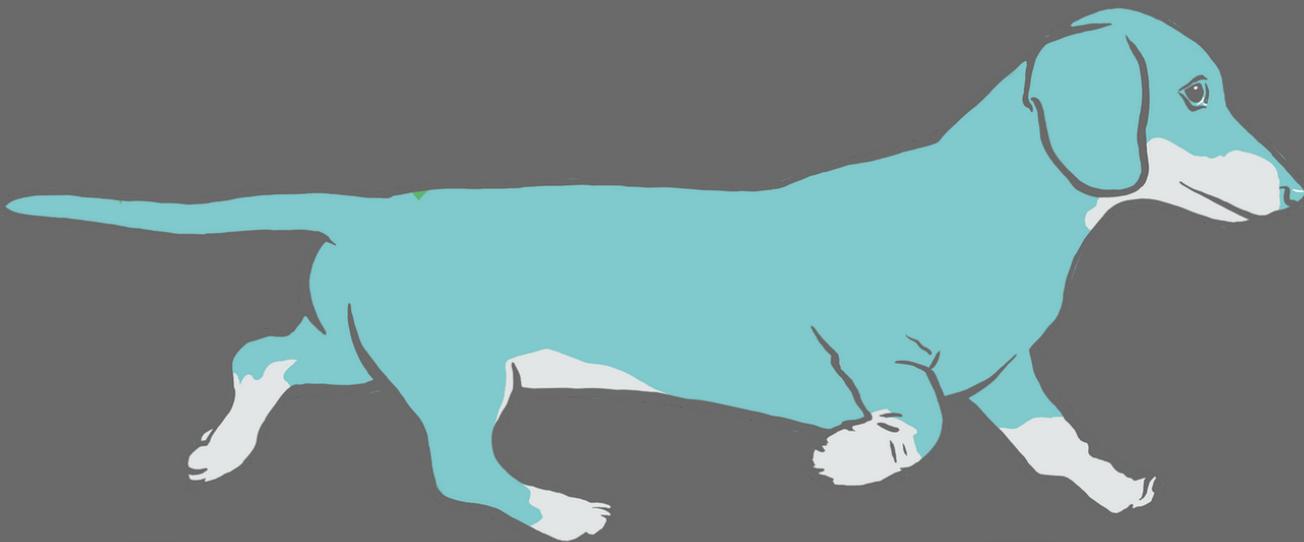




hamilton
SPECIALIST REFERRALS

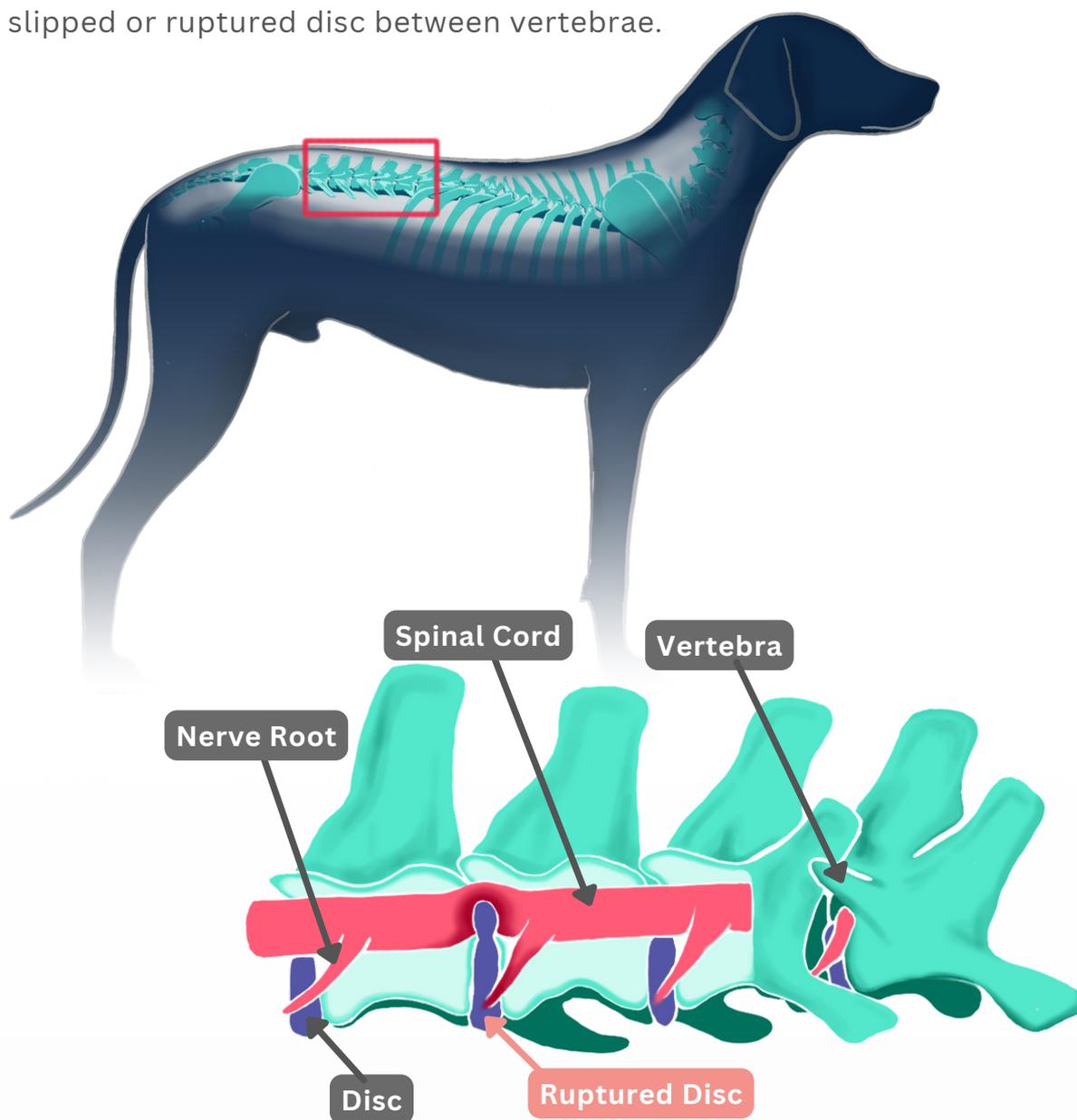
A mini guide to:

