

# ★ STAAR ★

Symposium on Therapeutic Advances in Animal Rehabilitation

September 27-30, 2023  
Parsippany, New Jersey

## PROGRAM



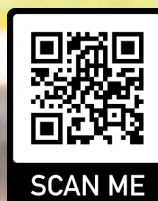
## RESOURCE GUIDE

[staarconference.com](https://staarconference.com)  
A Vital Vet® Production

# Your Go-To Resource for Your Pet's Special Needs



Everything rehab, physio,  
and fitness for pets can  
be found on Vital Vet



[vitalvet.org](https://vitalvet.org)

# One Centralized Space and Go-To Resource for All Things Rehab, Physio, and Fitness for Pets

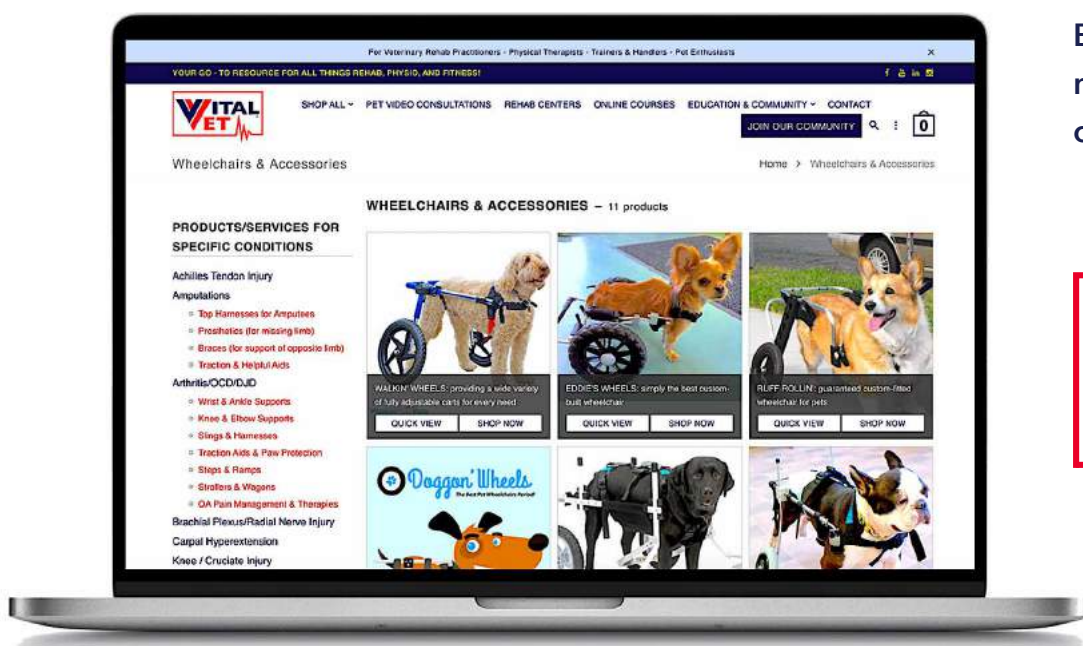
Products and resources related to animal rehabilitation, physiotherapy, and fitness can be hard to find. They are widely scattered across the internet, which frustrates and confuses pet parents and veterinary professionals seeking specialty items and information for pets with mobility issues. Vital Vet® was formed to bridge the gap in the specialty pet care markets. **Now, there is one centralized space and a go-to resource for all rehab, physio, and fitness needs for pets.**

Co-founded in 2020 by Ilaria Borghese and Maria Denzer, Vital Vet was strategically designed to benefit both the veterinary practitioner and the ultra-dedicated pet parent. Borghese and Denzer have been involved in animal rehabilitation for more than 20 years. Having co-founded STAAR Conference and Thera-Paw, Inc., they understand the full spectrum of this niche space from the manufac-

turing, retail, and marketing angles, to the importance of education for both the professional and pet parent.

