



# RIVERSIDE VETERINARY GROUP



Autumn 2017  
www.riversidevets.com

# NEWS



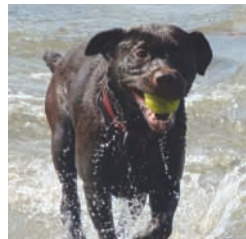
## Arthritis alert – is your pet affected?

**0% APR**  
Representative

**INTEREST FREE PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR YOUR PET'S TREATMENT**

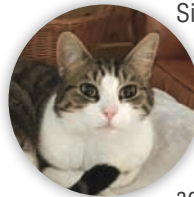


**Helping Pet Owners Help Their Pets**



As the weather cools down, signs of arthritis can become more noticeable in many pets. Arthritis is a painful and debilitating condition caused by inflammation and damage in the joints. It is more common in older pets, affects all species and breeds and can strike at any age.

The joints most susceptible to arthritis are those permitting limb movements – called synovial joints. The ends of the bones which meet at these joints are covered by smooth articular cartilage and the joints are lubricated by synovial fluid. Arthritis develops when the smooth cartilage that lines the joints becomes roughened and cracked. This can be due to general ageing but poor joint conformation, like hip dysplasia, will exacerbate issues and cause problems earlier in life.

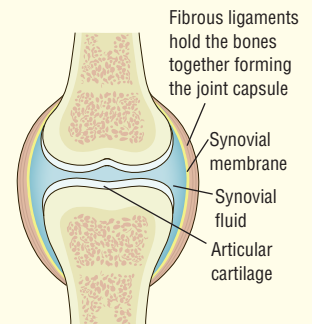


Signs of arthritis can be difficult to pick up on at first, particularly because our pets are great at hiding chronic pain and often changes such as resting or sleeping more, slowing down on walks or general grumpiness can be easily put down to 'old age'. Cats especially are absolute masters of disguise when it comes to arthritis and despite the fact that a huge 80% will suffer once they are older than twelve years, very few are actually on any treatment.

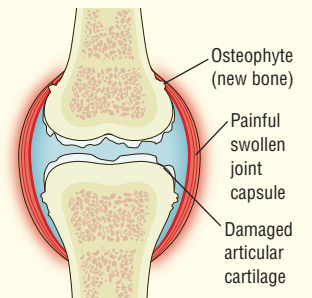
Arthritis is usually diagnosed with a combination of a clinical examination (looking for stiffness, pain and roughness in the joints), plus a history of changes compatible with the disease. X-rays can be helpful, confirming the degree of bone changes and allow assessment of the joints affected.

There are many different treatments for arthritis and as every patient and their joints are different, there is no set protocol to follow. Pain relieving medications are the mainstay for most pets and these are safe, effective and available in various formulations. Supplements can also be very helpful, as can physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and acupuncture. It is also vital to keep arthritic pets slim and fit, so their joints don't have too much weight to carry. If you think your dog or cat may be showing signs of arthritis, please come and see us for a check-up today!

### Joint Anatomy



Healthy synovial joint with smooth articular cartilage



Arthritic synovial joint with damaged articular cartilage



## Reminder!

Don't forget that it is now law in the whole of the UK to have your dog microchipped.

### Riverside Veterinary Group

**Save up to 40%**  
**Puppy & Kitten Starter Packs**



**Puppies**  
**£80**

Primary Vaccination Course  
Kennel Cough Vaccination  
General Health Check  
3 Months Flea & Worm Treatment  
Microchip  
Free Insurance for 4 weeks



**Kittens**  
**£70**

Primary Vaccination Course  
General Health Check  
3 Months Flea & Worm Treatment  
Microchip  
Free Insurance for 4 weeks

Terms and Conditions apply  
Please enquire at reception for full details

## We're sure about insurance, are you?

Are your pets insured? If not, it is definitely something worth considering and we would certainly recommend it! When looking for policies there are a few things to consider; some will offer 'lifetime' cover, which means they will pay for any on-going conditions for the lifetime of your pet, whereas others will have a time limit, usually twelve months, which means they will cover costs for that period and then exclude that problem from the policy. Others will set a limit on how much they will pay per condition (and this can include lifetime policies, so you need to read the small print!).

With appropriate pet insurance we can hopefully ensure that any treatment decisions are made on the basis of need rather than cost, so be sure to get your pets insured today!



Although we tend to think of traumatic emergencies (such as bone fractures) as the main reason for insurance, many *medical* conditions,

such as **heart disease** or **skin problems** can be very costly to treat – especially so if they are life-long conditions.

