Identifying and Controlling Arthritis in Dogs
What is arthritis?

Arthritis, or osteoarthritis (OA), is a progressive, degenerative disease that can occur in dogs of all ages, sizes and breeds. The disease can affect one or more joints, leading to pain, stiffness, joint swelling, lameness and reduced mobility — all of which can decrease a dog’s quality of life.

Because OA is a progressive condition that manifests over time, the signs of pain become more apparent as the condition becomes more severe.

What signs of arthritis should I watch for in my dog?

Unfortunately, dogs can’t tell us where or when it hurts, so sometimes it can be difficult to know when a dog is in pain. The key is to look for a change in your dog’s behavior.

Does your dog display any of the following signs? If so, you might want to talk to your veterinarian about arthritis.

- No longer meets you at the door
- General decrease in activity or exercise
- Reluctance to walk, run, climb, jump or play
- Stiffness or decreased movement of joints
- Limping or lameness
- Difficulty rising from a resting position
- Lagging behind on walks
- Soreness when touched
- Yelping or whimpering in pain
- Acting aggressive or withdrawn
- Flatness of ears against their head
- Licking affected area
- Exhibiting other personality changes

What can I do to help manage my dog’s arthritis?

Although osteoarthritis is incurable, it can be managed. By following a few steps, you can ensure that you and your dog will have many healthy and happy years together.

Develop a program

The goals of osteoarthritis therapy are to decrease inflammation and pain, resulting in:

- Increased activity
- Preserved muscle mass and strength
- Regained function

Medical treatment of osteoarthritis should include: weight control, exercise, and pharmacological management of inflammation and pain for an improved quality of life.

If properly treated, the progression of osteoarthritis can be slowed.

1 Brown DC et al. Use of activity monitor to detect response to treatment in dogs with osteoarthritis. JAVMA. 2010;237:66-70.
Stick with the program

Medications and therapy may make such a difference in your dog’s quality of life that you may be tempted to discontinue treatment. However, an OA management plan is only effective if your dog stays on it.

Long-term treatment provides continuous improvement in your dog’s mobility and pain associated with arthritis. To ensure that your dog doesn’t suffer a setback, you’ll need to keep your dog on your veterinarian’s prescribed treatment program.

Lighten their load

If needed, reducing your pet’s weight can significantly decrease the burden on load-bearing joints. Consult your veterinarian for a weight management program for your pet.

Get their paws moving

Moderate exercise can help strengthen muscles and reduce the chances of further damage. To establish an adequate, low-impact routine, consult your veterinarian.

What is RIMADYL?

Did you know that human arthritis medications like aspirin can be toxic to dogs? That’s why we developed RIMADYL (carprofen).

- RIMADYL is approved by the FDA for once- or twice-daily dosing to help manage pain and inflammation in a dog’s joints
- RIMADYL was developed specifically for dogs to help improve their mobility by reducing joint pain and inflammation
- RIMADYL was the first anti-inflammatory medication for osteoarthritis approved for dogs in the US
- Over 24 million dogs have been treated with RIMADYL, making it the #1 osteoarthritis medication prescribed by veterinarians

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: As a class, NSAIDs may be associated with gastrointestinal, kidney and liver side effects. These are usually mild, but may be serious. Pet owners should discontinue therapy and contact their veterinarian immediately if side effects occur. Evaluation for pre-existing conditions and regular monitoring are recommended for pets on any medication, including RIMADYL. Use with other NSAIDs or corticosteroids should be avoided.

4 VetInsight Analytics, September 2013
5 Data on file. MDI market research, Zoetis Inc.
What kinds of results can I expect to see from RIMADYL?

While RIMADYL (carprofen) is not a cure for arthritis, it can relieve the pain and inflammation of osteoarthritis and improve your dog’s mobility.

- Response varies from dog to dog, but the results can be quite dramatic
- In most dogs, improvement can be seen in a matter of days

Failure to administer RIMADYL as prescribed may cause condition to worsen.

How should I give RIMADYL to my dog?

RIMADYL should be given according to your veterinarian’s instructions. Your veterinarian will tell you what dosage of RIMADYL is right for your dog and how often it should be given. RIMADYL Caplets should be given by mouth. Most dogs will take RIMADYL Chewable Tablets right out of your hand, or the tablet can be placed in the mouth. RIMADYL may be given with or without food.

“My dog Toby was in pain for 4 months, and we tried a variety of medications. RIMADYL has allowed him to be pain free for months now and get back to his old self. Just wanted to say thank you for making a product that basically saved his life and gave him the quality of life he deserves.”

— Anna Roberts

What should I discuss with my veterinarian before giving RIMADYL to my dog?

- The importance of weight control and exercise in the management of osteoarthritis
- The types and frequency of tests needed before and during treatments with RIMADYL (carprofen)
- The risks and benefits of using RIMADYL
- Side effects from RIMADYL or other NSAIDs that your dog has experienced
- If your dog has suffered from liver or kidney disease or has had a bleeding disorder
- If your dog has had any other medical problems or allergies
- All medicines that you are giving your dog or plan to give your dog, including those you can get without a prescription
- If your dog is pregnant, nursing or if you have plans to breed your dog

Who should not take RIMADYL?

