Arthritis Symptoms Checklist

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Osteoarthritis is common in older dogs, but can occur at any age. If you suspect that your dog is suffering from this uncomfortable disease, make an appointment with your veterinarian immediately.

Sometimes owners, in the stress of the moment, forget to tell their veterinarian relevant information about their pets. Here is a handy checklist to bring with you to your next veterinary appointment. Check the box beside the symptom if you have observed it in your dog.

Check which symptoms your dog exhibits:

- ☐ Limps after exercise
- ☐ Is reluctant to jump into the vehicle
- ☐ Doesn't want to go for a walk, walks slower, or not as far
- ☐ Stiff, particularly after getting up from resting for a while
- ☐ Rests more often
- ☐ Seems to be in pain during cold weather
- ☐ Is reluctant to climb or descend stairs
- ☐ Won't jump on sofa or bed anymore
- ☐ Has lost interest in food
- ☐ Does not want to sit or stand - would rather lie down
- ☐ Bites at certain joints on leg
- ☐ Seems "depressed"
- ☐ Is uncomfortable when touched, especially on hips or tail area

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- ☐ Does not seem comfortable when squatting to eliminate waste

Once you have completed the checklist, print it and take it to your veterinarian so you can discuss the results together. In the event your veterinarian decides to prescribe medication for your dog, you may want to print off our Prescription Authorization Form and bookmark the information on how to order a prescription at Drs. Foster and Smith's Licensed Pharmacy, where you can save on all of your faithful friends' prescriptions.

Be sure to let your veterinarian know about any medications or supplements your dog is currently taking, including aspirin or any other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as Quellin or Rimadyl. Some medications or supplements may interact in potentially harmful ways; your veterinarian can make the best recommendation for your dog.

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