that, only a few decades ago, homeopathic, herbal and other natural medicines were commonly available – and freely used even by conventional doctors and veterinarians. While there are often heated debates about which system of medicine is 'better' than the other, many responsible doctors and vets (whether they are allopathic or not) recognize that both have a role to play in the treatment program.

Just like humans, domesticated animals like dogs and cats are affected by the health hazards of modern living. Pollution, poor nutrition, stress and unhealthy lifestyles can lead to a variety of illnesses and conditions that are very similar to those experienced by humans. In fact, many, if not most pet health concerns can be addressed by helping your pets to live a healthier lifestyle. While it has its place, conventional medicine for animals and 'modern technology' have failed our pets in many ways.

According to pet expert and author CJ Puotinen, most holistic veterinarians and animal health care professions list annual vaccinations and commercial pet foods as the major contributory cause in the rising rates of chronic illness in pets today. Similarly, Juliette de Bairacli Levy, respected author and renowned animal breeder, points out that contrary to the belief that mass vaccination and antibiotic use will contribute to a decrease in disease, the opposite has in fact proved true. Like their human counterparts, today's pets are becoming more and more vulnerable to chronic disease and ill health. This has led many veterinarians to search for alternatives and to espouse more holistic methods of keeping our pets healthy.

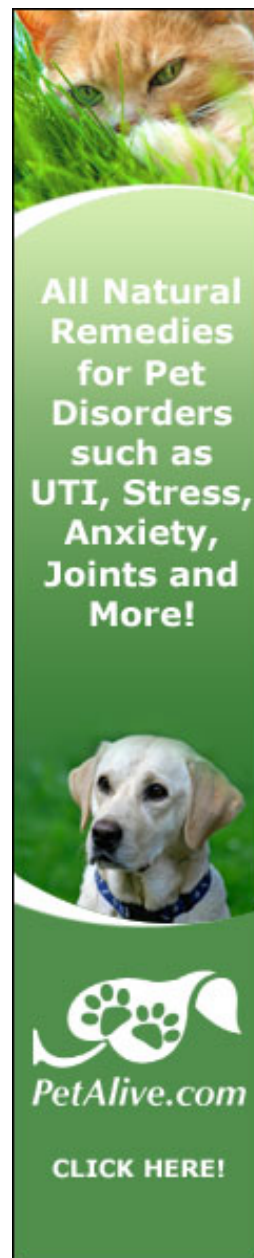
"In the wild, animals instinctively seek out healing herbs to help them when they are ill or undernourished. In fact, Asclepius, the ancient Greek god of medicine, respected dogs very highly for their ability to seek out and eat medicinal herbs in the wild. This ability is shared by other animals, including cats. We are coming to realize that nature often has the answers - but animals have always known this! Natural medicine can help your pet just as it can help you. While there is always a place for conventional veterinary medicine, natural medicine can compliment conventional veterinary care and in many cases do just as well. I have applied the same care and research that have gone into our Native Remedies range for adults and children to the development of pet-friendly, safe and effective natural remedies for animals. As always, all remedies are formulated to the highest therapeutic standards and manufactured under strict pharmaceutical conditions for your peace of mind and the well being of your pets. " Michele Carelse, Clinical Psychologist.

"When a veterinary surgeon practices the use of homeopathic medicine and is asked why he does so, he may give one of several answers. The simple answer would be that the results are good, an emphatic answer would be that homeopathic treatment has no unpleasant or dangerous side effects, while still achieving successful results.


The [PetAlive Homeopathic range](#) has been formulated with this knowledge and is specifically designed to treat your pet in a holistic and natural manner."

Dr. Glenn Ferguson  
M-Tech Homeopathy, Doctor of Chinese Medicine

## **Related Natural Remedies:**



All Natural Remedies for Pet Disorders such as UTI, Stress, Anxiety, Joints and More!



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**Six Good Reasons to choose PetAlive as your trusted suppliers of herbal & homeopathic remedies:**

**Muscle and Joint Support**: Support healthy muscles, joints and bones naturally

**Muscle & Joint Support** capsules are specially formulated for pets and contain a unique formula combining herbal medicines, biochemic tissue salts and nutritional substances all well known for their positive effect on the skeletal system, including muscles, joints, cartilage and tendons.

Muscle & Joint Support is a 100% natural remedy. Regular use will help to **maintain health and mobility** in the muscular skeletal system without the risk of side effects.

**Muscle & Joint Support** is an excellent choice for pets – helping to keep a spring in their step!

[Learn more about Muscle and Joint Support](#)

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1) All PetAlive products are manufactured according to the highest pharmaceutical standards - using only the best quality raw ingredients from nature's medicine chest.

2) PetAlive and our suppliers are registered with the FDA as accredited suppliers and manufacturers of health supplements. Our products are sold all over the world and are manufactured to strict international standards in a GMP accredited manufacturing plant.

3) All our remedies are manufactured in an FDA registered pharmaceutical facility under close supervision.

This includes formulation, acquiring and testing of raw ingredients as well as final manufacturing. This gives us the confidence to say that when you are buying a PetAlive product, you are buying the safest and the best! We know what goes into our remedies - which is why we know what you will get out of them!

4) Manufacturing is done strictly according to the principles of GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) and all raw ingredients undergo stringent testing before being approved by our registered manufacturing pharmacists.

5) We offer a free email [Ask Our Experts](#) service run by trained consultants ready to advise you on the best choice for your pet's health.

6) We offer an unconditional [One Year Money Back Guarantee](#).





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