



FACT SHEET

Miami Valley Animal Hospital
1550 E David Rd
Kettering, OH 45429
937.434.VETS (8387)

Osteoarthritis

Your best friend may be dealing with the pain of osteoarthritis. This degenerative disease is one of the most common sources of chronic pain veterinarians treat. But now a new pain medication is improving the quality of life for dogs with arthritis and for you, their best friend.

The early signs of this painful disease are subtle, but by observing your dog daily, you're in an ideal position to detect these signs. Stiffness and difficulty rising, walking and climbing stairs may be early indications of arthritis. As osteoarthritis becomes more severe, your dog won't act like himself. He may resist your touch, whimper, and limp. Cold weather, sudden weather changes, or heavy exercise can make the pain worse or any of these signs more noticeable.

Some types of dogs are more susceptible to chronic arthritis, but all are candidates. While older dogs and certain larger breeds are more prone to osteoarthritis, and being overweight makes the condition even worse, this degenerative disease can affect any type, size or age of dog.

Improved pain relief is now possible with new Rimadyl (carprofen) caplets, and now your dog can put quality of life ahead of pain. Rimadyl was developed specifically for the safe and effective treatment of pain and inflammation in dogs. While this new medication doesn't cure osteoarthritis, and may not help every dog with arthritis, by relieving pain, stiffness and lameness, many dogs can move freely and happily again. Their quality of life can be improved in spite of their condition.

A physical examination for arthritis symptoms is necessary before Rimadyl can be prescribed. In some geriatric dogs laboratory blood tests may be recommended to determine if Rimadyl is appropriate. Rimadyl is not approved for use in cats. If you suspect your dog is starting to show signs of arthritis, you may call the office for more information, bring your dog in for an examination, or ask us about arthritis during your next office visit.