

# Pain in the Bark: Hip and Joint Issues Explained

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One of the most prevalent is Chronic Hip Dysplasia or CHD, a malformation or looseness in the hip joints which can lead to Degenerative Joint Disease or DJD. Like the human body, dogs' bodies are susceptible to sore joints and arthritis in similar ways. As a dog lover these questions are all important to ask, as Hip Dysplasia may be the cause.

- Is your dog slow to get up?
- Does your dog limp after activity?
- Does your dog exhibit pain in the hind legs?
- Hesitation in running or jumping?

The breed of dog may also play a large role in the susceptibility for developing Hip Dysplasia. For example, German Shepherds, Saint Bernards, Rottweilers, Golden Retrievers, and many other large-breed dogs have at least a 50% chance of developing Hip Dysplasia. This is mostly contributed to their accelerated growth rate and is often accompanied with overfeeding. Joints become unstable as the skeletal growth of the dog surpasses that of the joints, muscles, and connective tissues.

Extremely active dogs, for example Frisbee dogs like Border Collies, are at high risk for developing CHD as well. The twisting and pounding of the joints that the dog experiences during extensive activities can loosen the connective tissue and muscle which surrounds the joints. Our beloved, furry companions have a 20% chance of developing Hip Dysplasia and it often develops within the dog's growth period.

As dog lovers, we gain great joy from our dog's playful nature during the puppy years; however it is important to limit a puppy's activeness in order to provide a healthy growing environment. Jumping off

