

## OSTEOARTHRITIS IN GREYHOUNDS



Osteoarthritis is a degenerative joint disease. It's a progressive inflammation caused by the breakdown of joint cartilage which usually acts as a cushion, allowing the joint to move through its natural range of motion. Osteoarthritis can develop in younger greyhounds due to their athletic history prior to retirement.

To minimise the risk of osteoarthritis, ensure your greyhound has regular veterinary checkups (especially as they age), maintain an active lifestyle and healthy weight, and have appropriate nutrition.

Early identification is key to ensure appropriate management is initiated to help keep your greyhound active and maintain a good quality of life.

### Common signs of osteoarthritis:

- Stiffness, lameness/limping, difficulty getting up particularly on cooler days
- Lethargy
- Reluctance to run, jump, use stairs or play
- Weight gain
- Irritability or changes in behaviour
- Pain when petted or touched
- Unusual licking or chewing over certain areas
- Difficulty posturing to toilet or having accidents
- Loss of muscle mass over limbs or spine
- Know your dog's normal, so you notice the abnormal!

Always consult your local vet if you think your greyhound may be showing signs of arthritis or you aren't sure. There are many treatment options available, and the vet will help tailor a program specifically for your greyhound.