Borghese and Denzer saw the need for one resource where veterinary professionals could find rehab products, connect with colleagues, and explore educational opportunities. They also wanted to provide pet parents with one site where they can find top rehab professionals in their area and recommended products, learn more about their pet's condition, and how to help them stay active and healthy.

There's nothing else like Vital Vet in the marketplace, and over a quarter of a million visitors to the site and more than 12,000 subscribers agree! Vital Vet is quickly becoming the "Chewy.com" of the animal specialty online space.



Become a Vital Vet member and join our community!



vitalvet.org



# WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE

Below is the schedule for the STAAR Workshops  
with length of course (red text) and instructor (blue text)

Wed 9/27 AM	Wed 9/27 PM	Thurs 9/28 AM	Thurs 9/28 PM	Fri 9/29 AM	Fri 9/29 PM	Sat 9/30 AM
Basic Manual Therapy for the Canine Spine (2-day workshop) <i>L. Edge-Hughes</i>				Conservative Management of Medial Shoulder Hypermobility (1/2-day workshop) <i>L. Edge-Hughes</i>	Conservative Management of Patellofemoral and Stifle Instabilities: Focus on Manual Techniques (1/2-day workshop) <i>S. Davis</i>	Case After Case: Live Cases to Work Through and Learn From (1/2-day workshop) <i>L. Edge-Hughes</i>
Multimodal Treatment of the Iliopsoas (1/2-day workshop) <i>D. Torraca</i>	Advancements in and Management of Degenerative Myelopathy (1/2-day workshop) <i>D. Torraca</i>	Sensory Stimulation for NeuroPlasticity Following Orthopaedic or Neurologic Injury (1-day workshop) <i>A. Hesbach</i>		Puppy Conditioning: How to Start Them Off Right for Any Sport (1/2-day workshop) <i>R. Acciani</i>	Conditioning the Canine Athlete and Return to Sport After Rehab (1/2-day workshop) <i>R. Acciani</i>	Puppy Conditioning: How to Start Them Off Right for Any Sport (1/2-day workshop) <i>R. Acciani</i>
Instrument-assisted Soft Tissue Mobilization for Canine Rehabilitation (1/2-day workshop) <i>A. Hesbach</i>	Kinesiology Taping (1/2-day workshop) <i>A. Hesbach</i>	Myofascial Release: Practical Applications for Small Animals (1/2-day workshop) <i>J. Moe</i>	Myofascial Release: Practical Applications for Small Animals (1/2-day workshop) <i>J. Moe</i>	Help! Assistive Devices in Physical Rehabilitation (1/2-day workshop) <i>J. Moe</i>	Help! Assistive Devices in Physical Rehabilitation (1/2-day workshop) <i>J. Moe</i>	Conservative Management of Patellofemoral and Stifle Instabilities: Focus on Manual Techniques (1/2-day workshop) <i>S. Davis</i>
Mulligan Concept and Joint Mobilization for Canine <u>Extremities</u> (1/2-day workshop) <i>E. Saltis</i>	Rehabilitation for the Canine Hip (1/2-day workshop) <i>E. Saltis</i>	Multimodal Treatment of the Iliopsoas (1/2-day workshop) <i>D. Torraca</i>	Rehabilitation for the Canine Hip (1/2-day workshop) <i>E. Saltis</i>	Mulligan Concept and Joint Mobilization for the Canine <u>Spine</u> (1/2-day workshop) <i>E. Saltis</i>	Kinesiology Taping (1/2-day workshop) <i>A. Hesbach</i>	Instrument-Assisted Soft Tissue Mobilization for Canine Rehabilitation (1/2-day workshop) <i>A. Hesbach</i>

# CONFERENCE INFO & AMENITIES

## STAAR Registration Hours - main floor

Tuesday 2:00 – 6:00pm  
Wednesday 7:30 – 8:30am and 1:15 – 2:15pm  
Thursday 7:30 – 8:30am and 1:15 – 2:15pm  
Friday 7:30 – 8:30am and 1:15 – 2:15pm  
Saturday 7:30 – 8:30am

## Exhibit Hall Hours (suggested) - main floor

Wednesday 7:30am – 6:30pm  
Thursday 7:30am – 9:00pm  
Friday 7:30am – 6:30pm  
Saturday 7:30am – 1:00pm (optional)

## Workshop Labs - main floor

Lab classrooms are clearly labeled and generally located along the right side of the hotel's main floor.

