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Did Your Pet Just Fall?

“Let’s wait and see what happens”, are the most commonly spoken words after a pet suffers a mild to moderate injury. This is probably the case, simply because most people have not had any kind of training in these matters. Human nature keeps us hoping that the problem will quietly disappear on its own by the next day.

What makes things more complicated is that pets can’t speak to us.

That is why we need to look for signs. However, instead, you wait impatiently until the next morning to see any convincing improvement, which might put us at ease.

It is exactly during this waiting time that we can get involved. I’m not suggesting that you diagnose your pet. An animal chiropractor is a specialist in this area. I’m only maintaining that you can become active at this point in helping the pet be more comfortable. You can also speed up the healing process.

Since injuries are part of life and occur periodically, it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with your pet’s muscles, build and walking patterns prior to injury. That way you will know what normal feels like.

By gently touching the small joints of the spinal column, starting from the pelvis and upward, you might detect some hot spots where your pet will squirm, complain or seem agitated. Be very light so you can feel more going on, and remember, the pet is very sensitive. If you find an area that looks like this, the pet might have some inflammation going on. By gently massaging the region around the inflammation, but not directly on it, you might give your pet some relief.

Those are always signs of poor mechanics.

If this is something that you want to learn in more detail, hook up with one of the classes given for pet owners. The classes are limited to small numbers and will improve your develop.

Become trained with techniques that will help your dog. Putting a dog on pain medication can also assist, but remember, if the medication dulls the pain, the dog will be able to weight bear on an inflamed joint. This is not a good thing as it can produce further damage.

Dr. Judy Rosenberg Ben-Israel is a human and animal chiropractor privately practicing in Toronto for over 30 years. www.chiropets.com