

HOW TO USE THE KEY INDICATOR CHART

Session Number and Date

Fill in which number session is being performed and the date. Then work horizontally with the chart.

Check with your own vet

CAM works with your vet and recommends regular interaction with them regarding your dog's complete health, as well as to fulfil official requirements necessary for your vet to be able to supply you further medication. In chronic disease states this is either every 3 or 6 months depending on the severity of the condition. CAM aims to remind their clients of this by suggesting routine consultations at their own vets after every 3 treatments.

Overall demeanour

This is a quality of life assessment. Chronic discomfort will affect mood and coping strategies, which may become apparent in their level of happiness and sociability. This is very relevant when assessing whether a pain control regime is working. The higher the score the worse the situation. This system of measurement will allow data to be collated to study what management plans are effective and to then advise them with further arthritic dogs.

Overall Mobility

Pain can be expressed in many different ways, it may not be simple limping. Owners can see that their dogs are walking differently, often less enthusiasm, less agility, less grace and fluidity. This can be assessed by quantifying how far it has deteriorated from when they were younger and more agile. The higher the score the worse the situation. This system of measurement will allow data to be collated to study what management plans are effective and to then advise them with further arthritic dogs.

Improvement Indicators

Pain and discomfort expression will be unique to your dog. It may be that they don't want to climb stairs or hesitate before doing so, or it may be they can't hold a squat anymore so walk whilst toileting. Owners need to identify their own dog's indicators, and be able to recognise them easily so as to monitor whether they improve or deteriorate. This ensures treatment plans chosen are effective, and ensures we are not convincing ourselves we are doing the right thing when in fact they are deteriorating.