Hip Dysplasia is the mother of all orthopedic diseases and the most common cause of hip pain in dogs. This inherited condition occurs when the hip joint is improperly formed. This malformation allows the hip joint to sit loosely in the socket, and as the dog’s leg bone shifts around, it causes painful wear and tear on the joint.

**What Breeds get Hip Dysplasia?**

**Breed Commonly Affected:**
- Saint Bernard
- Great Dane
- Rottweiler
- German Shepherd

70% of breeds affected

Affects small breeds too

**Symptoms**
- Decreased Activity
- Difficulty Standing Up
- “Bunny Hopping” Gait
- Hip Pain & Sensitivity
- Inability to Jump or Climb Stairs

**Progression:**

**NO PAIN**
- Ball of hip joint fits snugly inside socket

**MILD**
- Space between ball and socket of hip increases
- Abnormal posture

**MODERATE**
- Space increase is greater
- Arthritis is evident
- Moderate pain
- Mild lameness when walking

**SEVERE**
- Ball and socket are completely separated
- Dog may be unable to walk or only with great difficulty
- May require surgery

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**Walkin’ Pets**

by handicappedpets.com

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HIP DYSPLASIA INTERVENTION

Maintain a Healthy Lifestyle

- Balanced Nutrition
- Daily joint supplements
- Keep your dog at a healthy weight

Assistive Equipment

- Rear support leash to assist up stairs and quick potty breaks
- Rear harnesses and slings provide lifting support
- A dog wheelchair keeps pets active and reduces stress and weight on hips

Holistic Care

- Physical therapy to improve overall movement, and increase strength and flexibility
- Laser Therapy to relieve pain and accelerate healing
- Massage and Passive exercise, like stretching

Hip Brace

- Alleviates hip pain by combining compression & lift
- Supports hip joint to keep pets active
- Customize hip support with optional attachments

BENEFITS OF A DOG HIP BRACE

For ambulatory pets, a hip brace can be beneficial and work nicely for a large range of dogs. Supporting the hip joint eases discomfort and pain, while offering additional support that makes it easier for a dog with bad hips to move.

HOW IT WORKS:
The hip brace supports the joint and provide a feeling of “lift” along with compression the brace helps to alleviate hip pain. Hip braces are appropriate for any active dog suffering from arthritis, mild to moderate hip dysplasia, or for dogs showing signs of hip pain. Supporting a dog’s hip joint decreases pain and provides the stability needed to maintain an active lifestyle. A hip support system can be incorporated into a pet’s rehab exercises and plays a pivotal role in a pet’s conservative management plan.