



Pound Road Veterinary Clinic



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ARTHRITIS

By Dr Philip McConachy

In my opinion, arthritis detracts from quality of life for old dogs and cats more than anything else. Interestingly, its probably the least recognised and treated condition, particularly in cats. This is because it often comes on very slowly and we expect dogs and cats to slow down as they get old. Cats also spend much of their time sleeping. Clients are often amazed at how much more vitality their pets have once anything is treated. Its like their 7 or 8 years younger.

Many people with arthritis are prescribed non steroidal anti-inflammatory tablets. These usually help to relieve the pain, but can also cause some very serious side affects such as gastric ulceration and kidney disease. The same applies with cats and dogs.

Hence, I use these very sparingly. Vets are very lucky that we have access to a very safe and very effective drug called Cartrophen for over twenty years and have generally been pleased with the results.

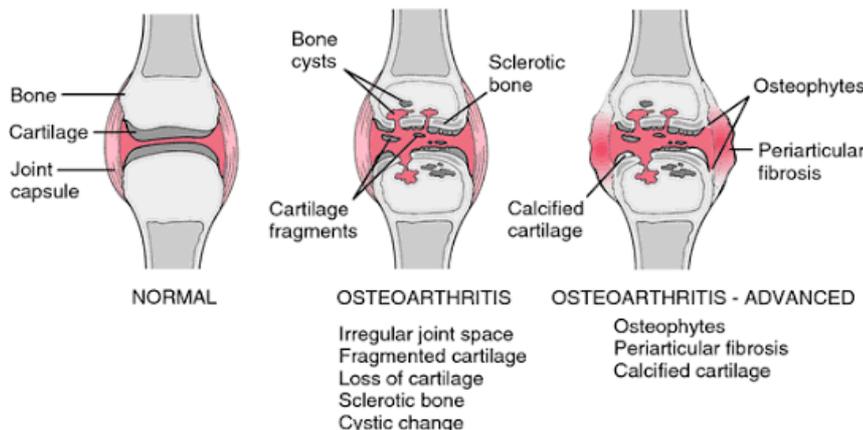
Cartrophen doesn't just alleviate the symptoms of arthritis like non steroidal anti-inflammatories. Cartrophen acts directly on improving joint health by improving blood flow to joints, stimulating cartilage and joint fluid production and slowing destruction of cartilage.

We rarely see side affects with Cartrophen, and symptomatic relief is comparable to that of the non steroidal. Cartrophen is also often cheaper in the long run than non steroidal.

Recently, a more purified versions of Cartrophen has become available called Zydax. While a little more expensive, all reports are that Zydax is significantly more effective. While we will continue to offer Cartrophen, we are now also offering Zydax for dogs. Unfortunately, at this stage Zydax and Cartrophen are not registered for use in cats.

We also have a range of naturopathic treatments for arthritis in dog and cats. We have also had good results with these, particularly when used in conjunction with Cartrophen.

If you have noticed that your ageing dogs and cats has lost its zest for life, don't assume its just old age. Book in for an appointment with one of our vets today.



Cartrophen
VET

Above image from: <https://petcaresprays.wordpress.com/2014/12/24/sneaky-causes-of-joint-and-arthritis-pain-in-older-cats-and-dogs/>

