



Please circulate within your practice

Physiotherapy Newsletter

See new web pages for vets

See a case study on website

Canine neurological cases

Physiotherapy rehabilitation after canine neurological issues assists dogs to gain function.

Suitable cases include IVDD both post-surgical and conservative treatment, FCE, traumatic cases, CSM, CDRM, proprioceptive deficit, Neuropathies, Myopathies.

Physiotherapy promotes neural healing using electrotherapy, therapeutically assisted functional movements and prevention of contractures. The Chartered Physiotherapist treats the dog regularly and this helps the owners manage conditions that are often stressful for them to cope with.

Owners appreciate physio involvement, it gives them confidence to be involved in their dog's recovery. Physio is more successful as the first resort not the last resort – it is easier to promote use and prevent compensatory movement or tissue restrictions than to try to reverse them.

Research by vets and physiotherapists has shown that early formalised physiotherapy intervention, can improve functional outcomes, prevent muscle atrophy and contractures, build muscle mass and strength and reassure owners.

So please compliment your veterinary work and refer to a Chartered Veterinary Physiotherapist immediately post op or post insult (for conservative management). We work as a team for the benefit of the dog and owner.



Physiotherapy for hindlimb proprioceptive deficit

Canine neurological cases So what does the physio do then?

Each case is unique and receives an assessment before any treatment is applied. Physiotherapy is not prescriptive; we use information from assessment, vets and owners to clinically reason with our knowledge on tissue healing processes (incl neural), reflexive motor patterning, surgical procedures and biomechanics to devise a bespoke rehab program for that dog.

The **aims** of physio rehab are:

- a) reduce pain
- b) promote healing
- c) promote controlled functional use of the body
- d) prevent compensatory stresses on the musculoskeletal system
- e) provide advice and reassurance to the owner.

The **assessment** includes – veterinary instructions; dog and owners lifestyle and home environment, pain assessment, functional ability, compensatory movements and muscle tension, range of movement of joints, co-morbidities.

Treatments in the early days may include: gentle range of movement exercises, therapeutic handling needs shown to owners, splinting to prevent contractures, therapeutic assistance for movement to promote functional neuro healing, electrotherapy (muscle stim, low level laser light), proprioceptive exercises and a detailed home management program.

Mid to latter stages of physio include pulsed magnetic therapy, transition exercises, assisted mobility to promote neuro-plasticity, muscle control therapy, proprioception input, functional rehab. All the time ensuring quality functional outcomes for the dog within their lifestyle.



Pulsed magnetic therapy