



ABOUT THE DISEASE

Swimmer's tail, *limber tail* or *rubber tail* are all terms that apply to a condition known as *acute caudal myopathy*. This condition results from overuse of the tail, causing trauma to the bony vertebrae of the tail or the surrounding muscles and ligaments.

Patients may be unable to use their tail, hanging without a wag as it has difficulty rising. Patients are usually painful while sitting. Sometimes patients will not eat or become reluctant to defecate.

Possible scenarios causing this condition include hard or vigorous play within the previous 24 hours, swimming in cold water, or active hunting within the past few days. Patients may appear normal immediately following activity but will develop pain within 24 hours.

Working dogs and active hunting dogs appear to be at the greatest risk for developing this condition.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

A diagnosis is typically obtained from physical examination and a thorough clinical history.

TREATMENT

There are no home remedies for this condition.

Patients typically require a combination of anti-inflammatory and pain medications.

Most dogs are back to normal within a few days to a week.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Typically, an easy condition to diagnose and treat, seek early evaluation to minimize patient suffering.