IVDD



Overview: What is IVDD?

IVDD (**intervertebral disc disease**) is a slipped or ruptured disc between vertebrae.



The rupture puts pressure on the **spinal cord**, which can cause pain, weakness and occasionally immobility.

Overview: Types of IVDD

Disc problems are often classified as either Type I or II.

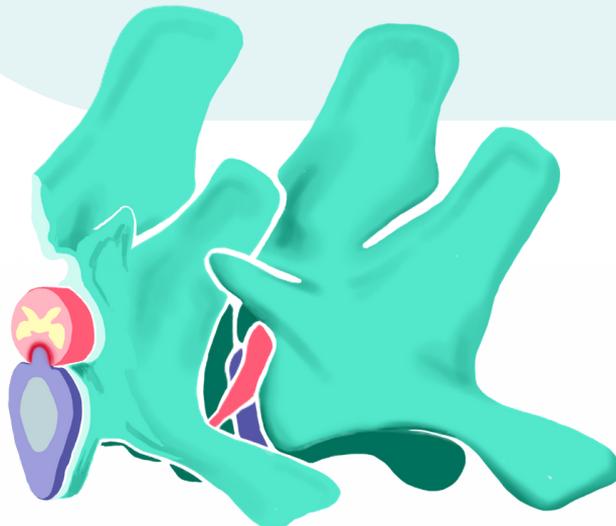


Type I disc disease involves extrusion of the central part of the disc (the nucleus).

This usually is associated with **smaller breeds**, often with short legs, and has a sudden onset of symptoms.

Type II represents protrusion of the outer rim (the annulus).

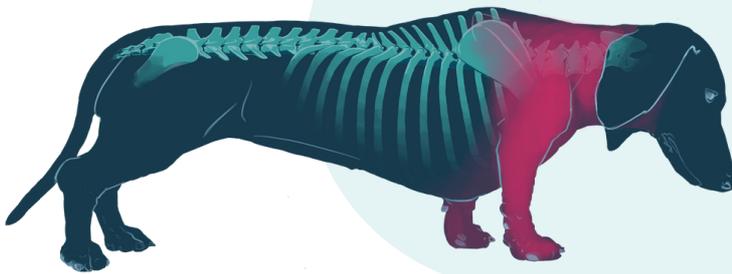
This typically affects **larger breeds** and symptoms can present suddenly or gradually and progressive.



Discs also cause problems in other ways that may not fit into these two categories.

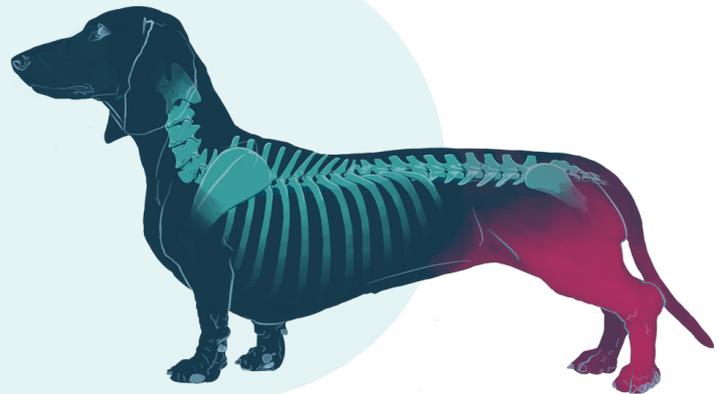
Diagnosis: Symptoms

Dogs with IVDD present with one or more of the below symptoms:



Neck pain
Back pain
Shaking
Random crying out in pain
Head held down

Reduced limb reflexes
Loss of pain sensation to one or more limbs
Hind limb weakness (ataxia)
Paralysis



Contact your vet if you notice any of these symptoms.

Diagnosis: Treatment

Advanced imaging such as **MRI** or **CT** is required to confirm the diagnosis of IVDD. Often **surgery** is required to relieve the compression on the spinal cord, particularly in Type I IVDD. Type II IVDD is more difficult to treat. If surgery is not required, then **strict rest and supportive care** is usually needed.