Kinetic and kinematic gait analysis in dogs.

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Kinetic and kinematic gait analysis provides objective, quantifiable, and repeatable information on normal and abnormal gait in dogs. Data collection requires specialized equipment, and techniques must be carefully controlled to ensure that accurate measurements are obtained. Force-plate and kinematic analysis is currently used primarily as a research tool to study various gait abnormalities and objectively assess treatment efficacy. As future research identifies characteristic changes associated with specific types of lameness, the use of gait analysis to evaluate individual clinical patients with lameness should become more valuable. Specialized gait analysis techniques may eventually enable veterinarians to accurately diagnose subtle lameness, better evaluate dogs with resolving lameness, and accurately select the appropriate time to return an athletic dog to exercise after recovery from an injury.

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