

# IVDD

## what is it?



# Intervertebral Disc Disease

IVDD makes the cushions between the vertebrae age prematurely.

As the pulpy centers harden and degenerate, they can **herniate** (protrude, bulge, or burst into the spinal column).

This causes

**pain**

**reduced neurological function**  
(difficulty walking or voiding the bladder)

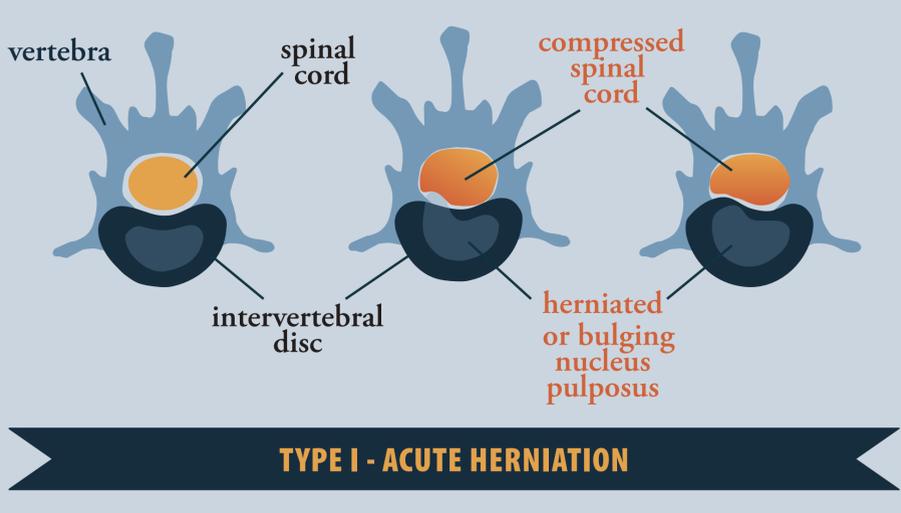
**even paralysis.**

**With proper treatment, many dogs recover and even walk again.**



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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Disc material is removed</li> <li> PT at vet's approval during 6 weeks strict crate rest</li> <li> Pain management</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Drugs reduce inflammation</li> <li> 8 weeks strict crate rest</li> <li> Physio when crate rest is complete</li> <li> Pain management</li> </ul> |
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**\* Owner education is key! \***



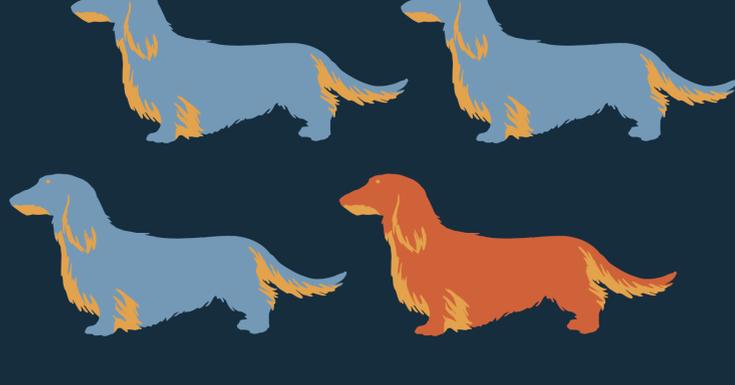
### TYPE I - ACUTE HERNIATION



Commonly basset hounds, pekingses, chihuahuas, French bulldogs, shih tzus, beagles, poodles, pomeranians, corgis.

But **dachshunds** are **10 times more likely** than any other breed to have it.

Some authorities say **1 in 4** dachshunds will develop IVDD.



Premature aging of discs can begin by **age 1** and a disc episode will often occur by **age 3-7**.



There is no way to know if your dog was born with IVDD until the first signs of pain with a bulging or herniated disc. For this reason, most owners are blind-sided by an episode.

### TYPE II - GRADUAL PROTRUSION



such as dobermans, German shepherds, and labrador retrievers.

*what should I watch for?  
what should I do if I suspect a herniation?*

*continued in "IVDD Primer - Symptoms"*