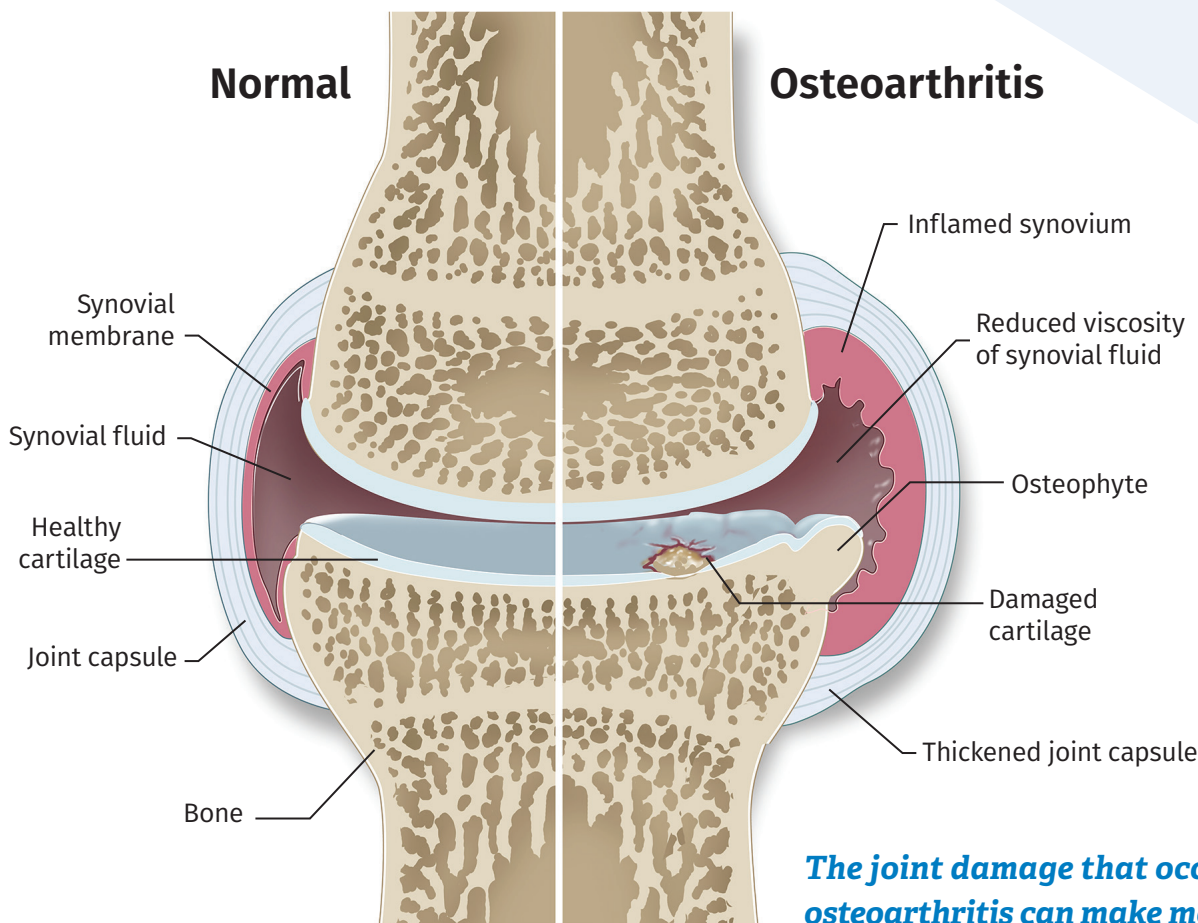


# UNDERSTANDING YOUR DOG'S OSTEOARTHRITIS

Osteoarthritis in dogs is more common than you'd think. It's estimated that one out of every five adult dogs suffers from this painful condition.<sup>1</sup>

**Here's what's happening in your dog's joints.**



***The joint damage that occurs due to osteoarthritis can make movement painful.***

**It is likely you have noticed one or more of these changes in your dog.**

- Stiffness
- Limping
- Loss of muscle mass and subsequent weakness
- Sensitivity to touch
- Difficulty getting up or lying down
- Inability to climb stairs or get into a vehicle
- Reluctance to participate in usual activities
- Slowing down
- Changing position frequently

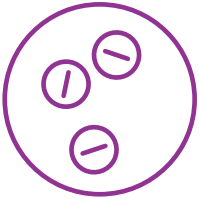


Pet's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pet's weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Recheck date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

# MANAGING YOUR DOG'S OSTEOARTHRITIS

Let's talk about the things we can do to help your dog feel better.



## Prescription Drugs

*Prescription medicine can help control the pain and inflammation associated with osteoarthritis.*

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## Other Medications

*Another group of medicines called chondroprotectants can improve joint lubrication and help repair damaged cartilage.*

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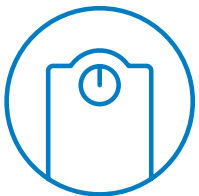
## Daily Exercise

*Even gentle activity helps keep joints limber and muscles strong and aids in maintaining a healthy weight.*

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## Weight Control

*Extra pounds mean extra stress on joints, so managing weight is an important way to keep joints healthy.*

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## Physical Therapy

*Rehabilitation can improve joint health, strengthen muscles, aid healing and relieve pain.*

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1. Johnston, S.A. 1997. "Joint anatomy, physiology and pathobiology." Vet. Clin. North Am. Small Anim. Pract. 274:699-723.

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