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**Joint Problems In Animals: A Serious Problem**

**By Gabriel Adams**

People love their animals very much, so they try to take care of them the best that they know how.

They take them to the veterinarian at least yearly to get a checkup to see how they are doing. People also get their animals' healthy food, and different types of preventative medicine to help reduce the chances of diseases. Many people will also go the extra mile and make sure that their animal gets plenty of exercise to make sure their animal does not get obese. All of these different methods to keep your animal healthy are very good, but it does not seem to help one of the worst, most debilitating problems that occur with animals: joint problems.

Joint problems can be devastating for almost every animal alive. It seems that the constant up and down that animals go through on a daily basis wears out the joints in their legs which causes their mobility to decrease rapidly. This deterioration of the joints can lead to many other problems, including lack of appetite, loss of energy, a melancholy attitude, and sometimes even aggressiveness. The aggressiveness is caused by the pain that the animal is feeling. This pain will cause them to lash out if they are disturbed or put into too much pain from something that you are trying to do to them. Larger animals usually have more joint problems than smaller animals, but few animals are completely safe from joint problems.

My wife had a German Shepherd growing up, and later in the dog's life she started developing joint problems in her hind legs. These problems kept getting worse as she got older, and then ended up ruining her quality of life. Towards the end of her life she could barely get up and walk around. She had to be fed and had to have help drinking water as well. She lost almost all mobility, so during the summer we had to put a water mister near her to keep her cool. Eventually we had to have her put to sleep, because the pain she was in became too much for her to bear. Joint problems in animals are a very sad situation, so you should start working to prevent them when your dog is young.

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## **Uncover Ways To Prevent Your Dog From Unwanted Urination**

**By Jonathan Cheong**

Problems with inappropriate urination are some of the most commonly encountered by dog owners. As a matter of fact, inappropriate urination and defecation is the most frequently cited reason that owners surrender their animals to shelters.

Before you can address problems with inappropriate urination, it is important to understand the basis of the problem. There are several reasons why dogs lose control of their bladders, and it is important to know the root cause of the problem before it can be properly addressed.

### **Problem #1 - Excitement Urination**

Dogs often urinate when they become overly excited, and dogs that are otherwise perfectly housebroken sometimes show their excitement by dribbling urine when greeting you excitedly. It is normal for some dogs to urinate when they get excited, and this can be a particular problem for many older dogs.

A lot of excitement induced urination occurs in young puppies, and it is caused by a lack of bladder control. The puppy may not even know he is urinating, and punishment will simply confuse him. Becoming angry with the puppy will quickly cause excitement urination to morph into submissive urination, thus compounding the problem. As the puppy gets older and develops better bladder control, this type of excitement urination should disappear.

The best cure for excitement urination is prevention. Preventing your dog from becoming over excited is the best way to control this problem behavior. If your dog is excited by a particular stimulus or situation, it is important to repeatedly expose him to that situation until it no longer causes excessive excitement.

### **Problem #2 - Submissive Urination**

Submissive urination is a natural part of pack behavior among animals like dogs and wolves. The submissive member of the pack shows his or her submissiveness by lowering itself and urinating. Since dogs are pack animals, they may show their submissiveness to their owner, who they regard as the pack leader, by exhibiting this submissive urination.

Dogs who exhibit submissive urination are usually showing their insecurity. Unsocialized and previously abused dogs often exhibit submissive urination. These dogs need to be shown that there are more appropriate ways to express their submissive status, such as shaking hands or licking the owner's hand.

The best way to deal with submissive urination problems is often to ignore the urination. Trying to

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reassure the dog can give the mistaken impression that you approve of the behavior, while scolding the dog can make the submissive urination worse.

Correcting problems with submissive urination should be directed at building the dog's confidence and teaching him other ways to show his respect. Teaching the dog to lift his paw, sit on command, or similar obedience commands, is a great way to direct the dog's respect in a more appropriate direction.

Problems with urination are not always easy to deal with, but it is important to be consistent, and to always reward acceptable behavior on the part of the dog. When urination problems do occur, it is always a good idea to first rule out any medical conditions that could be causing those problems. Medical issues like bladder infections can be the root cause of problems with unwanted urination.

After any medical problems have been ruled out, it is important to determine what is causing the problem, and treat it appropriately. While it can be tempting to punish the dog for inappropriate elimination, doing so will only confuse and further intimidate him.

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