Degenerative Myelopathy & Physical Rehabilitation

Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) is a progressive, genetic, neurologic disease that commonly affects German Shepherd Dogs, Boxers and Corgis, but can occur in many other breeds. Symptoms arise slowly, almost imperceptibly at first, and can include:

- A wobbly hind end
- Hind end weakness
- Hind foot toe dragging/knuckling
- Low tail carriage

DM is not painful, but many dogs experience pain from compensating for a weak hind end. Although there is no cure, studies show that intensive, directed, physical activity can:

- Slow the progression of the disease
- Lengthen the time the dog remains ambulatory
- Relieve pain associated with compensatory movements
- Give the dog a better quality of life
- Extend the dog’s survival time up to three years

If your dog has DM, or if you need assistance in determining if he has this condition, Georgia Veterinary Rehabilitation, Fitness & Pain Management (GVR) can help. Certified Canine Rehab Therapist Evelyn Orenbuch, DVM, CAVCA has extensive experience working with DM. She and her team can provide you and your dog the support you need by:

- Creating a treatment plan at our state-of-the-art clinic including:
  - Underwater treadmill sessions
  - Stretching, balance work, and strengthening
  - Swimming in our SwimEx resistance pool
- Implementing pain management solutions such as:
  - Acupuncture (particularly electro-acupuncture)
  - Massage, cold laser therapy, chiropractic
  - Nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, and Chinese herbs
- Creating at-home exercise programs
- Recommending assistive equipment and diet options
Relieving Pain • Promoting Fitness • Improving Recovery

To learn more about GVR and how we can help your pet to live his or her best life, visit us on the web at www.GaVetRehab.com.

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