

LASER THERAPY

The advancement of laser technology has led to remarkable medical breakthroughs, and lasers are now widely used for a variety of medical applications, such as vision correction and precision surgery. Laser therapy has been proven to reduce pain, speed healing, and reduce inflammation. Professional sports teams have been seeing the benefits of laser therapy in treating injured players for years, and the veterinary world has now adopted the technology to deliver the same healing power to pets.

Central Animal Hospital is proud to be one of the few select facilities in the Bay Area to offer laser therapy, thanks to our recent acquisition of a state-of-the-art Companion Laser. Dr. Catherine Hedden, who is a Certified Veterinary Rehabilitation Specialist, has incorporated this cutting-edge treatment modality into Central Animal Hospital's Rehabilitation and Pain Management program.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• Which medical conditions can the Companion Laser treat?

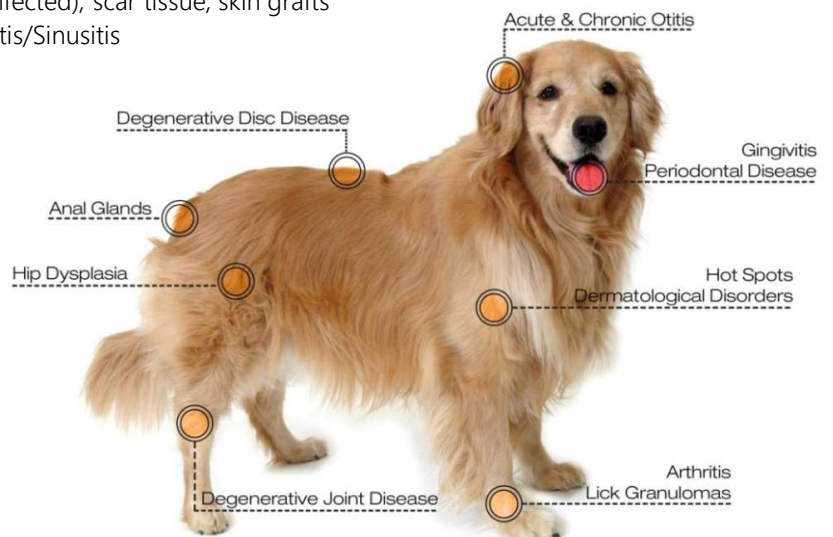
Veterinarians are applying laser technology every day to treat animals that are in pain or facilitate healing of an animal's wound or injury. Simply put, patients who suffer from any combination of pain, inflammation, or slow-healing wounds can benefit from laser treatments.

For pets who have had surgery or a traumatic injury, the laser is used to speed healing. For surgical patients, this is a simple, quick treatment immediately after surgery along the incision. Laser therapy is also an excellent way to assist older pets with musculoskeletal ailments and decreased mobility. Pets with chronic pain conditions and degenerative joint diseases such typically see significant benefit from laser treatments. Here are just a few examples of the many conditions that can be effectively treated with laser therapy:

- Bacterial and Fungal Infections
- Musculoskeletal disorders including Arthritis, Hip or Elbow Dysplasia, Tendonitis, Bursitis, Contractures
- Skin disorders such as Acral Lick Dermatitis, Feline Acne, & Pyotraumatic Dermatitis (hot spots)
- Anal gland ruptures, wounds (both clean and infected), scar tissue, skin grafts
- Respiratory Disorders, Feline Asthma, and Rhinitis/Sinusitis
- Ear infections- both acute and chronic
- Cystitis/FUS
- Hematomas
- Periodontal disease and gingivitis
- Chronic neurological conditions
- Gout
- Tendon or ligament injuries
- Fractures
- Intervertebral Disc Disease
- Cauda Equina Syndrome
- Rodent Ulcers
- Snake Bites
- Burns or soft tissue trauma
- Sprains and strains



Laser therapy offers proven therapeutic benefits for post-surgical pain and many acute and chronic conditions.



- **Which pets are candidates for laser therapy?**

Any species of pet that is in pain or discomfort is a candidate laser therapy. Laser treatments are drug-free, making the technique ideal for treating pain in pets who might suffer side-effects from medications.

- **How does a laser help with healing?**

Lasers differ from one another in both the wavelength and strength of light that they produce. In medical applications, different wavelengths affect living tissue in different ways. Therapy laser light stimulates the mitochondria within the cells to help tissues heal: scientists call this process "photobiomodulation". A cascade of beneficial effects then takes place at the cellular level which accelerates blood flow, heals tissue, and reduces pain and decreases inflammation and edema. The laser precipitates the release of endorphins, enhancing nerve cell regeneration and inhibiting the release of neurotransmitters across the receptors that feel pain in the muscles, dulling the perception of pain. It also causes increased angiogenesis, a physiological process through which new blood vessels form. This increases circulation to the inflamed area and allows the body to move fluid away from the affected area.

- **How many treatments are required?**

The number and frequency of laser treatments recommended depends on several factors, including the objective of laser treatment and the severity of the pet's condition. More severe cases often require a series of treatments to realize the full benefits. Dr. Catherine Hedden, our Certified Rehabilitation Specialist, will recommend an appropriate treatment plan after an initial evaluation with your pet. Laser therapy may be performed daily or several times a week for the first 1-2 weeks, then – depending on the response of the patient and the objective – the frequency needed may decrease. An acute problem, like a wound, may only require a few visits within a short period of time.

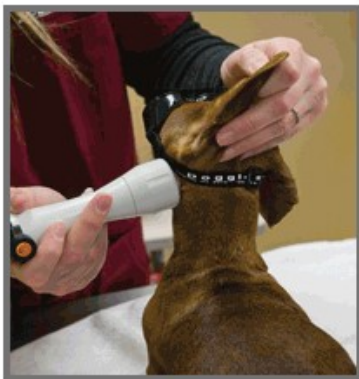
- **What does a laser therapy session entail?**

Treatment with our Companion Laser is non-invasive, requires no anesthesia, and produces no side effects. Occasionally a pet with a chronic pain condition will experience increased soreness the day after blood flow has been stimulated in a painful area; this soreness should subside by the second day, post-treatment. Laser treatments are administered in the clinic by one of our trained vet technicians. Protective eyewear is required for everyone present, and the patient will wear goggles (sometimes called "doggles") during the session. The treatment is completely painless. In fact, for most pets, the experience feels similar to what we humans call massage therapy! We typically see relief and improvement in laser patients within hours of completing a treatment.

- **Is laser therapy expensive?**

Our clients are often surprised by how affordable this powerful, "high tech" therapy is! Many pet insurance plans cover laser therapy treatments. Whether billing insurance or not, clients have the option of purchasing multiple sessions at once (our 6-session therapy package) for a cost savings.

The non-invasive
Companion Therapy
Laser relieves pain,
reduces swelling,
and speeds healing.



To schedule a consultation with our Certified Rehabilitation Specialist, call (408) 377-4043.