



ABOUT THE DISEASE

Panosteitis is a specific painful bone condition in growing large-breed canine patients generally between the ages of 5-18 months. Males are more predisposed than females, but females seem to be afflicted near the first heat cycle.

This condition should not be confused with hypertrophic osteodystrophy. While this condition can cause painful joints in growing animals, the cause of **panosteitis** is well understood. This condition is more consistent with growing pains.

Most dogs have lameness for a period of two to three weeks, but no longer than five weeks on a particular limb. The lameness frequently shifts from one limb to another.

Repeated episodes of **panosteitis** occur until the dog is two years of age. The affected bone is painful upon direct palpation. In rare cases fever, tonsillitis, loss of appetite, weight loss, and an elevated white blood cell count may be seen.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Physical examination with a veterinarian and a thorough clinical history is highly suggestive for **panosteitis**.

Radiographs (X-rays) of the affected bone will not typically show any abnormalities in the early course of the disease. After 1-2 weeks the bone will sometimes show patchy white densities within the bone marrow cavity, periosteal (formation of new bone) reaction, and endosteal (resorption of bone) reaction.

Within a few months, the appearance of the bone on radiographs returns to normal again.

TREATMENT

Panosteitis is a condition that will resolve without any specific treatment and carries a good prognosis.

Rarely will this condition cause any permanent side effects to the patient.

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications and pain medications are often required for short-term management.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- This disease is traditionally similar to “growing pains.”
- If lameness persists longer than five weeks, **panosteitis** is not a likely diagnosis.