## STAAR Breakfast - main floor, Exhibit Hall area

Hot breakfast buffet is included for all Embassy Suites Hotel overnight guests courtesy of the Hotel (located in "Bistecca" – you will need your room number for admission; no dogs allowed).

Continental breakfast is included for all STAAR Participants, and is located in the Exhibit Hall area. Breakfast is available from 7:30 – 8:30am (excluding Saturday).

## Lunch - main floor

Served Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 12:45 – 2:00pm in the 'Bistecca' restaurant. Please use your lanyard for admission. Snacks and beverages are available throughout the day.

## STAAR Cocktail Party - Thursday evening (7:00 – 9:00pm) main floor, Exhibit Hall area

All STAAR Participants are welcome. Food and open bar (wine and beer). This year's raffle proceeds recipient is NOMV (Not One More Vet), and 100% of the proceeds from the raffle will be donated to this worthy organization. You will find one (1) complementary raffle ticket in your lanyard, and more tickets will be available for purchase throughout the day on Wednesday and Thursday. Raffle begins at 8:30pm. You must be present to win.

## Hotel Information

Check in: 4:00pm  
Check out: 11:00am

The Embassy Suites Hotel has two main entrances: 1) Use the hotel lobby entrance to check in for overnight guests; 2) Use the "Bistecca" entrance to register for STAAR and access the Exhibit Hall.

## Off-Site Restaurants

Directly across the street from the Hotel

- Palermo's Pizza
- Habit Burger
- The Great Wazu
- Wendy's
- McDonalds
- Bubbakoo's

5 Minutes from the Hotel on Route 46

- Applebee's
- Panera Bread
- God Fathers Pizza
- Eccola (Fine Dining)
- Barka (Fine Dining)
- Chipotle
- Subway
- Smash Burger

10 Minutes from the Hotel Route 46

- Casa Bella (Fine Dining)
- Thatcher McGee's
- Hunan Taste (Fancier Chinese place)
- Sogo (Sushi / Habachi)
- Veggie Heaven



