

# Cold Laser Therapy

Here at Thousand Islands Veterinary Services, we provide an alternative rehabilitation therapy called “**Cold Laser Therapy**”. This laser therapy is a non-invasive, effective way to treat and manage several conditions. And better still it is **painless**! The most your pet will feel from it is warmth in the area being treated. This warmth will be more pronounced if your pet has dark hair, but it should not hurt at all!

## **So what exactly is this cold laser and how does it work?**

This laser therapy is a form of “phototherapy” (the use of light for treatment) which involves the application laser light to injuries and/or lesions to promote healing. Photons enter the affected tissue and are absorbed in the energy component of the cells (remember Mitochondria from biology class?) and the cell membrane. This ultimately increases the quality and speed of tissue repair, resolving inflammation and providing pain relief.

## **Why use cold laser therapy?**

Laser therapy is non-invasive, drug free, side effect free, painless and can be used to help improve many conditions in both dogs and cats. In some cases, it may be the most cost-effective form of treatment for your animal. This universal method has been proven effective in clinical studies in both veterinary and human medicine.

## **What conditions can the cold laser treat?**

As mentioned before the cold laser can be used in several circumstances. The reasons we use the cold laser is to reduce some form of inflammation, therefore, reducing pain and to assist/speed healing. There are many conditions that can benefit from the cold laser:

- **Hip Dysplasia**
- **Post Surgical Repair of Cruciate Ligament Ruptures**
- **Osteoarthritis**
- **Healing of dermatological disorders such as hot spots**
- **Otitis (ear infection/inflammation)**
- **Post operative wound healing**
- **Traumatic injuries (such as sprains and strains)**
- **Cuts and wound healing**

## **If I try cold laser how many treatments will my animal need?**

The number of treatments depends on the severity of the condition. For example, if a dog was experiencing inflamed anal glands the recommendation for the frequency of treatments is every third or fourth day until the condition is resolved. Whereas, if a dog is experiencing osteoarthritis than the treatment frequency will often consist of weekly visits for a certain period of time and then later on become monthly or as required treatments. There is no fixed schedule when it comes to cold laser therapy as all conditions differ between patients. Some cases will need more or less treatments depending on the severity of the condition and the speed of healing. Consistent treatments and compliance is important for this type of therapy!

## **Is this the right form of therapy for you and your pet?**

We have seen some fabulous results using this alternative therapy! Please do not hesitate to ask a TIVS team member if cold laser therapy might benefit your pet. We'd be happy to answer any questions that you have.