

NUTRACEUTICALS

In recent years we have seen an incredible amount of research and development into canine 'nutraceuticals' for joint support. Nutraceuticals are foods, or parts of foods, including supplements, which can provide medicinal or health benefits including prevention and treatment of disease.

There are various products on the market available to aid with joint repair or management of damaged joints.

The most common conditions requiring this kind of support are

- ❖ **HIP DYSPLASIA** - a common problem in large breeds such as German Shepherds and Labradors resulting in deformation of the hip joint causing pain and lameness
- ❖ **OSTEOARTHRITIS** - a degenerative process of articular cartilage caused by trauma or 'wear and tear' to joints. Animals may appear lame and painful with inflammation in the affected joint/s.

Two of the main ingredients found in nutraceutical products are *GLUCOSAMINE* and *CHONDROITIN*. Glucosamine acts as a building block - stimulating production of cartilage and joint fluid, preventing joint thinning and improving mobility. Chondroitin provides the shock absorbing properties of the joint - reducing cartilage destruction and preventing joint space narrowing as well as improving mobility.

Nutraceuticals are natural products, which cause no known side effects. They can be used in conjunction with many anti-inflammatory drugs which may have already been prescribed by the vet. Usually, use of these products results in lower doses of anti-inflammatory drug requirement.

Dogs require much higher doses of Glucosamine and Chondroitin than humans for treatment to be successful. Please contact the surgery for details on our range of products, they come in various forms most of which are palatable and are now available for cats too.