Canine Elbow Dysplasia

Compensatory Movement Patterns

Canine Elbow Dysplasia is a degenerative condition affecting the elbow joints, common in large breed dogs, although smaller breeds can get it.

Because dogs carry 60% of their weight on their forelimbs, elbow dysplasia will have far-reaching effects on the entire body.



Look out for the following changes in your dog's posture:

- A mild lameness that comes and goes, and that might shift from one foreleg to the other.
- The hindlimbs placed more forward beneath the body.
- The forelimbs placed more backwards beneath the body.
- A lower centre of mass, with the chest dropping a little lower between the elbows.
- The head and neck held lower, appearing braced during movement.
- A slight arching of the lower back, with the pelvis rotating to allow the hindlimbs to step a little more beneath the body.
- The dog will appear to 'sink' closer to the ground, as the angles in the joints of the limbs become smaller or more acute.

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