

A STUDY INTO COMMON GROOMING ISSUES - FRONT LEG SENSITIVITIES

A summary of the information gathered in the survey created for canine therapists. 10 people responded to the survey.

PAIN

100% said cruciate ligament damage was the most common injury they see in dogs



100%



said the length of a dogs nails has an impact on their joints

88% see only 1-10 dogs with shoulder issues



60% feel majority of dogs have undiagnosed pain

70%

Felt it was easy for a professional to identify pain, but difficult for guardians

60%

Said it was common for dogs to experience tightness in the neck area in comparison to the lower back

What do you feel has the biggest impact on muscular tension and injury?

Poorly fitting harnesses

50%

Ball throwing

80%

Genetics

80%

Improper handling techniques

40%

Jumping on furniture/into cars

60%

Laminate/tiled flooring

100%

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EDUCATION

100%

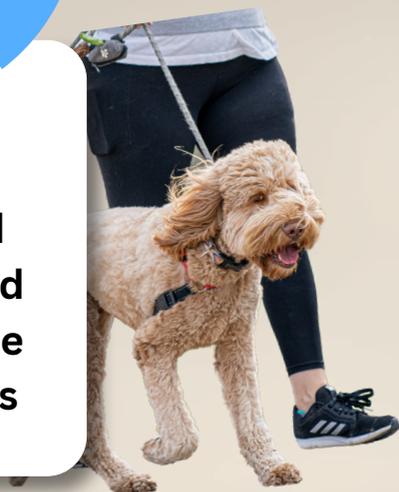
felt groomers weren't given sufficient training for handling a dogs joints and often handled them incorrectly

99%

felt there wasn't enough taught about body handling in puppy classes

90%

Felt that guardians did not understand the importance of gait analysis



In your professional opinion, what do you feel is the main reason dogs don't like having their front legs handled?

Incorrect handling

60%

Pain and injury

30%

Genetic instinct

10%

“

77% said canine conditioning exercises are extremely important, the remaining answered fairly important

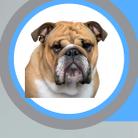
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IS THERE A PARTICULAR BREED YOU THINK STRUGGLES MORE WITH THEIR FRONT LEGS BEING HANDLED?

-  Spaniels
-  Labradors
-  Bulldogs
-  Frenchies
-  Border collies
-  German shepherds

Although these breeds were mentioned, majority felt it was more related to conformation or medical problems



Achondroplastic dogs

a developmental abnormality affecting bone and cartilage.



Elbow/shoulder dysplasia

a developmental abnormality affecting the joints. Common in labradors and spaniels



Brachycephalic dogs

dog breeds with shortened snouts and flat faces.



Bowed legged dogs

a developmental abnormality in which the legs are curved or bowed instead of being usually straight

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IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL OPINION, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE RESTRAINTS USED IN A GROOMING ENVIRONMENT?

“So inhumane and can cause damage from posture being held for prolonged period and extended periods of weight bearing eg in older dogs. Unethical from behavioural perspective too”

“Shouldn't be done. If you cannot work with a dog without restraining then you shouldn't work with the dog. (Something to have a hand on is fine I'm specifically talking about actual restraints such as chest/stomach loops, short leads keeping a head up, muzzles”

“They can be useful aids for groomers. Sometimes overused in older pets who struggle standing so are "helped" with belly bands. Can leave quite tired”

“The noose can cause strain on the neck muscles and throat possibly interfering with the hyoid. They could be thicker to even out the pressure”



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“ [I] do not agree with hammocks, neck nooses etc. I feel that use of restraint equipment is often likely to cause discomfort to a dog which has musculoskeletal issues. I appreciate most dogs have not been conditioned to accept grooming in a restraint free style but this would be the ideal, with consent based grooming and cooperative care”

“ Not perfect, but so is handling by the owners (very often) ”

“ Suitable for some dogs, unsuitable for others e.g. nooses or slings may be appropriate for restraint but in those with injuries, especially spinal, would be of concern”

“ I think that some restraints are necessary for the job but they could be more sympathetic if used correctly and breaks allowed the are less likely to cause issues”

