

STEM CELL THERAPY

For many years, human hospitals have used stem cell therapy to treat a variety of issues such as wounds, orthopedic injuries, as well as some blood disorders. In today's veterinary world, we can now offer the same advanced treatment to the patients we love and care for. Treatment is available for both cats and dogs, but is most commonly used by veterinarians to treat osteoarthritis in dogs, as well as injuries to their bones, joints, tendons, and ligaments. This makes stem cell therapy a great treatment option for patients suffering from osteoarthritis as well as degenerative joint disease.

WHAT IS STEM CELL THERAPY? Stem cell therapy is the process which starts by surgically obtaining cells directly from a patient, generally by a source of fat. Through our hospital's partnership with VetStem Biopharma, the cells are then processed and returned for our surgeon to sterilely inject back into their patient while under sedation. These cells, which were previously a blank slate, now have the potential to regenerate tissue where disease has done damage, such as cartilage damaged by osteoarthritis. The goal of stem cell therapy is to suppress inflammation and relieve our patient's pain all while encouraging tissue growth and cartilage regeneration within the damaged or diseased joint. Contraindications to the therapy include existing neoplasia and infection.

WHEN WOULD THIS BE AN OPTION FOR MY PET? This type of therapy is an option for any patient that suffer from osteoarthritis, degenerative joint disease, or has an injury to their bones, joints, tendons, or ligaments. Stem cells are also considered low risk and can provide pain relief in addition to surgery, when surgery may not be an option, or when traditional pain relief isn't effective or has too many undesirable side effects.



WHAT TYPES OF BREEDS SUFFER MOST FROM OSTEOARTHRITIS AND DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE? Any pet can suffer from osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND RISKS OF STEM CELL THERAPY? The goal is to provide pain relief for pets that have suffered the loss of joint function while helping them regain better use of their joints, tendons, and ligaments. There are very few risks because the animal's own cells are used. However, the procedure does require general anesthesia which always carries a risk.



HOW MANY APPOINTMENTS WOULD THE STEM CELL THERAPY TAKE? In order to determine if this type of therapy is a good option for your pet, the first step is an initial consultation with our surgeon followed by an outpatient surgical procedure to obtain the cells. The stem cells are then sent to VetStem in order to be processed and returned to Care Center. Stem cell injections are done sterily while under reversible sedation during a same day procedure. Our surgery team will review how many injections are recommended for your pet during your consultation.

For questions or to see if stem cell therapy is an option for your pet, please contact our Care Center surgery department at **513.530.0911** or send an email to surgery@carecentervets.com. To learn more about our surgery team and our compassionate approach to patient care visit CareCenterVets.com.



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