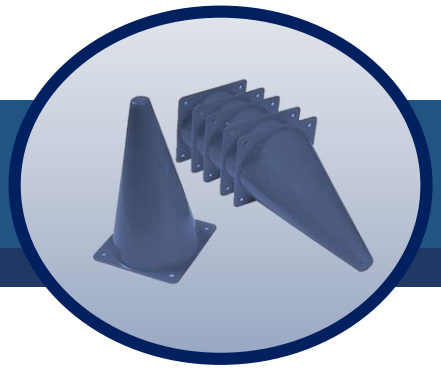


Canine Rehabilitation



We understand that ensuring your furry friend's quality of life your top priority. It's our top priority, too! Their short-term and long-term health, happiness and comfort depends largely on how they're feeling, physically. Have you considered how Rehabilitation may improve your pet's well-being?

The goal of Rehabilitation is to:

- 🐾 Improve or restore normal function as quickly as possible
- 🐾 Alleviate pain
- 🐾 Reduce inflammation
- 🐾 Prevent or minimize atrophy (shrinkage) of muscles, cartilage, bone, tendons & ligaments
- 🐾 Enhance general cardiovascular fitness (weight loss)
- 🐾 Increase strength & range of motion

During rehabilitation we:

1. Identify the source of the patient's pain and/or impairments
2. Assess the integrity of the tissues involved
3. Assess the patient's (functional) ability during daily activities

We measure flexion and extension with a Goniometer (an instrument to measure angles created by joints), your pet's Range of Motion (ROM), and muscle girth measurements (using a tape measure) to determine muscle size, swelling and to monitor any changes.

Rehab exercises can reduce costs to owners, as the need for pain medication can be decreased.

Common rehabilitation exercises include:

- 🐾 Passive Exercises (eg: stretching, Passive Range of Motion [bicycling])
- 🐾 Active Exercises (eg: stair climbing, sit-to-stand)
- 🐾 Assisted Exercises (Balance Boards, Exercise Balls, Weight Shifting)
- 🐾 Therapeutic Ultrasound Aquatic Therapy (eg: swimming, underwater treadmill)
- 🐾 Thermotherapy (cold & warm packs)
- 🐾 Electrical Stimulation Massage Therapy & Laser Therapy

When dealing with a rehab patient, we also discuss the home environment (eg, no-slip flooring, bedding & feeding areas), walking aids (slings, splints, carts or specific harnesses), foot protection, car travel (ramps).

The success of the Rehabilitation patient is determined by the therapeutic intervention & treatment plan, but also by owner compliance. The owner's active participation in the treatment is important for a quicker recovery, as there is usually treatments also required at home.