HIP DYSPLASIA

What is happening?

-Loosely fitting hip joints cause stretching of the joint capsule and abnormal cartilage wear

-Inflammation and pain result from the altered joint mechanics and cartilage destruction

-Arthritis and reformation of the hip bones progress over time

Clinical signs you might notice in your pet

-Stiffness of the hind legs upon rising, particularly after long periods of rest

-Reluctance to climb stairs or jump

-Tiring easily with play

-Resting more than other dogs of similar age and breed

-"Clunking" noise when walking

-"Bunny hopping" to gain speed when trotting or running

Diagnosis

-Careful orthopedic examination to determine which joint(s) are affected

-Sedated examination to determine the degree of hip looseness and severity of cartilage damage (degenerative joint disease/arthritis)

-Precisely positioned x-rays are taken to document the degree of hip looseness and severity of bone reformation related to cartilage wear

Surgical treatment

-Depending on patient age and diagnostic findings, recommended surgical options may include:

-Rearrangement of the angle at which the components of the hip meet (triple pelvic osteotomy/TPO)-most commonly used for young dogs without significant cartilage wear (arthritis) or bony reformation

-Replacement of the components of the hip (total hip replacement)-most commonly used for older dogs or those with significant arthritis or bony reformation

-Alteration of the hip joint to prevent painful bone contact (femoral head and neck ostectomy/FHO)-most commonly used for smaller dogs

Special postoperative care

-If a triple pelvic osteotomy or total hip replacement was performed:

-Patient activity is strictly limited until adequate healing occurs, usually 6-12 weeks

-X-rays will be taken at specific intervals to evaluate healing at the surgery site

-If femoral head and neck ostectomy was performed, physical therapy will be initiated within several days of surgery, and is usually continued 4-8 weeks

Expected results after surgery

-If a triple pelvic osteotomy was performed, pain is generally relieved, limb use becomes more normal, and the patient does not develop significant hip arthritis

-If a total hip replacement was performed, pain is relieved, limb use becomes more normal, and arthritis is permanently relieved

-If a femoral head and neck ostectomy was performed, a mild limp will likely remain, but pain and arthritis are relieved



Normal canine hips



Bilateral hip displaysia