



Down Under Dog

Australian perspective on the care and love of dogs.

By C.D. (Kim) McKellar, B.V.Sc.

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New herbal formula, dog-gone effective!

Throughout my 30 years of veterinary practice in Australia, one of the most common conditions I've seen is dogs and horses suffering from arthritis.

This isn't surprising considering that dog racing and thoroughbred horse racing are huge industries here, and the joints of these animals take a pounding. In Australia, 20% of all jobs are linked to the horse industry, making it the third largest industry.

And Australia (where 68% of households have a dog) also uses dogs for mustering cattle and sheep. These working dogs often develop joint problems and suffer injuries that lead to arthritis, even at young ages. But arthritis is not just a problem for dogs in Australia.

In America, it is estimated that 25-30% of all dogs-as many as 15 million-will suffer the agonizing and crippling pain of arthritis during their lifetimes. Large breeds are particularly susceptible but dogs of any breed, age, or size can develop arthritis. The effects of arthritis are devastating to a dog. There is a slow and steady breakdown of the dog's cartilage (a spongy substance on the ends of the bones that form the joints). This cartilage is the cushion in the dog's elbow, hip, knee, ankle, and shoulder joints that gives dogs the mobility to run, jump, and play. As this cartilage begins to wash away, there is nothing left to keep the bones from rubbing and grinding against each other, causing excruciating pain.



C.D. (Kim) McKellar, B.V.Sc.

Dr. Kim McKellar has recently retired from full time practice and now consults in veterinary and medical research and attends to his large equine and sheep farm at Ballarat, Victoria and the care of his many family and farm dogs.

What Are Some Of The Major Changes A Dog With Arthritis Goes Through?

Dogs in the early stages of arthritis will often show signs of stiffness when they walk or get up. The pain may be mild and movement in the joints may be reduced by about 20%. As the disease progresses, a dog may lose as much as 50% or more of its range of movement in its joints. Due to severe pain, they will do almost anything to avoid moving. And the less they move, the more chance there is for obesity.

This puts even more pressure on painful arthritic joints and the lack of movement can weaken the muscles that surround the joint. In addition to physical changes, dogs go through a wide range of behavior changes. They may begin to withdraw from the family, hiding in a corner or some out of the way place. Dogs with hip dysplasia, an inherited form of arthritis, may become constipated because they find it too painful to even squat down. Some dogs may soil the carpet rather than get up and ask to go outside. A dog may also exhibit signs of depression and seem sluggish.



They lose interest in going for a walk, jumping in the car, or running after a ball. Other dogs will cry, groan, or whimper when they move. But one of the more frightening changes for a dog owner is when they notice their dog becoming more aggressive. Snapping or even biting may become a problem simply because the intense pain is making the dog ornery.

DGP is now available in the U.S. through American BioSciences, and they have sent me some of the reports they have received from dog owners and vets.

“ I want to thank you for giving Heidi, my 13 year-old Shepherd mix, a new lease on life with DGP. She was having an increasingly difficult time getting up and when she walked her hind legs seemed to be "locked up", so she would kind of shuffle them. She looked so unhappy and in pain, I thought her days were numbered. In less than a week using DGP I noticed a tremendous difference in her ability to move around freely. She started to go for an evening walk with me again, and even chases after the Peacocks. She's showing the old spirit that I love and I am extremely grateful. DGP has turned her life around.”

Jeanne P, Florida

“ I have been using DGP in my clinic for the last couple of months, and I wanted you to know how impressed I am. I've had clients call me back to say they have a "new dog." One client said he either needed to stop giving DGP or start taking it himself so he could keep up on their walks.

My 11 year old Golden Retriever is a good example. She has had hip dysplasia for years, but since stopping her other meds and switching her to DGP, she's able to jump into the back of my Jeep, something she hasn't done for over a year. Hats off to the herbalists and vets that put this formula together.”

Gary V., DVM, Iowa

“ Everything I've read about DGP is coming true for my two dogs. I had been especially concerned about Kincaid, our 7 year old shepherd. He had hip surgery, but now the hip has atrophied, and the other side is riddled with arthritis and really crunches when you move it. He always had a hang-dog look on his face and you could see the pain in his eyes. The vet had him on several pills, but nothing seemed to work, so we were considering putting him down. On DGP, as your literature stated, I noticed the little things first, a happier face, less groaning when he moved about, more sociability, able to recover from playing faster and playing longer and longer.

I always thought our 8 year old mix breed, Sneaker had only minor arthritis, but when I put her on DGP, I found she spent much less time asleep under the bed, and more time in the living room with the family and outside playing. I never thought I'd be playing and rough housing with these dogs again. Thanks for giving me my puppies back again, two big wet dog kisses and a hug from me.”

Jan C., Ohio

Dogs that were once friendly will not want to be touched by anyone - including family members they know, trust, and love.

