

Osteosarcoma in Dogs

What is osteosarcoma?

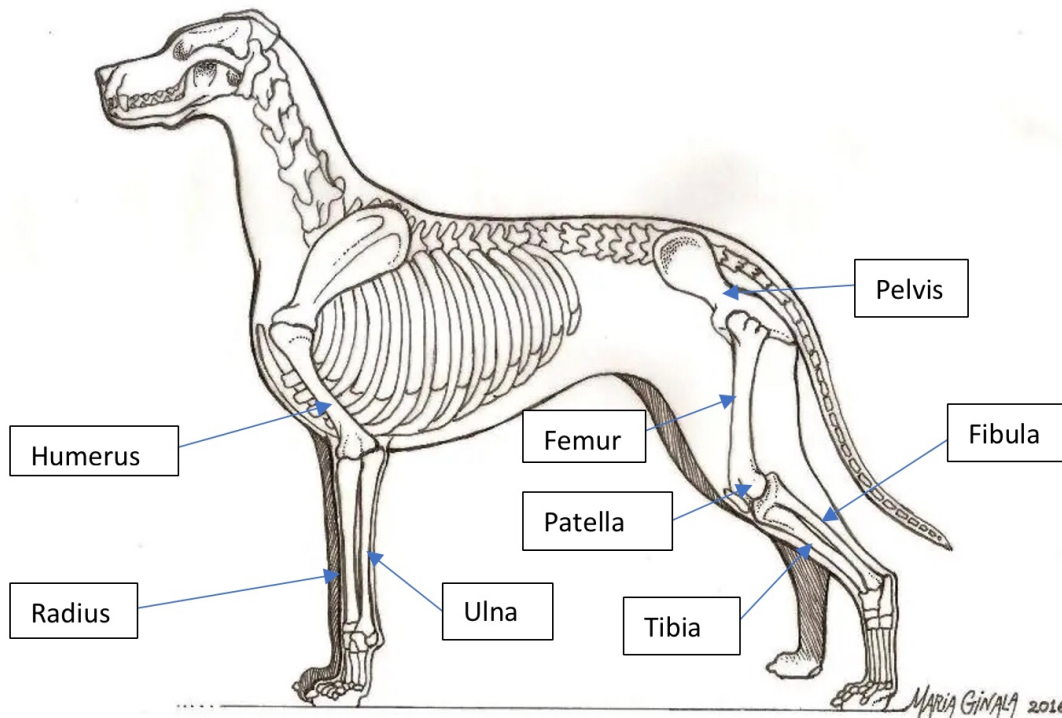
Osteosarcoma is a malignant tumour of the bone that arises from the abnormal production of cells.

Which breeds are most at risk?

Large and giant Breeds like Rottweilers, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Great Danes and Mastiffs appear to be most commonly affected.

Where does it occur?

It is believed that a large majority of cases are appendicular (front and hind legs), though it can occur in other bones such as the hips, pelvis and jaw.



What are the signs?

- Swelling and warm to touch
- Lameness
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy

How is osteosarcoma diagnosed?

- X-rays will be taken and the affected bone will be lytic (pieces of bone missing).
- Samples may be taken by fine needle aspiration for examination and a more definitive diagnosis.

Some estimations suggest that above 90% of affected dogs have micrometastasis (undetectable cancer cells have spread elsewhere). It may be suggested that further tests including bloods, urinalysis, further X-rays, etc. should be carried out.

What are some of the treatment options?

- Pain relief treatment
- Amputation of the affected limb
- Chemotherapy
- Radiotherapy
- Other treatment options may be available.

Your vet will advise you of the best treatment, but as osteosarcoma is such an aggressive form of cancer, euthanasia may be necessary.