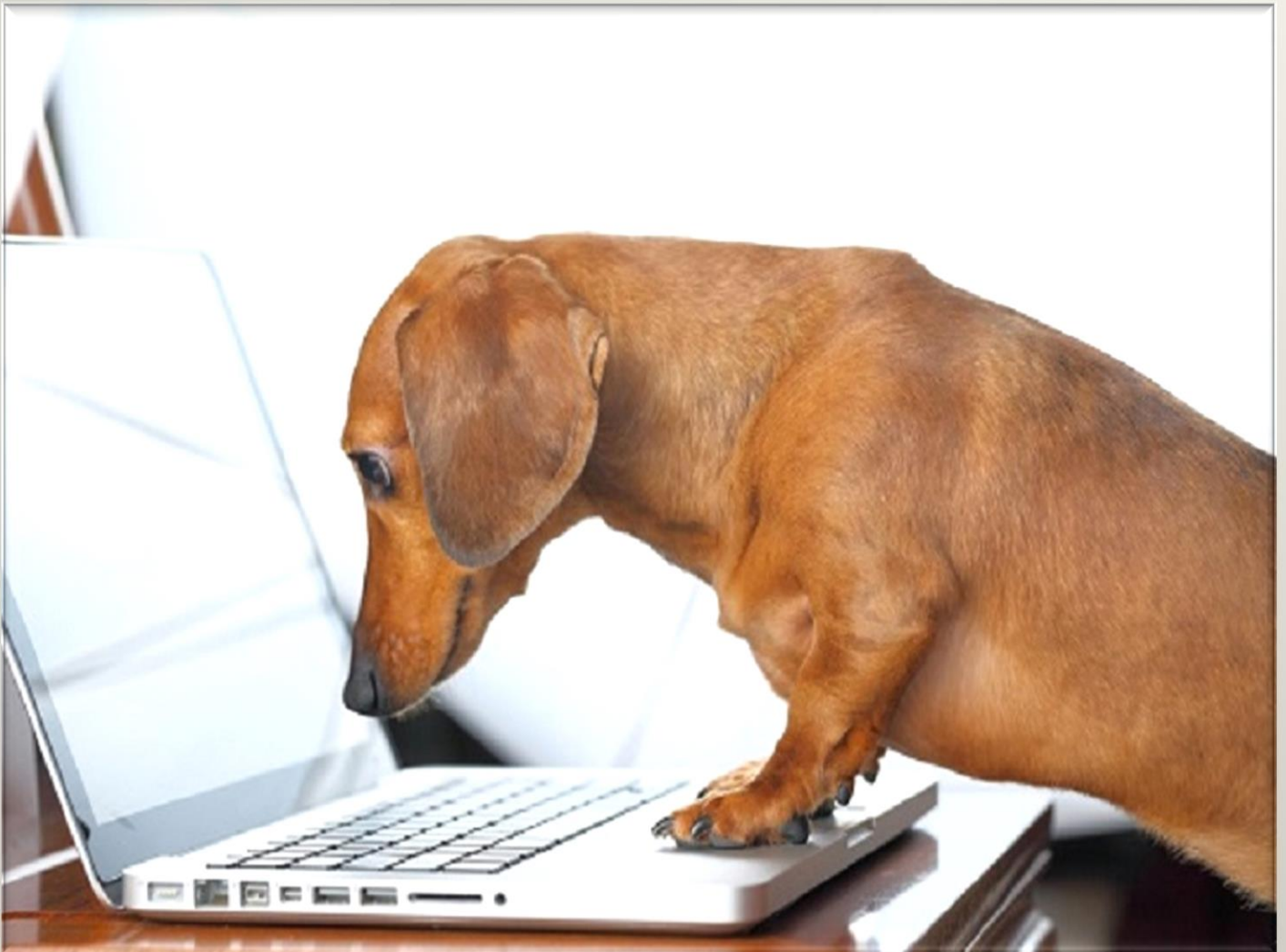


# Dogs With IVDD

FAQs ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PET OWNERS

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# About the Author

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## Sharon Seltzer

Founder, Dog Wheelchair LIFE



I'm a blogger and professional animal writer. I'm also a pet mom who's raised 9 dogs, 6 cats and lots of other critters.

