



DANADA VETERINARY HOSPITAL, P.C.

Therapeutic Laser Therapy

Referred to as cold laser therapy, therapeutic laser therapy is the use of infrared or near-infrared light wavelengths at low power to help stimulate tissues in a variety of beneficial ways. As light penetrates and warms tissues, it becomes trapped in the tissue allowing targeted treatment of specific areas. Laser therapy is a non-painful, natural alternative to traditional anti-inflammatories, as well as an aid in helping the body heal tissues more quickly.

Benefits of Laser Therapy

Anti-inflammatory-reduces inflammation, bruising, swelling, and edema by promoting improved blood flow and lymphatic drainage

Pain Reduction-reduces pain transmission along nerve cells and promotes release of endorphins and other beneficial chemical signals

Improved Tissue Repair-stimulates ATP (Energy) production to promote new cell growth and removal of waste products from damaged tissues

Improved blood flow-Promotes development of new vessels to help speed recovery

Decreased Scarring-diminishes formation of fibrous (scar tissue) as tissues heal

Improved Speed of Wound Healing-stimulates formation of collagen which serves as scaffolding to repair tissues such as surgical wounds and burns

Improved nerve function/stimulation in damaged tissues

Stimulation of Immune System in treated tissues

Common Uses for Laser Therapy

The most common usage for laser therapy is for patients with osteoarthritis. However, many other painful conditions such as cruciate ligament disease, muscle and tendon injuries, and intervertebral disc disease (IVDD) can be managed with therapeutic laser. Additionally, laser therapy is often employed to help with post-surgical and dental extraction healing, burn management, and other inflammatory conditions such as stomatitis, and lick sores.

When Should Laser Not Be Utilized?

Since laser therapy stimulates tissues, it should never be used directly over a known tumor. Care needs to be taken to avoid treatments around the eyes as well as glandular tissues such as the thyroid gland (neck). Use of laser in patients with immune compromise is controversial.

What Are Therapeutic Laser Therapy Options?

For chronic therapy, such as management of arthritis, injuries, or wounds, an examination is required to determine the appropriateness of laser therapy. For laser therapy to be effective, the exact location of the injury must be identified. Therefore, additional diagnostics such as x-rays may be necessary.

If laser therapy is deemed appropriate, we offer two different options. Our in-office laser, **MLS laser therapy**, is a dual wavelength laser that allows simultaneous reduction of inflammation by one light wavelength while the second wavelength penetrates deeper into tissues to promote positive tissue response. This laser offers more sustained benefit following each treatment. Therefore, patients typically require less frequent treatments after initiation of their treatment plan. A typical program would start with three treatments in week one, then two treatments in week two, then one treatment in week three. From there, most pets will require treatment every 1-3 weeks for sustained benefit.

Alternatively, we have offer an at-home therapy option. **MedcoVet's handheld Luma laser** can be obtained via a rent-to-own agreement, allowing clients to perform treatments in the comfort of their own home. This makes Luma laser a great option for pets that are too afraid to come into the clinic for treatment, or for those who experience limitations in mobility that prevent them from travelling well.

Luma laser is a less powerful laser than the MLS laser. While this means less need for safety equipment (such as protective eyewear), it also requires that treatments be performed daily for the best results. Treatments are managed via a web portal that both you and your veterinarian can access to record progress and communicate about changes in treatment protocols.