

WHY test

Early Detection

As dogs age joints break down. It's a natural process that often happens over a long period of time. By identifying this breakdown early, we can take steps to minimize the damage and keep your dog moving and feeling great.

Options for treatment

There are numerous options available for managing dogs with joint problems. The earlier we start, the better the outcomes tend to be. Therapy can be as simple as diet change and supplements.

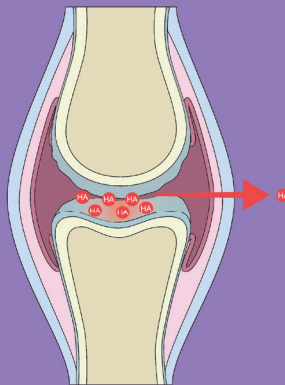
Targeted therapies, like nutraceuticals, are common, and even more advanced therapy like PRP & Stem Cell Therapy are getting more common. With early detection, we can choose the right way to manage your dog's joints.



Detecting Joint Damage Hyaluronic Acid

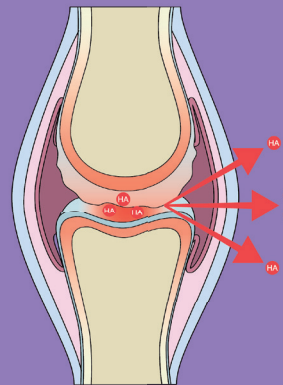
Hyaluronic Acid, HA, is a molecule that exists inside the joints. Its main purpose is to lubricate and prevent the bones in the joint from rubbing against each other and breaking down. As joints degrade, this molecule is leaked into the blood stream, where testing picks it up. The higher the HA value, the more damage that has been done.

Early degeneration



Joint degeneration
leads to HA leaking
into serum

Osteoarthritis



Greater joint damage leads
to higher HA levels

TEST TREAT IMPROVE



Let's Test JOINT HEALTH



Should my dog be tested?

Joint health is important for all dogs. As they age the joint breaks down, but some dogs are at higher risk for joint problems. Dogs at higher risk are:

- Active/Sporting dogs
- Agility dogs & working dogs
- Large & giant breeds
- Breeds prone to skeletal disorders: dachshund, bulldogs, basset hounds, etc



NEXT steps

Depending on the results of the test, we'll develop a plan for your dog. The critical threshold on the report is 20. As your dog's results approach 20, the more likely damage is considered degenerative joint disease.

Our goal is to identify when the values start rising and intervene to prevent, or slow, progression. This may include implementing changes to diet and lifestyle, or introducing supplements/nutraceuticals to improve their joint health.

How often is testing needed?

Annual testing for younger dogs is ok, but as they get closer to 10 years old, testing frequency should increase. Once joint damage is identified and is being managed, the same testing can be used to monitor how well the damage is being controlled and slowed. Monitoring intervals will be determined with your vet.

WHEN to test

What To Watch For

Visual cues may also help identify when your dog is having joint problems. In addition to testing, keep an eye out for:

- Noticeable decrease in activity
- Stiffness, limping, favoring a limb
- Difficulty rising or getting up
- Indicates pain or soreness when touched
- Lagging on walks, or lameness
- Whimpering or yelping in pain
- Behavior changes, disposition changes (aggression, withdrawal)

If you notice any of these signs between exams, consult your veterinarian.

