Info shared by Pitbull SA.

Manjaro APBT kennel.

South Africa.

My Website www.pitbullsa.co.za

My E mail "manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za"

My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"

My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"

My mobile +27827838280.

Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info.

Glucosamine & chondroitin sulfates.

Available in tablet, capsules, powder and liquid form.

Glucosamine & chondroitin sulfates are components of cartilage and the theory is that by taking these precursors orally, the body can use them to repair and rebuild cartilage where it is damaged.

However, many raw feeders find that their working dogs especially aging dogs do much better on raw food and no longer have a need for supplemental glucosamine & chondroitin sulfates.

Allow older dogs or dogs with joint problems time to adjust to balanced whole prey raw diet (approximately one month, more or less) before adding or taking away glucosamine/chondroitin supplementation.

Additionally, consider adding more natural forms of glucosamine and chondroitin found in the joints of other animals (raw diet) to the dog's diet - in the form of unprocessed beef or lamb trachea and, chicken feet.

For dogs eating a raw diet with whole bones – joint bones, the joints in that food can give them a good supply of joint protecting nutrients. However, most dog foods don't offer this.

Dogs eating a heat possessed cooked diet or commercial feeds or dogs with an existing joint disease can benefit from some easily accessible glucosamine, chondroitin and hyaluronic acid joint supplements.
These three nutrients can help replace lost viscosity of joint fluid, be used as a building block to help repair joint cartilage, and aid to lubricate joints, respectively.
When glucosamine is given orally, about 30 to 40% is actually absorbed into the bloodstream.
Because chondroitin and hyaluronic acid are larger and don't pass the gastric barrier easily, only about 10% of these substances are absorbed into the bloodstream, while the rest is broken down in the stomach.
Although this is a small amount, it's better than no supplementation at all.
Each bony end is covered in a smooth, porcelain-like surface called joint (articular) cartilage.
It's the smooth surface of articular cartilage that allows unimpeded gliding and rotation of the joint.
Articular cartilage contains a high concentration of nerve fibers, which are so sensitive that even small changes in the viscosity (thickness or gooey- ness) of the joint fluid can cause an achiness in the joint.
The nerve-rich cartilage is meant to protect the joints from damage.
Visualize your dog jumping to catch the lure or ball – pulling the trollies the dog jumps by launching his body into the air and then depends on the joints in his front limbs to absorb the shock of the landing or depend on the hip, knees and other joints by working the trollies or pulling heavy weight.
During the landing, his front limbs need to lock at his wrists and absorb the shock at the same time.

In order to absorb the concussion of landing, all the elements of the joint need to work synergistically.
If the supporting soft tissue isn't well balanced, the joint won't be properly supported and may be restricted or too loose in its movement.
If the joint fluid is too thin, it will be less able to absorb the force of the landing and the bone endings may be allowed to bang together.
The sponginess of the articular cartilage can help absorb some of this stress and will also signal the brain that the bone ends have painfully come in contact with one another.
If the dog fails to respond to the pain, the bone ends can collide and cause damage to their cartilage – and in the worst case scenario, fracture the bones themselves.

The damage.
With its limited potential for healing, damaged cartilage is replaced with an inferior type of cartilage called fibrocartilage that's prone to chipping and breaking.
If the joint capsule becomes inflamed, hydrolyzing enzymes are released and disrupt the joint fluid by breaking down its proteins.
This loss of nourishing and shock absorbing joint fluid weakens the cartilage even further and the injured and worn joints face a downward spiral of jarring, friction and pain.

Exercise, nutrients and supplements.
Should you exercise a dog with hip dysplasia, joint problems or that suffers from arthritis?

Do you know if your dog has these problems?
Consistent repetitive motion in moderation helps to tone the muscles around the joint and this will help support the joint and keep the joint fluid viscous.

Getting up and moving around is the best thing to maintain joint health. But strenuous activity such as heavy weight pulling, jumping and fast directional changes should be avoided in animals with existing joint damage or inflammation.
Degenerative joint disease, commonly called “arthritis,” is a painful condition frequently treated with anti-inflammatory pain-relievers.
It has been of interest to seek medications which might actually strengthen damaged cartilageand potentially complement these anti-inflammatory pain-relievers.

Glucosamine and chondroitin sulfates represent solutions to this problem.
In a normal joint, cartilage breakdown is balanced by cartilage production. In the diseased joint, there is more breakdown than production.
Glucosamine & chondroitin sulfates are components of cartilage and the theory is that by taking these precursors orally, one's body can use them to repair and rebuild cartilage where it is damaged.
It has further been suggested that these substances may have anti-inflammatory properties of their own and/or may act by stimulating the synthesis of joint lubricants and collagen within the damaged joint.
Glucosamine and chondroitin sulfates are extracted from sea molluscs (such as Perna canaliculus also known as the New Zealand green-lipped mussel), from shark skeleton, as well as from cattle.
They are considered nutritional supplements.
Manganese is a co-factor in joint fluid synthesis and is often included in glucosamine / chondroitin sulfate supplements.
Uses of this medication / supplements.
Glucosamine and chondroitin sulfates might be used in any joint condition involving the classical joint structure (2 bones with cartilage covered ends articulating, a fibrous capsule with ligaments connecting the bones, and lubricating fluid assisting the smooth motion of the joint).

Glucosamine and chondroitin sulfates are not likely to be helpful with disease involving other types of joints (i.e. the vertebrae and intervertebral discs).

Side effects?
The only side effect reported has been a clinically insignificant decrease in platelet (blood clotting cell) function.
Interaction with other drugs?
While the aforementioned decrease in platelet function has not been significant, it could become significant should glucosamine / chondroitin sulfates be used in conjunction with other medications that influence platelet function (aspirin, phenylbutazone).

Special caution?
Nutraceuticals are not regulated by the Veterinarian board as they are not considered "drugs."
This means that they can be sold without scientific proof of efficacy and without mandatory testing to determine the optimal dosage.
There are numerous anecdotal reports of these medications helping numerous individuals but one should keep in mind that scientific investigation is continuing.