

What is hip dysplasia?

Hip dysplasia is an inherited disease most often seen in larger breed dogs on Guam; though it can occur in cats as well.

Hip dysplasia is an abnormal formation of the hip socket. The loosening of muscles, ligaments and connective tissues (that hold the hip joint and socket in place) cause the bones to lose proper contact and change the shape of the bone surface. If untreated, it can lead to a crippling, painful arthritis in the joints and even lameness.

Pets with a genetic predisposition to hip dysplasia can be treated to prevent or limit the problem.

What causes hip dysplasia?

Hip dysplasia is genetic and passed on from one or both of a pet's parents. However hip dysplasia can be made worse during the rapid period of growth experienced between 3 and 8 months of age. It can also be made worse by over nutrition from "high protein" and other diets promoting rapid growth.

The most susceptible breeds in Guam are Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers and Bulldogs (including all the Bully type breeds). All dogs that reach 50+lbs. when full grown should be evaluated for hip dysplasia.

1 IN 5 DOGS SUFFERS FROM CANINE ARTHRITIS.
EARLY DETECTION CAN HELP IMPROVE YOUR DOG'S QUALITY OF LIFE.

These are the signs to look for:

HEALTHY KNEE JOINT:

Your dog can walk, run, play and climb freely.



EARLY OA:

Your dog has some pain and may start lagging behind on walks.



MODERATE OA:

Your dog is slow to rise and climbs with difficulty.



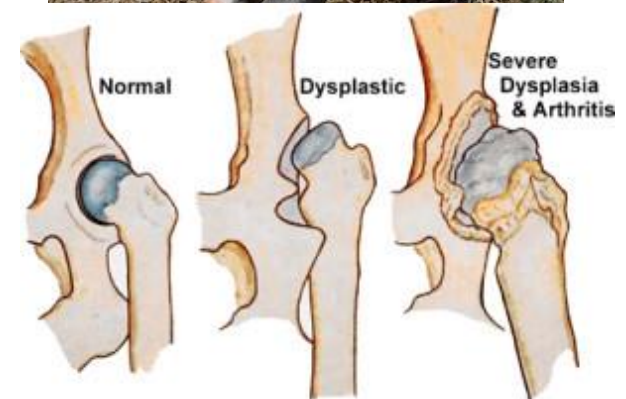
ADVANCED OA:

Your dog needs help rising and has trouble walking.



Hip Dysplasia

A guide to Hip Dysplasia in your pet and the Juvenile Pubic Symphysiodesis (JPS) preventative surgery.





Golden Retriever Puppy Before Surgery

(Above): With hip dysplasia the joints of the bones and the sockets of the hip do not fit together properly, causing pain.

(Below): After JPS surgery the leg joints and the hip sockets fit together like puzzle pieces, allowing proper movement with little to no pain.



Golden Retriever Puppy after JPS Surgery

How do I know if my pet has hip dysplasia?

The best way to diagnose hip dysplasia is to have your pet tested. Wise Owl Animal Hospital offers a variety of tests to determine if hip dysplasia is present in your cat or dog:

Ortolani Sign Test is part of Wise Owl's routine examination on puppies 6-8 weeks old (at no charge). This test is easily performed while the puppy is on their side or back. Almost all dogs with a positive Ortolani sign test have hip dysplasia, though a dog **can** have hip dysplasia and not show a positive Ortolani test.

X-Rays (Radiographs) Wise Owl uses X-rays to confirm (or negate) the Ortolani test. X-rays allow the veterinarians to see the extent of hip dysplasia present in a puppy (see pictures above) and if surgery should be recommended.

Penn-Hip Test is done for pets 16 weeks of age or older, who are not strong candidates for the JPS surgery (described far right). This test is highly recommended for pets suspected of having hip dysplasia, especially breeding animals.

OFA is a hip dysplasia test that can be done for pets 2 years of age or older. However we highly recommend testing your pet earlier.

Is hip dysplasia treatable?

There are no products on the market that prevent the development of hip dysplasia. This is because it is an **inherited** condition and once osteoarthritis is present, dysplastic changes are irreversible and usually continue to progress over time. Through proper diet, exercise, supplements, anti-inflammatories, and pain relief, you may be able to decrease the progression of degenerative joint disease, but the looseness in the joint or changes to the bones will not change significantly.

For these reasons it is important to identify hip dysplasia when your pet is young. There are several surgical procedures available to treat hip dysplasia depending on the dog's age, body size, and the severity of the hip joint's degeneration.



About JPS Surgery

Juvenile Pubic Symphysiodesis (JPS) is a surgical procedure where the growth of the pelvis is altered in order to achieve better congruency (fit) of the ball and socket parts of the hip joints. JPS is most effective for puppies between 12-15 weeks old (12-18 weeks for "jumbo" dogs such as Great Danes). It is very successful, with 95% of dogs treated going on to avoid the development of painful arthritic hip degeneration.

At Wise Owl Animal Hospital, JPS is done on an outpatient basis. The surgery consists of:

- X-rays to evaluate the presence/absence of hip dysplasia
- General anesthetic, Penicillin, and a long lasting pain medication
- A small incision is made to expose the pubic bone
- The growth plate of the pubic bone is cauterized to destroy the growing cells at this location
- Your pet will go home the same day. Most act like nothing much happened.
- Suture (stitch) removal may or may not be needed in 10 – 14 days.'

As the puppy ages, the rest of the pelvis grows, leading to a change in the angle of orientation of the sockets and giving better stability to the hips.

The "Controversy"

There is no controversy over the safety or effectiveness of JPS surgery. However a dog that has had JPS surgery will appear not to have hip dysplasia on future x-ray screening tests. This can cause people to breed dysplastic dogs, passing the disease on to future pups. Wise Owl Animal Hospital highly recommends spaying/neutering any pet undergoing JPS surgery.