
Joint injections for chronic osteoarthritis



One of the most useful and efficient ways to convey information to you about your pet is via the written word. We carefully craft these notes to give you helpful information and accurate expectations around your pet's surgical experience.

Please read this. *Please save it and read it during each stage of the recovery process.* Surprises make for a stressful time for everyone.

Your pet has had a treatment that involves injecting medication directly in the joint space to treat chronic osteoarthritis. This is a useful “tool” in a wide range of therapeutic tools used to manage this condition. Some patients benefit from routine use of this therapy several times a year, while others do not demonstrate any significant improvement over time. We will rely strongly on you to guide recommendations based on your observations.

RESTRICTIONS

Please restrict activity to low impact, controlled activities for 2 weeks while the inflammation associated with the injection goes away.

You can expect your pet to be more sore, more lame on the treated leg for 1-3 days; thereafter, s/he should steadily improve.

If you see serious limping, loss of appetite/lethargy, vomiting or signs of pain, please contact your veterinarian right away to have your pet evaluated and diagnosed. Joint infection is a risk of this procedure, and though rare, needs to be caught right away.

The careful use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) pain relievers may be helpful for the first few days after injection. Please discuss this with your veterinarian to determine what is safe based on the medications used in the injections.

PROGRESS EXAMS

Most cases, we recommend an initial induction of therapy using an injection delivered every 2-3 weeks for 2-3 doses, then follow that with single maintenance injections every 3-6 months if a benefit is seen. This is a support therapy, not a “cure”. Benefits are additive over time.

Schedule your pet's treatments based on these guidelines, recommendations from your veterinarian, and your perception of benefit.

Long term lifestyle

There are no specific restrictions long term for your pet based on the diagnosis of osteoarthritis alone. In general, low impact but consistent, moderate activity is recommended to support optimal joint health and best function overall.

Other supportive medications, supplements and lifestyle alterations can reduce the overall impact joint arthritis has on your pet, allowing them the most comfortable lifestyle for their condition.