When my dog Sophie became paralyzed it was a lonely experience. It took months to find the resources to help her live a quality life.

My mission is to share those products and services with other pet owners and to teach people how to care for a disabled dog.

[Dogwheelchairlife.com](http://Dogwheelchairlife.com)

# Sophie

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**“Disability is not the end of your pet’s world; it’s the beginning of a new normal way of life.”**

**- Sharon**

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# Living with Intervertebral Disc Disease

Welcome

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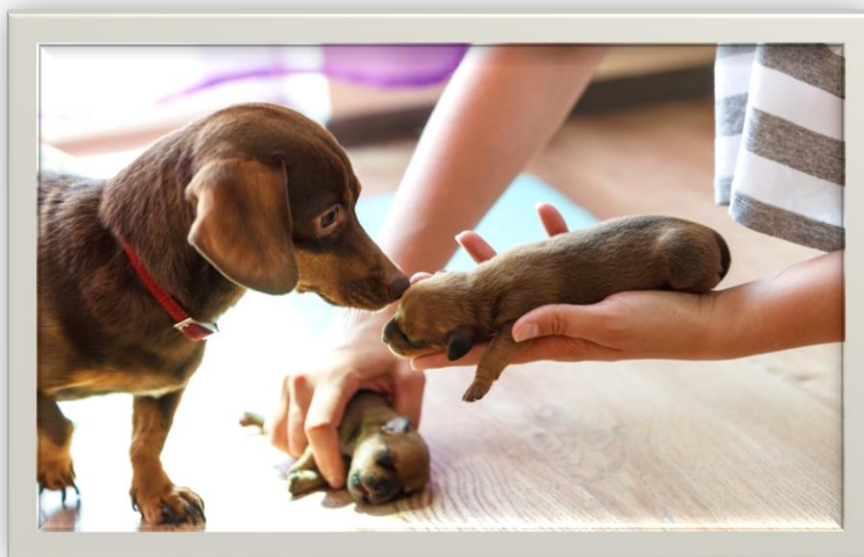
# Introduction

This short e-book is for pet owners of newly diagnosed dogs with Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD). It contains the most Frequently Asked Questions people ask, from Day 1 of bringing a dog home from the hospital through Day 30. That's the hardest time for pet parents.

*Note: Please talk with your dog's veterinarian before starting any of the therapies described in this book or on the website. While all of the information is current and researched, it won't be appropriate for every dog's specific case of IVDD.*

Each FAQ is linked to an answer that is underlined. Click on that link and it will take you to the complete story on the blog. (I hope that makes sense.)

Now let's get started.



# Day 1 – IVDD Is A Serious Disease

Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD) is a serious condition. I'm sorry it's come into your life. For most pet families IVDD makes a sudden appearance. One minute your dog is healthy dog and full of energy; the next minute your pup is on the ground in pain and paralyzed due to a ruptured disc.

The experience is overwhelming. And now that you've brought your dog home from the hospital, you're worried how you'll handle daily life.

Let me reassure you that what you feel is completely normal. No one prepares you for this sort of life-changing event, BUT you will be fine! With some basic information, pet parents go from novice caretaker to expert in about 4-8 weeks.

I've seen it over and over, so please stop worrying. You're in better shape than you think. After all, you know everything about your dog and in return he loves and trusts you. So basically, all you need to be a great caretaker, is information. And I have plenty of that!

## **IVDD Basics**

The first lesson is to know that IVDD is a disease. A ruptured disc might have just popped up without warning, but your dog's spine has been developing the condition for a long time.

Intervertebral Disc Disease is a degenerative condition. It causes the spine to age faster than normal. An estimated 2 percent of dogs will be affected during their lifetime.