- Dogs that have had an allergic reaction to carprofen, the active ingredient in RIMADYL
- Dogs that have had an allergic reaction to aspirin or other NSAIDs (e.g., etodolac, meloxicam or deracoxib) such as hives, facial swelling or red or itchy skin
- Cats should not take RIMADYL. Call your veterinarian immediately if your cat accidentally receives RIMADYL
- People should not take RIMADYL. Keep RIMADYL and all medicines out of reach of children
- RIMADYL should not be given with other NSAIDs or steroids
What side effects could occur from use of NSAIDs?

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as RIMADYL (carprofen) provide important benefits. However, serious but rare side effects have been reported in dogs taking drugs in this class. The most common NSAID-related side effects generally involve the stomach (such as bleeding ulcers). Side effects can occur with or without warning and, in rare situations, result in kidney or liver damage or death. Look for the following side effects that can indicate your dog may be having a problem with an NSAID or may have another medical problem:

- Decrease or increase in appetite
- Vomiting
- Change in bowel movements or behavior
- Yellowing of gums, skin or whites of the eyes
- Change in drinking or urinating habits

It is important to stop therapy and contact your veterinarian immediately if you think your dog has a medical problem or side effect from use of RIMADYL. If you have additional questions about possible side effects, talk to your veterinarian.

“...the long-term administration of carprofen provides a steadily increasing improvement of clinical signs of osteoarthritis in dogs and does not result in an increase of the incidence of suspected adverse reactions.”


Insist on RIMADYL

Not all pain relievers are the same. Only RIMADYL (carprofen) is the most prescribed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) for dogs that comes in easy-to-use caplets or tasty chewables. RIMADYL is an FDA-approved prescription medication developed by Zoetis Inc., one of the most trusted names in veterinary pharmaceuticals.

And only RIMADYL is backed by 20 years of research and science. In addition to treating osteoarthritis pain, RIMADYL can also reduce the pain and inflammation caused by orthopedic and soft-tissue surgeries such as spays and neuters, as well as perioperative dental pain.

For more information on RIMADYL visit rimadyl.com
Try RIMADYL and get FREE Rewards

The RIMADYL Rewards Program is a rewarding way to partner with your veterinarian to ensure the health and well-being of your dog and help you provide the long-term care your dog needs. With every RIMADYL (carprofen) purchase, earn Rewards Points that translate into DOLLARS that can be used toward ANY expense at your veterinary clinic.

As you continue to care for your dog with RIMADYL, you will continue to accumulate points on your RIMADYL Rewards Card.

To see full details, program terms and conditions, visit myrimadylrewards.com
They protected us. Now we can return the favor.

Military and police K-9s are often the first to go into harm’s way, saving many human lives. After a lifetime of service these brave dogs can have major health issues, including osteoarthritis (OA), due to their stressful work, injuries or age. In retirement, these dedicated K-9s receive no compensation or health benefits.

In partnership with The Sage Foundation for Dogs Who Serve and National Police Dog Foundation, Zoetis created the RIMADYL K-9 Courage Program to provide approximately $150,000 to provide veterinary care for up to 500 dogs annually. This will help ensure these courageous dogs continue to live happy, healthy lives.

If you are a proud caregiver of a retired military or police dog, you may be able to receive a debit card worth $300 every year to be used on any product or service at your veterinary clinic.

To apply, see full rules of the program or if you want to make a difference in the lives of these brave animals, please visit: RIMADYLK9COURAGE.COM
Caplets/Chewable Tablets

For oral use only in dogs

Injelucayt® Injection - 20 mL vials 50 mg/mL

For subcutaneous use only in dogs

Non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory and antipyretic agent

Precautionary Information

CAUTION
Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Rimadyl be administered at the dose of 2 mg/lb (4.4 mg/kg) for maintenance therapy. This dose should be continued for as long as symptoms persist. For the most effective analgesia, Rimadyl caplets and -methyl-9H-carbazole-2-acetic acid. The empirical formula is C22H17N2O4. Anhydrous carprofen is a white, odorless, crystalline, tasteless powder. Carprofen is slightly soluble in water (1.3 mg/mL at 25°C). It is freely soluble in ethanol and chloroform, but insoluble in ether.

Rimadyl is a stable solution containing carprofen. Each mL of Rimadyl injectable contains 50 mg carprofen, 38.8 mg arginine, 18.5 mg glutathione, 18.3 mg threonine, 1.6 mg EDTA, 0.17 mg sodium, with additional water to volume. In dogs, Rimadyl is absorbed rapidly and completely following oral administration. Peak blood levels of carprofen are achieved in 1–3 hours after oral administration. Carprofen is 98% bound to plasma proteins in dogs. Carprofen is extensively metabolized by the hepatic microsomal enzymes and the major metabolites are carprofen-4-epi and carprofen-5,6-epoxide.

In the recommended dosage, Rimadyl is well tolerated and no serious clinical adverse reactions have been observed in the above-mentioned species. However, the treatment of patients with renal insufficiency should be approached with caution. Rimadyl is contraindicated in patients with a known sensitivity to carprofen or to any other component of the formulation.

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