



## PHYSIOTHERAPY MANAGEMENT OF AMPUTATION

In general, dogs do well after amputation, whether it is a forelimb or hind limb. They are amazing how well they can compensate no matter the size of the dog. A forelimb amputation can be more difficult in a larger dog, especially as dogs bear 60% of their weight on their front leg. Without a doubt amputation places a much greater stress on their body. Obviously, there is a large amount of compensation, especially of the remaining limb.

Any other conditions such as arthritis, being overweight or previous injuries can make it more difficult for the dog to continue to mobilise and accommodate to its new gait.

Your dog will need to relearn how to balance with a new centre of gravity, move safely and relearn many tasks. This will take some guidance and occasionally assistance from a sling. 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. If there are any other contributing factors to their well-being it is important to improve their overall condition to cope with these strains. A home program can be developed to incorporate massage, stretches and specific exercises to improve the recovery and aid quality of life.

### PHYSIOTHERAPY BENEFITS:

- **Reduce pain/muscle spasm**
- **Facilitate healing**
- **Restore normal passive range of movement**
- **Muscle re-education – normalise muscle tone and balance**
- **Assist functional return to activities**
- **Prevent or minimise complications**
- **Improve proprioception (joint position sense)**
- **Improve core stability**
- **Increase strength in a controlled manner**
- **Gait re-education**
- **Improve your pet's overall condition**
- **Education to manage at home and maximise recovery**

## WHEN?

Treatment should begin as soon as possible after an injury/surgery, and may be introduced as an inpatient whilst recovering as an inpatient. This will be provided to reduce pain, facilitate healing, reduce swelling and assist in transfers.

Physiotherapy is not just about exercise – we are experts at acute management of injuries also. Therefore, it is vital to maximise the speed of your dog's recovery to make sure he/she safely gets back to appropriate exercises and therefore limit any secondary complications.

An extensive home program will be given to help maximise your animal's recovery and this must be performed PAINFREE. Every animal is unique and should be treated as such when designing a program – **there is no formula!**

## CONSULTATION

At Holistic Animal Physiotherapy we provide a thorough assessment (1-1.5 hr), including hands-on/manual assessment and treatment from nose to tail, acupuncture, advice and provision of home program (including provision of appropriate stability exercises). We can also provide advice to help manage your animal at home with confinement, (as this can be stressful for the human and dog) and tailor your program to your needs. We are available for advice for ongoing management at any stage. Following consultations are 30 mins-45 mins or packages of underwater treadmill and laser may be included.

## LOOKING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

Please visit [www.holisticanimalphysio.com.au](http://www.holisticanimalphysio.com.au) / Facebook (holistic animal physiotherapy)/Instagram (brookeanimalphysio). Call Brooke (0408 022 660) to make an appointment or ask any questions you may have.

Kind regards,

## BROOKE MARSH

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