



## Interesting Case from our web site [www.fairfield-vets.co.uk](http://www.fairfield-vets.co.uk)



### Dexter- Doberman with Growing Pains



dexter

I am often presented with young, large breed dogs which are lame.

There are a number of common conditions which affect rapidly growing breeds and cause a variety of different problems.

The difficulty in diagnosing these diseases is in differentiating those which will leave the patient with lifelong problems from those that are only a passing phase.

When my colleague Ingrid asked me to examine "Dexter" Rees of Burbage the first thing to establish is where the problem lies and just exactly how painful is it.

Since my patients are unable to speak I must extract this information during the course of the examination!

"Dexter" a 5 month old Doberman, was quick to release that information illustrating the intensity of the pain he was experiencing in his left foreleg, a very useful diagnostic step in determining the final outcome.

Taking X-rays are a vital part of diagnosing orthopaedic diseases and the more difficult aspect is in interpreting the radiographs.

I am frequently sent x-rays from other veterinary surgeons seeking a diagnosis where the clues are only too clear, providing you know where to look!

Dexter's condition turned out to be a disease known as "panosteitis". A bizarre problem where the bone marrow fat degenerates for no known reason setting off a marked inflammatory reaction with resultant production of bone in a place where there shouldn't be any!

Whilst this process causes a considerable degree of pain to the patient - and will often appear in other legs (there's something to look forward to Dexter!) there are no adverse long term effects.

Therefore once Dexter has reached full maturity around 18months of age these flare ups of "panosteitis" are likely to have stopped. This is the reason why this condition is often referred to as severe growing pains.

I always knew there was at least one good reason for getting older!

Terry Dunne BVMS, Cert SAO, MRCVS

This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at [www.fairfield-vets.co.uk](http://www.fairfield-vets.co.uk)

***You won't care how much we know - until you know how much we care***