

# Understanding Carpal Laxity and Angular Limb Deformity in Dogs

Discover the causes, symptoms, and treatments for these common canine limb conditions affecting large breed puppies.



## What is Carpal Laxity?

### 1 Definition

Carpal laxity occurs when tendons in a dog's wrist (carpus) are loose, causing the paw to flop in severe cases.

### 2 Symptoms

Look for visible webbing between toes (toe spread)



### 3 Affected Breeds

All breeds but predominately large breed puppies, including Bully breeds, German Shepherds, and Dobermans, are particularly susceptible.

## Understanding Angular Limb Deformity

### Definition

Angular limb deformity is characterized by the carpus bending downward & bones bending sideways.

### Urgency

This condition requires immediate attention to prevent worsening and long-term complications. Successful treatment needs to start before 5 months of age

### Treatment Approach

Treatment focuses on correcting living surfaces and addressing nutritional deficiencies.



Angular Limb Deformity



## Common Causes of Carpal Laxity and Angular Limb Deformity



### Slippery Surfaces

Smooth floors can contribute to the development of these conditions



### Poor Diet

Inadequate nutrition can lead to weakened tendons and bones.



### Genetics

Some breeds are predisposed to these conditions.



### Rapid Growth

Fast-growing large breed puppies are at higher risk.

# Nutritional Supplements for Treatment

## Vitamin C

Give 500 mg of basic, generic Vitamin C twice daily for 1-2 months or until resolved.

Avoid formulations with additives.

1

**Pet Tabs Plus**  
A specialized vitamin/mineral supplement. Administer one pill daily, particularly effective for bully breeds, German Shepherds, and Doberman puppies.

2

## Premium Large Breed Puppy Food

Feed affected puppies a high-quality large breed puppy food, such as Diamond Large Breed Puppy. Consult your vet for specific recommendations.

3

## Monitoring and Prevention

### Regular Check-ups

Schedule frequent vet visits to monitor your puppy's limb growth and development.

### Early Intervention

Address any signs of limb issues promptly to prevent worsening of conditions.

1

2

4

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### Exercise Management

Provide appropriate exercise to strengthen muscles without overexertion.

### Weight Control

Maintain a healthy weight to reduce stress on developing joints and bones.

## Creating a Safe Environment

1

### Non-Slip Surfaces

Ensure your pet is on dry, non-slip surfaces to prevent further issues.

2

### Kennel Modifications

If your pet has a kennel with a metal or plastic floor, place cardboard for better traction. Never a wire surface.

3

### Home Adaptations

While it's challenging to modify tile floors, focus on creating safe zones with proper surfaces.

## When to Seek Professional Help

### Visible Paw Deformity

If you notice your puppy's paws flopping or bending abnormally, consult a vet immediately.

### Changes in Walking

Any changes in how your puppy walks or reluctance to move should be evaluated by a professional.

### Persistent Issues

If home treatments aren't working, seek specialized veterinary care for comprehensive treatment.