The second lesson is that every case is unique. For some dogs IVDD is an incident they recover from completely. Other pups have a partial recovery with some mobility problems. And a third group will remain fully paralyzed and unable to walk on their own. Dogs in all three categories can live a quality life. The goal is to give your pet the best possible outcome for their circumstances.

IVDD is the #1 causes of hind end paralysis, so there's lots of information and treatments to manage your dog's daily care.



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# IVDD Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why did my dog get Intervertebral Disc Disease?**

IVDD is a degenerative disease of the spine that strikes certain dog breeds more often than others. There are two forms of the condition and 5 stages. [Click here to read IVDD in Dogs: Understanding the Condition.](#)

## **What is strict crate rest and why is it prescribed?**

IVDD can cause painful episodes as the discs in the spine deteriorate or after patients undergo spine surgery. Each calls for, strict crate rest to help the dog heal. It's the best option for a full recovery. Strict crate rest means a dog is confined to a small area 24 hours a day, for 3-4 weeks. [Click to read how to make crate rest a good experience.](#)

## **How soon can my dog start physical therapy?**

With your vet's approval, there are exercises you can do at home with your dog during the early stages of recovery. Click here to read: [9 Physical Therapy Exercises You Can Do At Home](#)

## **My dog can't pee on his own. Where do I find the right diaper?**

Most dogs with hind end paralysis are incontinent. That means they don't have control over their bladder or bowels. Eventually, the preferred way to manage this is by manually expressing your dog, but during the first few weeks a diaper product is great. There are lots of choices for male and female dogs. Click here to read: [Dog Diaper: How to Choose the Right Product](#). You can also read: [Learning How To Express Your Dog's Bladder](#)

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# More FAQs

## **How should I bathe a paralyzed dog?**

IVDD dogs need to be bathed more often than able-bodied pets. Urine can get on their skin and scald it or their legs get dirty from dragging them. It's tricky when they can't stand or sit on their own so safety techniques need to be implemented. Click here to read [What You Should Know About Bathing A Paralyzed Dog](#).

## **How do I remove urine stains and odors from my home?**

Removing urine stains and odors can be an ongoing problem if your fur kid is incontinent. Fortunately, there are lots of quality products and DIY solutions. Click to read: [Tips to Remove Urine Stains and Odors](#)

## **Does my dog need a special kind of bed?**

Like humans, a quality mattress can prevent joint stiffness in your pup. It also reduces the risk of developing pressure sores and boosts overall health by providing a good night's sleep. Read more about: [Orthopedic Dog Beds](#) and [Waterproof Dog Beds](#)

## **How do I treat Urinary Tract Infections in dogs with IVDD?**

Urinary tract infections are common in dogs with IVDD. Learn the warning signs and best methods to treat and prevent the problem. Click to read: [Elements to Stop Dog Urinary Tract Infections](#) and [Favorite Tips To Treat UTIs and Urine Scald](#)

## **What are the best support/lifting harnesses?**

Support harnesses make it easy to lift a dog and safely help them move around. The right harness can be your favorite mobility device. Read: [How to Choose the Right Support Harness](#).





# The final FAQs

## **How do I pick the right dog wheelchair?**

Dog wheelchairs give the gift of mobility to paralyzed dogs like no other product. Their popularity has made it confusing to choose the right cart for your pet. Here's a review of the leading brands and the different types of dog wheelchairs. Click to read: [How to Choose The Right Cart For Your Pet.](#)

## **What is spinal walking and can my dog achieve it?**

Spinal walking is the ability of a paralyzed dog to walk using the reflexes in their legs. The best candidates are dogs with an injury to their lower spine who've had physical therapy, water therapy and massage. [Read: Spinal Walking What You Need to Know](#)

Also checkout: [Why Hydrotherapy Is Gaining Popularity.](#)

I hope you found this information helpful.

Please check back at Dog Wheelchair LIFE for more information, as we add new articles every week.

Best wishes along your journey.  
*Sharon Seltzer*

**"Life with a disabled dog isn't better or worse; it's just different."**