



Laser Therapy: A Non-Invasive Approach to Healing

What is laser therapy?

Laser therapy is an innovative alternative therapy that is used to manage pain and inflammation, as well as promoting wound healing. This treatment can be used alone, or in conjunction with other therapies such as acupuncture, massage therapy, or medications. Therapeutic lasers use light waves of a specific wavelength to promote cellular growth, proliferation, migration, and repair.

What are the benefits of laser therapy?

When your pet gets a laser treatment, they are receiving low-level, cold laser therapy. Cold laser therapies are shown to reduce pain levels and encourage healing through:

- Stimulating the release of endorphins and ATP production
- Decreasing the release of inflammatory cells
- Promoting vasodilation, which improves blood flow and oxygen delivery to the tissues
- Supports muscle relaxation
- Increases collagen synthesis to aid in tissue repair

Therapeutic lasers are noninvasive, meaning this can be a relatively stress-free treatment option for pets that may be difficult to medicate or perform other alternative therapies on.

Who can benefit from laser therapy?

The range of conditions that may benefit from therapeutic lasers is wide. Lasers have been shown to aid in musculoskeletal issues, wounds and chronic skin irritation, infections, and dental disease.

- Musculoskeletal - osteoarthritis, tendonitis, fractures, post-operative ligament ruptures (CCL tears), and post operative pain
- Wounds and Dermatology - incisions, wounds, bites, burns, lick granulomas, and dermatitis
- Infections, Oral and Dental Disease - rhinitis, sinusitis, gingivitis/stomatitis, otitis, and cystitis

If your pet is affected by any of the above conditions, they are a candidate for laser therapy! Some pets have limited options for pain management, such as animals with severe liver disease that cannot take conventional pain medications. As a result, they may rely on alternative therapies like laser therapy to help manage their pain.

What to expect during a treatment session

The most important thing during a laser treatment session is safety! The doctor will wear protective goggles and provide you with a pair as well; even your pet will have to wear a pair of goggles! This is to prevent any injury to the eyes, as laser beams directed at the eye can cause permanent damage to the retina. During a session, the handheld laser wand is slowly moved back and forth over the targeted area, producing a pleasant sensation that most pets find relaxing. Sessions last only a few minutes, and the number of sessions and frequency of treatments is dependent on the injury. Chronic conditions may be treated weekly, whereas surgical incisions and open wounds can sometimes require daily treatment.