

# The paralyzed dog

## Useful information & assistance



Protección animal - Paraíso para perros discapacitados in cooperation with Rollin'Dogs and Pawsthesi (3D 4 Paws)

Even a paralyzed dog can have a full, long, happy life, provided you pay attention to a few things and support him appropriately in everyday life. With the following chapters we want to better introduce owners and interested parties to the topic and provide assistance with one or another topic.

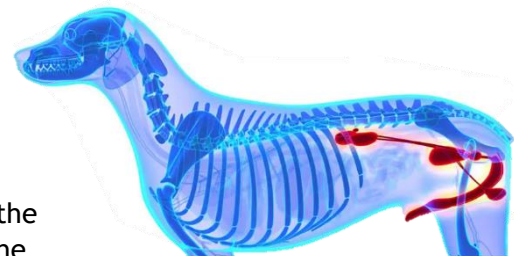
## Bladder management

Unfortunately, bladder management is still massively underestimated, but it is THE crucial issue in ensuring a pain-free, healthy and long life for a paralyzed dog. The sooner it begins after the paralysis appears, the better the prognosis for the bladder, kidneys and urinary tract.

### Why?

In most cases of paralysis with changes to the spinal system, the bladder nerves and thus the conscious release of urine and feces are also affected. You often get the statement "he pees alone," which is actually not true because it results in the symptoms of a so-called overflow bladder. You imagine a glass of water that keeps being filled.

What happens sooner or later? It's overflowing. This is exactly what happens with the bladder, because the sphincter cannot withstand the resulting pressure.



### What problems does this cause?

In addition to the overflow, there is also increased pressure in the other direction and some of the urine is pushed back towards the kidneys. This permanently poisons the kidneys and destroys the kidney cells. A dog cannot regenerate its kidneys, which means the body continues to poison and the dog dies sooner or later.

In the meantime, the bladder will enlarge enormously, the urine that is permanently present in the bladder leads to a change in the PH value and thus to bladder infections and stones such as struvite, which can also lead to a blockage of the urethra, especially in male dogs, which is often corrected surgically must become.

### Necessary measurements

In order to avoid the side effects of paralysis described above, it is important to manually express the dog's bladder at least 3 times a day. There are various methods and techniques for this that your veterinarian or a well-trained physical therapist can show you. Please don't forget to clean the dog in this context to avoid smear infections.

Paralyzed dogs should generally not lay in the cold and should be dried quickly and completely after washing/bathing/swimming.

## Diapers

Since most paralyzed dogs lose urine during the day despite being expressed regularly it is recommended to use diapers, to ensure hygiene in the house and to protect the skin - urine is corrosive and, if it comes into constant contact with the skin, leads to irritation, redness, inflammation, blistering and, in the worst case, decubitus (open wounds). As with baby hygiene, there are various options

### Disposable diapers & diaper pants

One option is to use disposable diapers. Here we recommend using conventional baby diapers, because the dog diapers available on the market are very expensive and their tail hole is much too large, so that some of the excretions can escape.

#### Female Dogs

Simply cut a slit for the tail at the fold of the baby diapers and then put the diaper on so that it is closed at the back..

#### Male Dogs

Since the diapers are often not long enough and the penis would not be wrapped in the normal wrapping method, the male dog is put in two diapers. One first without a slit like a belt around the stomach, closed at the top with both adhesive strips and then a diaper for the bottom on top, see above.

It is advisable to put a cloth male bandage over the diapers for male dogs and cloth incontinence pants over the disposable diapers for female dogs so that the diapers do not slip during everyday movement.

#### Sensitive groin area

Some dogs have very sensitive skin in the groin area and would become sore from prolonged diaper use. This can be prevented by padding this area with simple panty liners or halved bandages. These are simply "clamped" between the skin and the diaper. Another option is to cut the elastic band slightly in two places to reduce the tension.

### Washable dapers

A more ecological option, but one that requires a little more work, is to use washable diapers. Instead of disposable diapers, cotton or bamboo inserts are placed in the cloth diapers to absorb the urine. To make it easier to separate the feces from the fabric, there are very thin paper-like inserts on the washables, which can be used to put the feces in the trash. The washable inserts are simply washed at 60 degrees and can also be tumble dried - please note that new inserts must be washed at least 2-3 times before they are fully absorbent

## Wheelchair

In order to avoid long-term orthopaedic problems such as muscle tension, osteoarthritis, pain in the chest and upper back area and to enable the dog to walk normally with the psychologically important daily



exercise and even sport/work, an adapted, correctly fitting wheelchair is essential.

