

Why Choose a Rehabilitation Veterinarian?

Veterinarians use their extensive education to consider all body systems in developing a therapeutic plan for your patient.

Many rehabilitation veterinarians have post-doctorate training in the areas of orthopedic surgery, pain management, acupuncture, and chiropractic as well as rehabilitation.

Licensed physical therapists with additional training in veterinary rehabilitation also can perform some forms of physical rehabilitation on animals, however, only a veterinarian can provide whole body care, prescribe needed medicines, and perform a veterinary diagnostic evaluation prior to designing a treatment plan.



You may see facilities advertising “wellness care” and “aquatic therapy” for your animal. Be sure to check the credentials of anyone offering such services, and ask if they have an AARV veterinarian overseeing the care of the animals in their facility.



rehabvets.org



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Restoring our patients' quality of life

American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians



What Is Rehabilitation Therapy?

Veterinary rehabilitation begins with the proper diagnosis of injuries, both orthopedic and soft tissue. The rehabilitation-trained veterinarian then uses manual therapy, therapeutic exercise, and physical modalities (including ultrasound, electrical stimulation, LASER, hydrotherapy, and shockwave) to speed and enhance recovery from debilitating injuries and degenerative conditions.

Veterinary rehabilitation incorporates advanced imaging techniques, regenerative medicine, and state-of-the-art pain management techniques.

Only a properly trained veterinarian, with advanced training, expertise—and most importantly—experience in the management of pain and loss of function through injury and illness, should manage the rehabilitation of an animal.

What Is a Rehabilitation Veterinarian?

This is any veterinarian who focuses on rehabilitation. Members of the AARV have made a commitment to continuing education and participation in clinical research in order to provide the very best care.

Some veterinarians have specific rehabilitation certification. They may be either Certified Canine/Equine Rehabilitation Practitioners (CCRP /CERP) or Therapists (CCRT/CERT) depending on where they received the certification.

In most states, it is necessary for a non-veterinary therapist performing rehabilitation to be supervised by a veterinarian. A rehabilitation veterinarian has special knowledge of this discipline and encourages collaboration within an integrative therapy team.



About AARV

The American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians, a registered non-profit organization, promotes education and research in the field of veterinary rehabilitation. Members attend continuing education programs offered by AARV in conjunction with national veterinary meetings.

Our Mission Statement

Through the development and dissemination of veterinary rehabilitation best practices, the AARV seeks to fully integrate veterinary rehabilitation into the standard of care of veterinary medicine.

Examples of Conditions Treated

Osteoarthritis	Shoulder OCD
Hip problems	Elbow dysplasia
Muscle injuries	Joint dislocation
Spinal injuries	Patellar luxation
Intervertebral disc disease	Biceps tenosynovitis
Neuromuscular disease	Infraspinatus contracture
Arthrodesis	Achilles tendon rupture
Fractures	Tendon laceration
Hip problems	
Cruciate injury	We also help to attain and maintain peak fitness in athletes.
Paralysis and paresis	
Limb amputation	