



Limber Tail Syndrome

Limber tail syndrome, also known as cold-water tail, broken tail, dead tail, or broken wag among others, is a disorder of the muscles of the tail that causes the tail to go limp. It is generally due to an overuse or exposure to cold and is common in working breeds such as Labrador Retrievers, Pointers, Setters, Foxhounds, and Beagles.

The condition develops after swimming in cold water or heavy exertion such as hunting or vigorous play. It can also occur from a cold bath. Your dog may seem fine after the incident as it may not be noticeable until a day or two later.



When affected, the muscles near the base of the tail may become painful or swollen. The tail will droop behind him or may stick straight out for a few inches and then droop down.

Limber tail syndrome is diagnosed by the history and by ruling out other problems (such as a fracture) that could cause similar signs.

Treatment involves rest. Anti-inflammatory drugs can help reduce any pain and inflammation. Recovery time varies from a couple of days to a couple of weeks.