



Animal Physical Rehabilitation



Is Your Pet a Candidate for Rehabilitation?

In addition to post-operative rehabilitation, Laura's cases include musculoskeletal disorders (e.g. arthritis, cruciate injury), neurological disorders (e.g. disc disease), as well as preventative physical conditioning (e.g. weight maintenance, addressing breed-specific concerns).

The most obvious indications of a lameness are limping, stiffness or awkwardness in the animal's movement that usually coincides with a change in the animal's activity, mobility and behaviour.

It is sometimes difficult for owners to notice a change in their pet's movement or gait, but will often observe symptoms such as their pet's lack of interest in their usual style of play (e.g. no longer fetches, swims, chases other dogs), or changes in their pet's behaviour (e.g. slow and stiff getting up from bed, no longer jumps up into car unassisted, appears uncharacteristically irritable / ornery).

Usually, these obvious changes in activity and behaviour coincide with a lameness and occur because the animal is in pain.

A Comprehensive Lameness Examination

Dr. Romano takes a holistic approach to animal rehabilitation. Laura comprehensively examines patients for the musculoskeletal origins of lameness (usually directly related to the lameness), as well as possible neurological and physiological causes as well.

Laura's holistic approach to lameness addresses the complex physiological dynamic that exists in her patients, and consequently the need to examine specific ailments in the context of the animal's whole health.

Once the origin of the lameness is found, a treatment regimen is chosen that addresses both the primary cause as well as the secondary "compensation" problems triggered by the lameness.

Think of it this way: a musculoskeletal injury, like a cruciate injury, will cause an animal to limp. Obviously limping is not a normal, healthy movement for an animal. Simply put, the animal's uninjured, relatively healthier limbs and joints and spinal column have to do "double duty," working that much harder in order to compensate for the injury. Over time this additional, and abnormal, stress on the healthy parts begins to take its toll, and secondary, compensation injuries arise.

In order for the animal to regain optimum health, both the primary injury, as well as compensation injuries need to be treated.

Chiropractic

Chiropractic treats the nervous system by gently manipulating the spinal column, facilitating the body's innate ability to return to normal function. Chiropractic is used to treat musculoskeletal injuries, immobility, pain, or to improve athletic performance, and is effective on young, active dogs as well as older, not so active seniors.

Acupuncture

Acupuncture uses hair-thin needles inserted at specific points on the body to stimulate and trigger a self-healing response from within the body. Acupuncture is most often used to treat pain, to facilitate tissue repair, alleviate muscle spasms, and stimulate nerves.

Electrical Stimulation (E-Stim)

Low frequency, pulsed, alternating currents are used to stimulate the muscle and nerves, either to cause a muscle contraction or to stimulate the nerve cells in order to repair a control function. Electrical stimulation is used primarily to treat orthopedic and neurological diseases, specifically diseases that cause acute or chronic pain, or muscle atrophy.

Therapeutic Exercise

Therapeutic exercise is exactly what it sounds like – employing specific exercises designed to stretch, rebuild and strengthen muscle. Almost all orthopedic, soft-tissue and neurological cases are candidates for therapeutic exercise.

Ultrasound

Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to heat deep tissues to improve elasticity, decrease pain, improve blood flow and promote healing. Ultrasound is especially effective in treating diseased and dysfunctional joints, as well as certain muscle diseases.

Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy (ESWT)

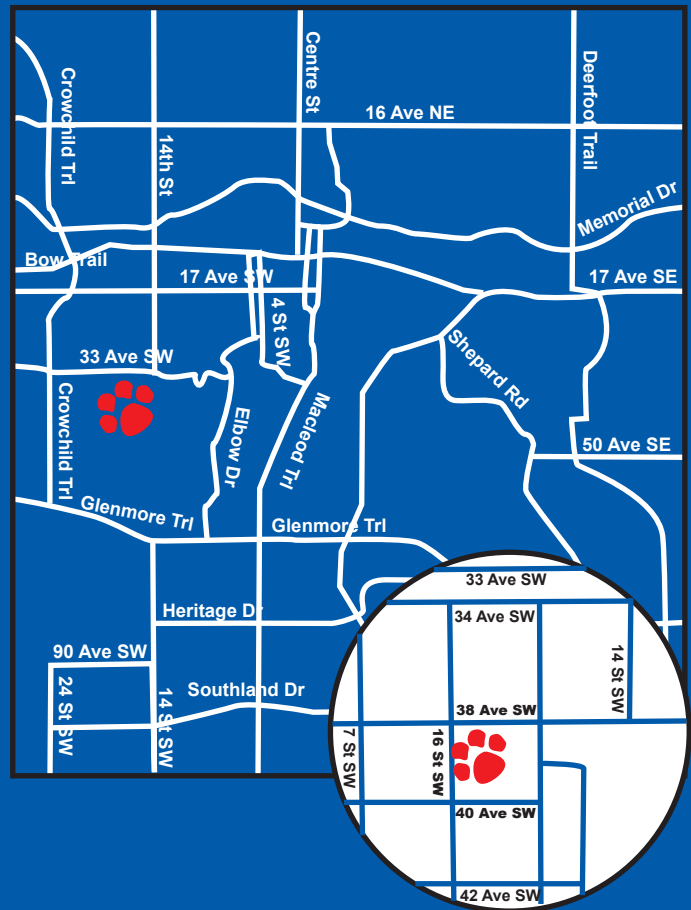
ESWT uses shock waves to initiate repair processes, increase blood flow, and moderate or suppress pain signals. This therapy is often used to treat pain associated with arthritis and tendinopathies.

Pulsed Signal Therapy (PST)

PST uses an electromagnetic field as a carrier for pulsating signals with biological frequency and minimal energy. It is described as emulating the body's electrical energy signals that stimulate the regeneration of damaged structures such as cartilage, discs, bones, and ligaments. It is suitable for acute or chronic musculoskeletal disorders (e.g. arthritis).



Dr. Romano is a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College (1994), and is certified by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society and the Association of Veterinary Acupuncture of Canada. Laura is also a certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner from the University of Tennessee.



Marda Loop Veterinary Centre

4016 - 16 Street SW
Calgary, Alberta T2T 4H4

Phone: 403-243-8873

Fax: 403-243-2408