



# **User Manual**

The patented K9 HipLign™ garment is a first-to-market wearable therapy for canine hip dysplasia, particularly for dogs with mild to moderate cases. This form-fitting therapeutic garment is designed to promote improved posture and dynamic stabilization around the hip joints, which can lead to decreased pain and better mobility.

Our product has been clinically validated, and results show both reduction in pain and improvement in range of motion. Over 95% of dogs tested have accepted our product at first use.

The garment does not constrict movement as braces do and is not a compression device. Instead, it is comprised of a form fitting, 4-way stretch material which provides sensory input through the dog's trunk as they stand and move, promoting more correct posture. In addition, there are 4 elastic straps providing a balanced resistance to the muscles surrounding the dog's core and hips which will over time help to build musculature. This, in turn, can help promote more dynamic stability to the hips, which can reduce friction and

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# **Innovating Wearable Therapy for Canine Mobility Issues**

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FB group: Assisting Dogs with Hip Dysplasia

#### HOW TO PUT THE GARMENT ON YOUR DOG

## Step 1:

Unwrap the leg wraps and chest piece from the Velcro patches, to open up the garment. It is easiest to keep the elastic straps folded with the rubber band on, to prevent these from sticking as you don the garment.



### Step 2:

Slip the garment over your dog's head through the neck hole.



#### Step 3:

Pull the garment along the length of your dog's back, towards their tail. The garment should sit at the base of the tail or just a little in front of it.



#### Step 4:

Wrap the pant leg, one at a time, around the dog's hind leg (from the outside, around the back of the leg to the inside and around the front) and secure it with the Velcro. Make sure it is a snug fit without being too tight.



#### Step 5:

Secure the side flaps around your dog's midsection by attaching the Velcro flaps to the Velcro receptive patches on the garment. The fit should be snug, but not so tight that it will restrict the dog's breathing.



#### Step 6:

Attach the elastic straps originating from the dog's back diagonally to the Velcro receptive patches at the hip area (on the opposite side) of the garment. Check that there is slight tension on the elastic without being too tight.



#### Step 7:

Attach the elastic straps, also with the Velcro tips originating from the dog's chest diagonally to the Velcro receptive patches at the hip area of the garment. Check that there is slight tension on the elastic without being too tight.



#### HOW TO CHECK THAT THE FIT IS CORRECT

You can also view our video at K9Motion.Com/Videos



You should be able to fit at least 2 fingertips between the dog's neck and the garment around the neck hole.



The leg flaps should be able to reach around the dog's thigh without being excessively tight.



There should be little to no wrinkling/bagging in the body of the garment.



The back edge of the garment should sit near the base of the dog's tail, and the back part of the garment should sit over the hips.



The chest piece that comes up to the rib cage should not be excessively tight.



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## HOW TO REMOVE THE GARMENT FROM YOUR DOG

You can also view our video at K9Motion.Com/Videos



Peel the elastic straps back from the Velcro receptive patches. We recommend folding the Velcro back on itself so it will not stick to other straps on the garment material.



Undo the side flaps as well as the pant legs.



Slip the garment over the head of the dog.

Hang the garment on any hanger or on the back of a chair while it is not in use.

#### HOW TO CARE FOR THE GARMENT

- Step 1: Remove any dog hair trapped in the Velcro tips or Velcro receptive patches on the garment. You can use a fine-toothed comb, small wire brush or flea comb to do so. Duct tape also works.
- Step 2: Hand wash garment in cold water with a mild detergent.
- Step 3: Gently wring water out of garment and air dry flat or hang dry. **Do Not** machine wash, dry clean, machine dry, bleach, or iron. Any such application can destroy or significantly deteriorate the garment.

Please contact us at 213.927.6663 or Contact@K9Motion.com with any issues before returning this product.

# **USAGE RECOMMENDATIONS**

When you first try this garment on your dog, observe his/her reaction to the product. Allow the dog to adapt to the garment for a few minutes around the house or in familiar surroundings. Once the dog seems comfortable, go out for your usual walk with the garment on, again observing for any signs of resistance (does he/she bite, scratch, or chew on it, or refuse to move with it on?), in small increments of time, building from 5 to 30 minutes per walk or activity.

If your dog is resistant to moving in the garment, bring his/her favorite toy or treat and encourage the dog to take a few steps then reward with the toy/treats to make wearing the garment a positive experience. Most dogs accept the garment readily, but occasionally it will take a few times of putting it on and having them wear it before they stop being distracted by the garment, so be patient. Since there are elastic straps and Velcro parts to our garment, which can get snagged on other objects, we always suggest that you supervise your dog while the garment is on. Once your dog has worn the garment several times and is comfortable with it on, you may choose to leave it on during the day when you are not home, but use proper judgment as some dogs are prone to chewing objects, and be aware of any potential objects in the house/yard that could get caught in the garment. Please check your dog for any signs of rubbing/irritation from the garment after each use.

Once you observe that your dog tolerates the garment during his/her usual walks, we recommend usage as below:

First 2-4 days: 30-minutes wear in the morning, then a second 30-minutes wear in the afternoon.

Days 4-6: 45-minutes wear in the morning, then a second 45-minutes wear in the afternoon.

Days 6-10: 60-minutes wear in the morning, then a second 60-minutes wear in the afternoon.

After day 10, continue to add 20-30 minutes of time to each use as long as your dog is not showing any negative signs (refusal to move, excess panting, slower movement during walks, wanting to sit down more, or increased scuffing of hind feet during walks). If you see marked improvement in your dog's mobility with consistent use of the garment, it is possible to work up the tolerance level to the point of having the dog wear the garment from morning till bedtime. Remove the garment in the evening once your pet is settled in for the night.

We do not recommend leaving the garment on 24/7. Please be sure to consult with your veterinarian or physical/ rehabilitation therapist if you have any questions about using our garment in conjunction with any rehabilitation program currently provided by your practitioner.

We do not recommend this product being used with very active dogs during high intensity activity such as sustained running or sports training. Although the garment is designed not to slip around, there is a chance of the garment rubbing the skin and causing irritation with excessive movement.

#### IMPROVEMENTS SEEN IN OUR CLINICAL TRIALS

- Less difficulty arising from lying to standing or sitting to standing.
- Less difficulty in climbing stairs/ramps.
- •Less difficulty getting in and out of a vehicle.
- Improved walking distance with less fatigue or panting.
- Better overall endurance and vitality.

