

Back Injuries

Increasingly, the Dachshund Club of Queensland is hearing stories from members about the veterinary costs being experienced when their dog has developed a back injury.

When a dog has a serious back injury it is a very distressing time for both the dog and the owner.

The dog is totally confused and distressed from pain and the loss of mobility and the owner is distressed and generally unsure what to do next.

The Dachshund Club has thoroughly researched back injuries and developed considerable knowledge that will help in the management and healing of back injuries.

It should be stated here that many dogs that lose mobility do so from not just back injuries. Other causes are IVDD (Intervertebral Disc Disease), Muscle strains and Arthritis.

However, in this article we will be concentrating on what to do if your dog has any type of back injury and how to quickly take action.

If your dog:-

Suddenly yelps, becomes wobbly in the back legs, starts trembling, arches it's back, has a tight/tense stomach, is panting and is reluctant to move then it is most likely it has burst a disc in its spine.

If this happens, time is of the essence. Get your dog to a Vet as quickly as possible. Many Vets are not as experienced in Dachshunds as we would like them to be so in many cases they will refer you to a Specialist Vet.

The Specialist Vet most likely will want to conduct surgery to relieve pressure from the spinal cord caused by the bulging disc.

This is a very expensive procedure which can cost between \$5000 and \$7000.

Although surgery can work well it has been found that surgery usually only works in most cases if it is conducted within 24 hours from when the injury occurred.

There is another way which has been found to work well for most Dachshunds.

When an injury occurs the first thing you should do is restrict your dog from all movement.

Put your dog in a crate.

Take it to a Vet as quickly as possible.

If your Vet agrees that your dog has burst a disc, ask your Vet to prescribe a steroid such as Prednisolone which will start to reduce the inflammation at the site of the injury. If your dog has deep pain feeling in its back legs then a NSAID such as Metacam maybe sufficient.

Ask your Vet to prescribe a pain killer such as Tramadol. This will help your dog with reducing pain and stress. This treatment is usually prescribed for at least 6 to 8 weeks duration.

Now the work begins.

Keep your dog crated for the next two to three months. This will depend on the severity of the injury.

Feed your dog only small amounts three times a day. Give plenty of water.

www.ivdd.org.au

Disclaimer

This information is presented for educational purposes and as a resource for the Australian Dachshund Community. Dachshund IVDD Support Australia Inc (DISA) and its representatives are not veterinarians or health care professional and nothing herein should be interpreted as medical advice. All owners should contact their pet care professionals for advice.

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Carry your dog outside three times a day for toilet functions. Depending on whether it has normal bladder and bowel functions you may have to help by expressing its bladder etc. Start a course of Vitamin C such as Rose Hip Vital Canine Powder or Ester C introduced in meals.

We have found that Rose Hip is very effective with healing back injuries and Arthritis. Once your dog comes out of the crate many other types of treatment can be introduced such as Hydrobaths, Acupuncture, short walks (dog wheelchairs are also sometimes used to support the back legs) and regular crate rest.

Avoid letting your dog jump on beds, furniture and your lap.

Recovery can take a long time so be patient and don't give up hope. Most Dachshunds will recover from back injuries with care and love.

***Dachshund Health Committee
Dachshund Club of Queensland Inc***

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