



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is canine rehabilitation?**

Canine rehabilitation is the veterinary equivalent of physical therapy in human medicine. The word rehabilitation stems from the Latin term *rehabilitare*, which means to restore function, and involves the treatment of orthopedic and neurologic conditions.

### **Why should I consider rehabilitation for my pet?**

Physical therapy has been used for many years to maximize recovery after injury and increase function of human patients. Within the last decade, the field of veterinary medicine has integrated these modalities into treatment plans for pets. Thus, surgical patients are recovering sooner with better success rates, and patients with chronic conditions are benefiting from decreased pain and an increase in quality of life.

### **What are the benefits of rehabilitation?**

The benefits of physical rehabilitation include:

- ✓ Better range of motion of joints
- ✓ Decreased pain associated with joint motion
- ✓ Improved healing of injured and inflamed tissues
- ✓ Prevention of atrophy from disuse of affected muscle groups
- ✓ Improved weight bearing, flexion and extension of limbs
- ✓ Positive psychological effects for the patient and owner

### **What are the goals of physical rehabilitation?**

Our goals are to meet the goals *you* wish your pet to achieve. Whether it is a return to normal function, pain management, or conditioning to improve performance, each rehabilitation plan is developed specifically for your pet's current condition and desired outcome.

### **Who is going to perform the physical rehabilitation?**

The PetMedSpa rehabilitation team consists of a registered veterinary technician and veterinarian, and either may perform the physical rehabilitation. Our rehabilitation staff has completed training through the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine's Canine Rehabilitation Program. Our staff is committed to developing rehabilitation protocols, providing thorough client education and tailoring weight management programs to your pet's needs.

### **Can rehabilitation help my overweight pet?**

Overweight patients have a significant increase in the need for orthopedic surgeries. The excess body weight can cause undue stress on bones, joints, muscles, tendons and ligaments. An increase in pet body weight is also associated with a higher incidence of osteoarthritis. We can evaluate your pet's body condition score and current diet to customize an exercise and diet regimen specifically tailored to your pet's needs.

### **What are the initial costs of therapy?**

The fees for patient evaluation and any rehabilitation performed varies depending on many factors, such as patient size and condition, condition to be treated, in hospital versus outpatient treatment, number of sessions, and expected recovery time. Please feel free to call us to discuss your pet's condition so that we can develop an initial plan and outline estimated treatment costs.