

Intervertebral Disc Disease

Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)

Intervertebral disc disease results from degeneration of the intervertebral disc and is most common in dogs. IVDD can occur in any section of the spine and in any breed of dog, though there are breed and location predilections. IVDD has both external factors like trauma, and genetic factors. The primary genetic predilections are between Chondrodystrophic Breeds and Non-chondrodystrophic Breeds.

Chondrodystrophic breeds have strong genetic predispositions toward degeneration of the nucleus pulposus, which can become calcified and dehydrated at a young age, around 1-3 years old. These breeds are more prone to acute disc herniations and tend present more acutely.

Chondrodystrophic Breeds Examples

- Mini dachshund
- Corgi
- French Bulldog
- Cocker Spaniel
- Beagle

Non-chondrodystrophic breeds tend to undergo a slower degeneration of the disc, and both the nucleus pulposus and the annulus will degrade over time. 7 years or older is more typical for patients to present. These breeds are more prone to disc protrusions and chronic symptoms.

Non-chondrodystrophic Breeds Examples

- Labrador
- German Shepherd
- Rottweiler
- Doberman

The combination of different external and genetic factors results in different kinds of disc herniations, which will be described here in 8 different categories.

From:

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Last update: **2026/06/05 20:05**

