



## CANINE HIP DYSPLASIA (CHD)

### WHAT IS IT?

- CHD is a laxity of the hip joint that occurs most commonly in rapidly growing, large breed dogs but also may occur in small breeds.
- Joint laxity results in cartilage degeneration and the formation of osteoarthritis and loss of muscle mass, range of motion and limb function.
- CHD occurs due to a combination of genetic and environmental factors.
  - a) Genetic factors — polygenic (*multiple*) factors involved
  - b) Environmental factors — growth rate, activity levels, pelvic muscle mass
- CHD may manifest itself clinically in either young (*less than 1 year*) or adult (*>12months*) dogs. In young dogs, lameness associated with CHD is attributable to abnormal biomechanics (*joint laxity*); as a dog ages, lameness is attributable to arthritis.
- Clinical signs (*symptoms*) include abnormal or bunny hopping gait in young dogs, and difficulty rising, exercise intolerance, or hip pain in any age dog.



Normal Hip



Hip Dysplasia

### WHAT TO DO

#### TREATMENT

- The best method of treatment depends on your pet's age and the amount of arthritis present.
- In young dogs, typically less than 1 year of age and before the onset of arthritis, surgery may be performed to improve biomechanics and help prevent or slow the progression of arthritis.
- **Young Dogs** (*16 weeks to about 12 months*)
  - a) Juvenile Pubic Symphysiodesis (**JPS**)
    - must be performed before 20 weeks of age
  - b) Triple Pelvic Osteotomy (**TPO**)
    - limited to patients with mild laxity and minimal to no radiographic (*X-Ray*) evidence of arthritis
- In dogs that are greater than about 1 year of age, have severe hip laxity, or that already have evidence of arthritis, CHD may be treated either medically (*nonsurgically*) or surgically. There are many dogs with CHD that are not necessarily symptomatic and may not require any treatment.
- Of those dogs that are symptomatic, often medical therapy is effective at alleviating clinical signs of pain and lameness associated with arthritis. Weight loss, dietary management, medications, and activity modification are instituted in all patients before surgery is recommended.
- Of those that do not respond favorably to medical therapy, surgery may be of benefit.

#### **Adult Dogs** (*> 12 months*)

- a) Femoral Head and Neck Osteotomy (**FHO**)
- b) Total Hip Replacement (**THR**)

*\*\* Either FHO or THR can be performed in almost any age dog that is otherwise healthy.*