Something Had To Be Done To Help Our Four Legged Friends

I love animals, especially Labrador dogs (I've had Labradors for over 35 years). In my opinion, nothing beats the companionship of a happy, healthy, full of vigor dog. They give their love freely, they are best friends, and all the dogs I've had



over the years were like children to me. That's why my life has been dedicated to helping animals stay healthy, and regain their health when they're sick or injured. I can't bear to see any animal suffer. In my practice, I've treated many top thorough-bred racehorses, racing greyhounds, working dogs, and family pets with surgical, and medical treatment techniques that I pioneered.

Unfortunately, often these animals don't respond to conventional rehabilitation, surgery, and drug therapies (which can be quite expensive). And especially with drugs, though they can be effective in relieving pain, I have often been concerned by the severe and dangerous side effects many dogs experience on arthritis drugs. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen, aspirin, and Rimadyl can cause liver and kidney problems, gastrointestinal bleeding, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, nausea, and cramps. And steroidal drugs like cortisone and prednisone can weaken the immune system, lead to diabetes and hypertension, and even make bones thinner and weaker.

That's why I became interested in the various natural compounds called nutraceuticals.

(A nutraceutical is a food containing naturally occurring substances and having medicinal benefit.) One such compound I've conducted clinical trials on has shown great promise in treating racehorses with joint injuries. Many of these horses were able to return to competitive racing after having been side-lined with persistent joint injuries.

Considering the excellent results I was seeing, I wanted to find out if the formula could be adapted to help dogs,

especially my beloved dog Tom, a 13-year-old black lab in failing health. Tom was visibly in pain, had difficulty getting up from the floor, and had lost interest in his surroundings. He had withdrawn from my family and me and we dearly missed his company. I contacted the herbalist and university researchers who developed the horse formula to see if they could modify it, specifically for the needs of old dogs like Tom. They tweaked the formula, and as you'll see in a moment, the results have been remarkable.

Nothing Is As Effective As This.

This new product, called DGP (Dog-Gone Pain), has been rigorously tested for more than three years (with some of the top veterinarians in Australia involved in the tests). I have personally spent the past 18 months testing the product. In 30 years of veterinary practice, I've never seen anything as effective as DGP in helping dogs that have arthritis, joint instability, hip dysplasia, and joint injuries. And it doesn't matter if the dogs are suffering from arthritis because of old age, or if they are young dogs who have suffered an injury or have joint problems because of poor genetics. **The best part about DGP is that it has proved to be free from unwanted side effects even after 18 months of use.**

DGP contains a unique blend of herbs (many found nowhere else on Earth but Australia):

- * (Boswellia serrata) * Bromelain (Ananas comosus)
- * Cayenne (Capsicum frutescens)
- * Celery seed (Apium graveolens)
- * Corydalis root (Corydalis turtschaninovii)
- * Feverfew (Tanacetum parthenium)
- * Papain (Carica papaya)
- * Turmeric (Curcuma longa)
- * Wheat grass (Triticum aestivum)
- * Proprietary Blend of Native Australian Herbs.

And it contains an organically processed form of shark cartilage (the only one produced without the use of toxic solvents). These components work together to reduce inflammation, support immune system health, and they contain enzymes needed for the repair and growth of cartilage and connective tissue.

My dog Tom became the first test subject for this new formula. Within just a few days, he showed improvement.

And within two weeks, he was back to his regular schedule,

When the mobility of a dog is limited by age or injury, it affects their entire physiology. DGP's unique formula takes this into account by combining natural ingredients that support joint function, with compounds that support peak gastrointestinal, immune and nervous system health.

Feverfew been used in herbal medicine since the time of the ancient Greeks to calm hysteria, control inflammation and reduce pain, particularly migraine headaches.

Celery Seed is used widely in food and herbal medicine where it is used for rheumatism, arthritis, gout, fluid retention, and to calm digestion and stimulate appetite. Research shows it provides potent anti-inflammatory effects, reduces uric acid in the blood and aids liver function by protecting liver cells from chemical toxins and lowering cholesterol.

Boswellia serrata, also known as Frankincense, has long been used in European and Indian herbal medicine as an anti-inflammatory and analgesic. Recent research shows benefits in osteo and rheumatoid arthritis, asthma and ulcerative colitis. Bromelain is a mixture of protein-digesting enzymes made from pineapple. It is useful for digestive disorders and a wide range of conditions associated with inflammation caused by infection or injury.

Papain is a protein digesting enzyme derived from the milky sap of unripe papaya. It is cultivated in Australia and tropical regions throughout the world and used in cooking as a meat tenderizer and an herbal treatment to aid digestion, combat intestinal parasites.

Corydalis Root is used in traditional medicine as a tonic for the circulatory system, and for its pain relieving and calming effects. Modern research has shown it provides benefits for heart arrhythmia, nerve and headache pain and insomnia without sedative like side effects.

