

## WHY CHOOSE A REHABILITATION VETERINARIAN?

Veterinarians use their extensive education to consider all body systems in making a diagnosis and developing and overseeing an appropriate therapeutic plan for your pet. Licensed physical therapists and veterinary technicians with training in animal rehabilitation can work in conjunction with your veterinarian, however, only a veterinarian can provide whole body care, prescribe needed medicines, and perform a veterinary diagnostic evaluation prior to designing and prescribing 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.*



## WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE A REHABILITATION VETERINARIAN?



PHOTO BY BAILEYANDBANJO.COM



RESTORING OUR PATIENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE

American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians



[rehabvets.org](http://rehabvets.org)



## WHAT IS VETERINARY REHABILITATION?

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 (such as: ultrasound, electrical stimulation, LASER, hydrotherapy, and shockwave) to speed and enhance recovery from 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?

Members of the AARV have made a commitment to continuing education in veterinary physical rehabilitation and often participate in clinical research to promote optimal patient care. Veterinarians may pursue post-doctorate rehabilitation certification training.

The training programs award titles such as:

Certified Canine/Equine Rehabilitation Practitioners (CCRP /CERP) or Therapists (CCRT/CERT) or Certified Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapist (VMRT).

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

## EXAMPLES OF CONDITIONS TREATED AND SERVICES PROVIDED

- Osteoarthritis
- Injuries to and Developmental Problems of Muscle, Ligament, Tendon, Bone, Joints, and the Nervous System
- Physical Conditioning, Fitness and Athletic Maintenance
- Weight Loss



## ABOUT AARV

The American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians (AARV) is an international association of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, students, and allied health professionals who are dedicated to improving the quality of life in animals through veterinary rehabilitation. As a registered non-profit organization, AARV 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

To advance the art and science of veterinary rehabilitation through education, advocacy, and a commitment to research.