It is important that the wheelchair allows a normal posture, without pressure on the shoulders, without too much play or jerky pressure on the spine and with the legs hanging freely without static pressure on the hips.

Together with our partner Rollin'Dogs, we are happy to provide advice.

## Nutrition

Not only, but especially for disabled dogs, a balanced, healthy and wholesome diet without inflammatory triggers is essential.

Such a diet ensures that the body is optimally nourished, that digestion works - there is nothing worse than a paralyzed dog with diarrhoea - and that joints, skin, fur and vitality remain in good condition.

Here too, there are different options depending on what best suits your own lifestyle and your dog's preferences.

### BARF

From our point of view, the healthiest form of nutrition, which requires some learning and preparation, is raw meat in combination with fruit and vegetables, as this can be adapted to the dog's needs and is free of additives.

The following ratio is fed: 80% animal content and 20% vegetable content. The animal content should ideally be composed as follows: 50% muscle meat, 20% tripe, 15% offal (1/3 liver, 1/3 heart, 1/9 kidney, 1/9 spleen and 1/9 lung) 15% Raw fleshy bones. The vegetable content: 75% vegetables, 25% fruit

Please read beforehand which types of vegetables and fruits are suitable for dogs - in general, anything that causes flatulence, such as onion plants, raw tomatoes and citrus fruits, should be avoided.

### Dry Food

A good dry food is a time-saving alternative, but you should really pay attention to the composition, which means that it is not exactly the cheapest alternative. Many paralyzed dogs cannot tolerate grain and react with diarrhoea. We have had the best experiences with food based on poultry or fish - at least 70% - combined with vegetable, fruit and herbal ingredients.

Please note that dogs need more water when fed this way.

### Wet Food

Good wet food is also possible, but it creates a lot of waste and is expensive. In our experience, wet food often leads to soft stool, which is why we try to avoid it.

## Nutritional Supplements

Due to the special characteristics and the higher strain on some organs in paralyzed dogs, it makes sense to supplement the food. To what extent and which means are used is up to the

owner, but we would like to give some tips and suggestions here. Please do not use the herbs mentioned without first finding out about the method of application and dosage.

There are also various good combination products on the market. Recommendations are welcome in a personal conversation.

### Bladder

strengthening the bladder wall - D-mannose, glucosamine, chondroitin  
Disinfectants (antimicrobial) - bearberry, nasturtium, cranberry, cranberry  
Rinse - nettle, goldenrod, dandelion  
PH value / acidification - cranberry, rose hip

### Intestinal

Acid inhibitors - fenugreek, chamomile, linseed, licorice root  
Diarrhoea - carrot (cooked for at least an hour), blackberry, green tea, sage  
Inappetence - Curcuma, dandelion, lemon balm, Artemisia absinthium, ginger  
Colic - Anise, Valerian, Fennel, Yarrow

### Movement disorders and pain

Blunt Trauma - Arnica, Comfrey  
Antilogous / analgesic - hemp, ginger, devil's claw, frankincense  
Promotes blood circulation - Ginkgo, garlic, horse chestnut  
chronic processes - cayenne pepper, horseradish, mustard

### Wound treatment

Fresh - aloe, ribwort plantain, bee products  
Abrasions - St. John's wort  
Wound healing disorder - aloe, calendula, yarrow, cabbage

## Further Aids

Depending on the wheelchair used and the given life situation, it makes sense to use other aids.

### Extension to 4-wheels (Quad)

For dogs that also develop front hand weakness due to their illness, an extension with front wheels makes sense.



### Magnetic seat inserts for wheelchairs

can be easily removed so that the dog can be easily taken out and supported, for example when climbing stairs.

### Pedal system for dogs that are not completely paralyzed or for rehabilitation

is used to maintain/build muscle and practice correct orthopaedic movement.

There are also other options such as other wheels, harnesses, posture optimization, orthoses, and spare parts.