Cayenne is red-pepper used commonly in many of the world's culinary and medicinal traditions. Studies show benefits associated with gastrointestinal health, thermoregulation and nutritional uptake.

Wheatgrass is common wheat harvested in the sprouting stage. It is a concentrated food source, rich in chlorophyll, amylase, lipase, superoxide dismutase and other enzymes, iron, calcium, magnesium, potassium and more than 80 minerals, 18 amino acids, beta carotene and many vitamins.

Turmeric, has long been used as a spice and medicinal herb as a digestive aid, for fever, infection dysentery, arthritis, jaundice, liver and gall bladder problems. Modern research has demonstrated hepatoprotective, anti-inflammatory, anti-carcinogenic, and antimicrobial properties.

Shark cartilage is an excellent dietary source of chondroitin sulfate and other glycoaminoglycans that rebuild cartilage, and calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, zinc and other bone building minerals.

accompanying me on my extensive walks across large farms, as I monitored and treated horses.

Millions Of Dogs Could Benefit

Since my experience with Tom, I have witnessed-and kept notes on-the powerful effects of DGP on countless numbers of dogs.*

Kerrie, a 7-year-old cross-breed, tall, lean, active type of dog which would naturally spend a large part of the day hunting, particularly kangaroos. Developed an uneven gait behind and stopped its hunting and became inactive. On examination, there was pain on manipulation, flexion, extension, and abduction of the hip joint, radiographs show a shallow acetabulum and signs of osteoarthritis typical of hip dysplasia and a progressive chronic arthritis.

*After 5 days of DGP, the dog's gait was balanced and no lameness visible at the trot. It resumed its hunting activity; manipulation tests of the hip joint showed it was pain free. The dog has now been on DGP for three months without adverse side effects.**

As mentioned, my dog **Tom, a 13-year-old overweight Labrador** who had spondylosis (bridging) of the spinal vertebra lumbar 5 through lumbar 7, and chronic arthritis in both elbows. He has trouble getting onto his feet due to back pain and is reclusive in nature and spends his time under a tree watching the traffic go past and basically contributes nothing to the family. There is pain on extension of the elbow joints, and he will become aggressive when the joints are manipulated.

*On DGP he rejoined the family and physically greets all arrivals to the property, bounces and wags his welcome. Capable of walking and keen and willing to join a walk, in fact he has become a young dog again. He has been on the product for 18 months without side effects. He relapses after 48 hours of no treatment and literally becomes a wreck.**

Edward, a 6-year-old Labrador with OCD (osteocondritis dessicans) and resultant arthritis in both elbows and arthritis in the right fore carpus. Following excessive exercise he is quite painful in the elbows and carpus and obviously lame and it takes him 48 hours to recover. During this period he refuses exercise as the pain is too severe.

*On DGP he is active, happy, and thrives on exercise. He has no pain on the elbow and carpal manipulation and, in fact, appears a normal happy dog. Edward has been on DGP for 18 months and shows no side effects.**

Important Notice: If your dog is already on medication, discuss DGP with your vet before using. The enzymes it contains have the potential for altering the rate of absorption of medications, such as antibiotics, anticoagulants, and NSAIDs (Non Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drugs). Also, several of the ingredients have anti-inflammatory properties that could possibly enhance the blood thinning properties of anticoagulant drugs.

Patch, a small terrier cross, 8 years old, with spondylosis of the spine and bilateral stifle (the true knee) arthritis. Moves with chronic pain and very selective in what movements he makes. Unable to run or climb into his basket, which is 6 inches high. Rejects any exercise and can be aggressive if accidentally knocked or handled roughly, obviously this magnifies the pain level. The dog has opted out of the family life.

On DGP, Patch can now climb into the basket unaided and is playing ball games with the children. He has reverted to the young dog game of chasing the chickens out of the yard, which he hasn't done for the past 3 years. The owner indicated that when the DGP was withdrawn the dog reversed back to his pre-treatment state and she seriously considered euthanasia after a child was bitten. The dog is back on treatment now and back in a happy state.

Works Fast.

One of the best things I have found about DGP is that it works quickly. Most dogs who take the proper dose (one tablet per 30 lbs of weight) show dramatic improvement in mobility within one to two weeks. I have also noticed that their attitudes are greatly improved, they seem happier, and they often start to act with the energy of puppies again.

Fortunately, DGP is safe, natural, affordable, easy to feed, and the dog feels good enough to be an active member of the family again.

I have been told that DGP will soon be available worldwide.

It is first being marketed in the U.S. by American BioSciences, Inc, a company with an excellent reputation in the dietary supplement field. They are planning to make it available through veterinarians and pet supply retailers.



Dr. McKellar is one of Australia's most widely respected veterinarians and offers his perspective on the love and care of dogs through this periodic newsletter. Please email your comments and questions to Downunderdogau@aol.com