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## Original Article

### **An investigation of mechanical nociceptive thresholds in dogs with hind limb joint pain compared to healthy control dogs**

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#### **Highlights**

- Mechanical thresholds in dogs with hind limb osteoarthritis (OA) were compared to healthy control dogs.
- Dogs with OA had lower mechanical thresholds at stifle joints compared to controls but not at more distal locations.
- This suggests mechanical threshold testing can detect OA-associated hyperalgesia.

#### **Abstract**

This study investigated the effects of osteoarthritis (OA) on somatosensory processing in dogs using mechanical threshold testing. A pressure algometer was used to measure mechanical thresholds in 27 dogs with presumed hind limb osteoarthritis and 28 healthy dogs. Mechanical thresholds were measured at the stifles, radii and sternum, and were correlated with scores from an owner questionnaire and a clinical checklist, a scoring system that quantified clinical signs of osteoarthritis. The effects of age and bodyweight on mechanical thresholds were also investigated. Multiple regression models indicated that, when bodyweight was taken into account, dogs with presumed osteoarthritis had lower mechanical thresholds at the stifles than control dogs, but not at other sites. Non-parametric correlations showed that clinical checklist scores and questionnaire scores were negatively correlated with mechanical thresholds at the stifles. The results suggest that mechanical threshold testing

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