

TAIL INJURIES IN DOGS

Understanding Tail Trauma, Nerve Damage & Recovery

A dog's tail plays an important role in balance, communication and movement. Tail injuries can range from minor wounds to severe nerve damage affecting the tail, bladder and bowel function.

Prompt veterinary assessment is important to ensure the best possible outcome.

**TAIL INJURIES
MAY AFFECT
BLADDER AND
BOWEL CONTROL
IF NERVES ARE
DAMAGED.**



? WHAT IS A TAIL INJURY?

Tail injuries can involve:

- Fractures (broken tail bones)
- Dislocations
- Nerve damage
- Tail-pull injuries
- Bite wounds and lacerations
- Crush injuries



The severity can vary depending on the cause and location. Prompt treatment can help reduce pain and prevent complications.

💡 DID YOU KNOW?

- Injuries may look minor on the outside but can cause significant damage to the nerves beneath the skin.
- Dogs with tail injuries should always be examined by a veterinarian.



COMMON CAUSES OF TAIL INJURIES



Road traffic accidents



Tail caught in doors or gates



Tails from heights



Animal attacks



Stepped on or trapped



Crush injuries

Outdoor dogs are at greater risk of traumatic tail injuries.

1 RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Common signs include:

- Limp or drooping tail
- Swelling or bruising
- Pain when the tail is touched or when the dog sits or defecates
- Kinks or abnormal tail position
- Dragging the tail
- Bleeding or wounds
- Hair loss around the tail

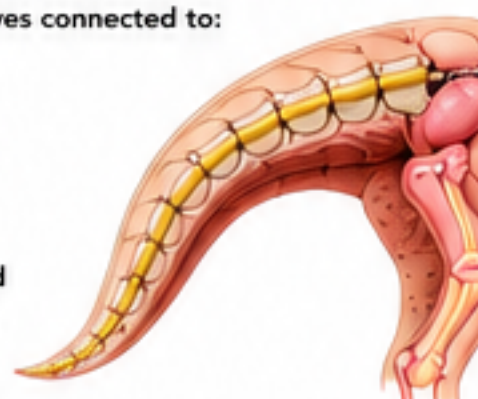


! Some dogs hide pain well and may simply become quiet or withdrawn.

2 WHY ARE TAIL INJURIES SERIOUS?

The tail contains nerves connected to:

- Tail movement
- Bladder control
- Bowel control
- Sensation around the hindquarters



Severe injuries may cause:

- Urinary retention
- Urinary incontinence
- Faecal incontinence
- Permanent nerve damage

Early assessment is essential.

3 HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may:

- Perform a physical examination
- Assess tail movement and sensation
- Evaluate bladder function
- Check hind limb reflexes
- Take X-rays
- Assess for other injuries



Accurate diagnosis helps determine the extent of bone and nerve damage.

4 TREATMENT OPTIONS

Treatment depends on the type and severity of injury.

Options may include:

- Pain relief
- Anti-inflammatory medications
- Wound management
- Antibiotics (if infection is present)
- Cage rest and restricted activity
- Bladder and bowel care
- Surgical repair in some cases
- Tail amputation (if the tail is severely damaged)



Many tail injuries can be treated successfully with proper care and time.

5 RECOVERY & AFTERCARE

Your vet may need:

- Rest and confinement
- Follow-up examinations
- Monitoring of urination and defecation
- Wound care
- Medication administration
- Use of an Elizabethan collar



Recovery time varies depending on the severity of the injury.

6 PREVENTION TIPS

You can help reduce the risk of tail injuries by:

- Keeping your dog indoors or in secure outdoor areas
- Installing secure windows and screens
- Closing doors and gates carefully
- Supervising outdoor time
- Keeping hazardous areas safe and out of reach



A safe environment helps keep your dog out of harm's way.

7 WHEN TO SEE YOUR VETERINARIAN

Seek veterinary attention immediately if your dog:

- Carries its tail low or tucked
- Has a limp or dragging tail
- Has swelling or bleeding
- Cannot urinate normally
- Is leaking urine
- Has loss of bowel control
- Appears painful after trauma



These signs may indicate serious nerve injury.

ADDITIONAL TIPS



Tail injuries often occur alongside other trauma



Nerve damage may take weeks to months to improve



Early treatment improves outcomes

EVERY DOG COUNTS



If your dog has been involved in an accident, bitten or in pain, don't wait – early veterinary care can make all the difference.

Prompt assessment can help prevent complications and improve recovery.

