

PHYSIOTHERAPY Following Amputation



In general, dogs do quite well after amputation and they are amazing how well they can compensate no matter the size of the dog. A forelimb amputation can be more difficult, especially in a larger dog, given dogs bear 60% of their weight on their front legs. Amputation places a much greater stress on their body due to a large amount of compensation, especially on the remaining limbs.

Your dog will need to relearn how to balance with a new centre of gravity, move safely and relearn many tasks. Physiotherapy plays a large role in ensuring the rest of the body is coping with the change of load, reduce pain, normalising balance and improving overall stability and strength. Any other conditions such as arthritis, being overweight or previous injuries will also make it more difficult for the dog to continue to mobilise and accommodate to its new gait. Early physiotherapy intervention is very important after amputation.

About Animal Physiotherapy

Physiotherapy is a well established profession in the human health care field that is now becoming recognised as a valuable adjunct to veterinary management of animals to ensure optimal treatment and recovery. Physiotherapy on animals works on the same principles as human physiotherapy and aims to promote healing and accelerate recovery, restore function and movement, reduce pain and inflammation, improve strength, optimise function, improve quality of life and prevent future injury and secondary complications from compensatory gait. Animal physio's are also qualified human physio's with Masters training in Animal or Veterinary Physiotherapy.

Animal physio's will use a variety of techniques which may include joint/ spinal mobilisation, soft tissue massage, gait correction/ movement re-education, stretching, neuromuscular stimulation, electrotherapy and balance/ stability/ proprioceptive exercises. Owners will also be provided with a home exercise program to continue rehabilitation and lots of advice and education on your dog's condition and best management at home.

Where? When?

Sandy works at the **Brisbane Veterinary Specialist Centre** every **Tuesday**. An initial consultation/ treatment and home program prescription will take 1 hour and follow up consultations will take approximately **30-45** minutes. Appointments can be made directly with Sandy by calling **0415 219 566**.

If you are not sure if Physiotherapy is appropriate or have any further questions about your dog's rehabilitation, please do not hesitate to call and discuss with Sandy or alternatively speak with your vet or surgeon.

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