# Exhibit Hall Map

Bistecca Restaurant

11

10

9

8

12

13

14

7

Continental  
Breakfast  
Area

17

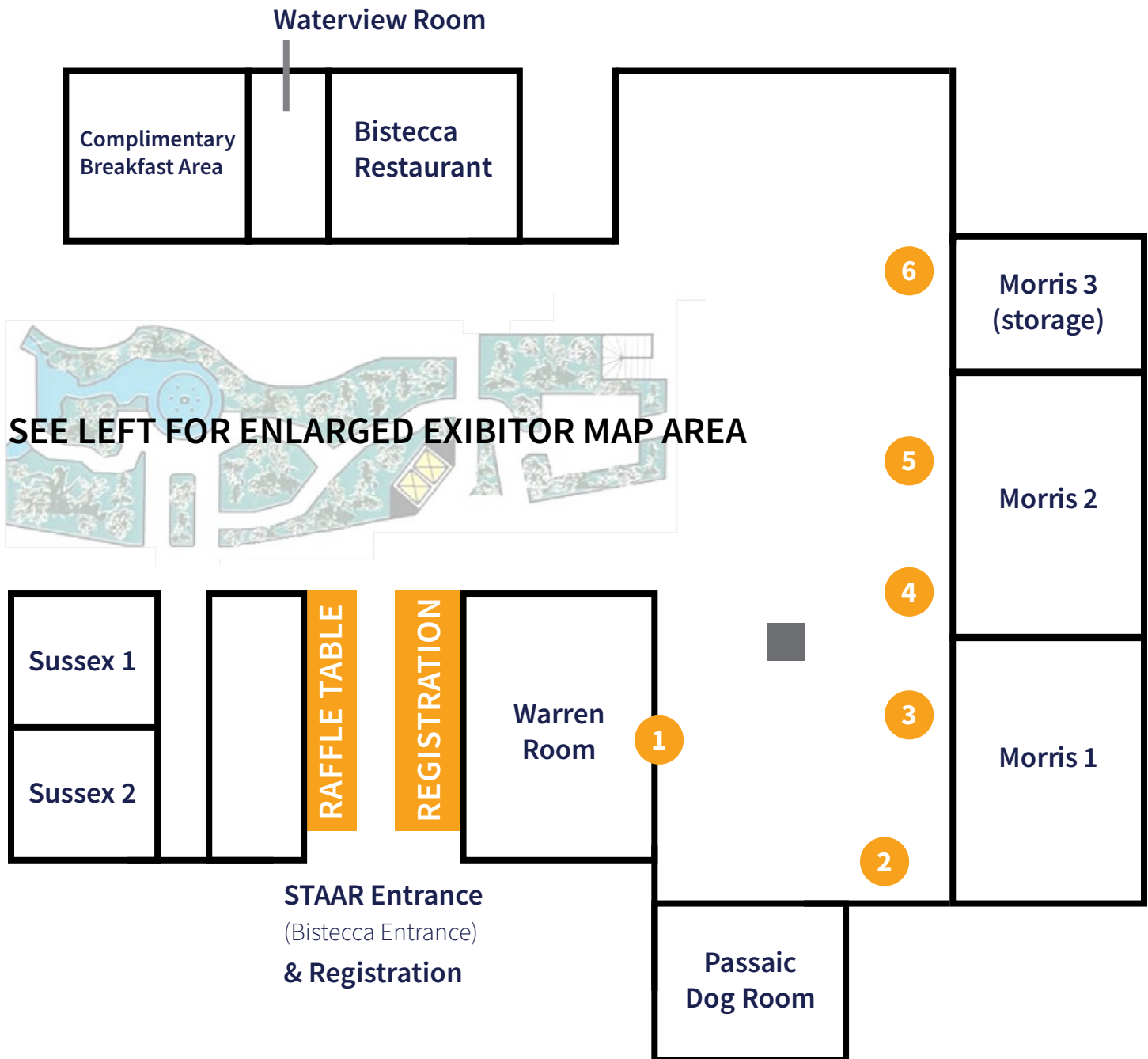
18

15

16

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1</b> Multi Radiance Veterinary Lasers      | <b>11</b> Thera-Paw / Vital Vet  |
| <b>2</b> Walkin' Pets                          | <b>12</b> Spectra VET Therapeutic Lasers                                     |
| <b>3</b> My Pet's Brace                        | <b>13</b> MediVet Products   |
| <b>4</b> Canine Rehabilitation Institute (CRI) | <b>14</b> Los Angeles Animal Specialty<br>Emergency & Rehabilitation (LAASR) |
| <b>5</b> Zomedica                              | <b>15</b> Eddie's Wheels for Pets, Inc.                                      |
| <b>6</b> Hudson Aquatic Systems LLC            | <b>16</b> ELvation Medical LLC   |
| <b>7</b> Paw Prosper                           | <b>17</b> Wimba INC  |
| <b>8</b> Companion Animal Health               | <b>18</b> Canine Rehab Systems   |
| <b>9</b> The K9PT Academy                      |  |
| <b>10</b> Kinas Medical Technologies           |  |

# Exhibit Hall Map



Not One More Vet (NOMV) envisions a veterinary profession that honors and elevates sustainable wellbeing.

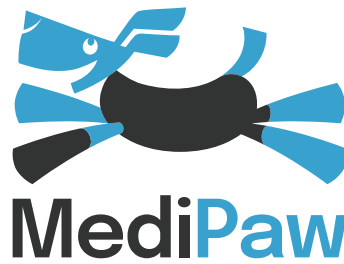




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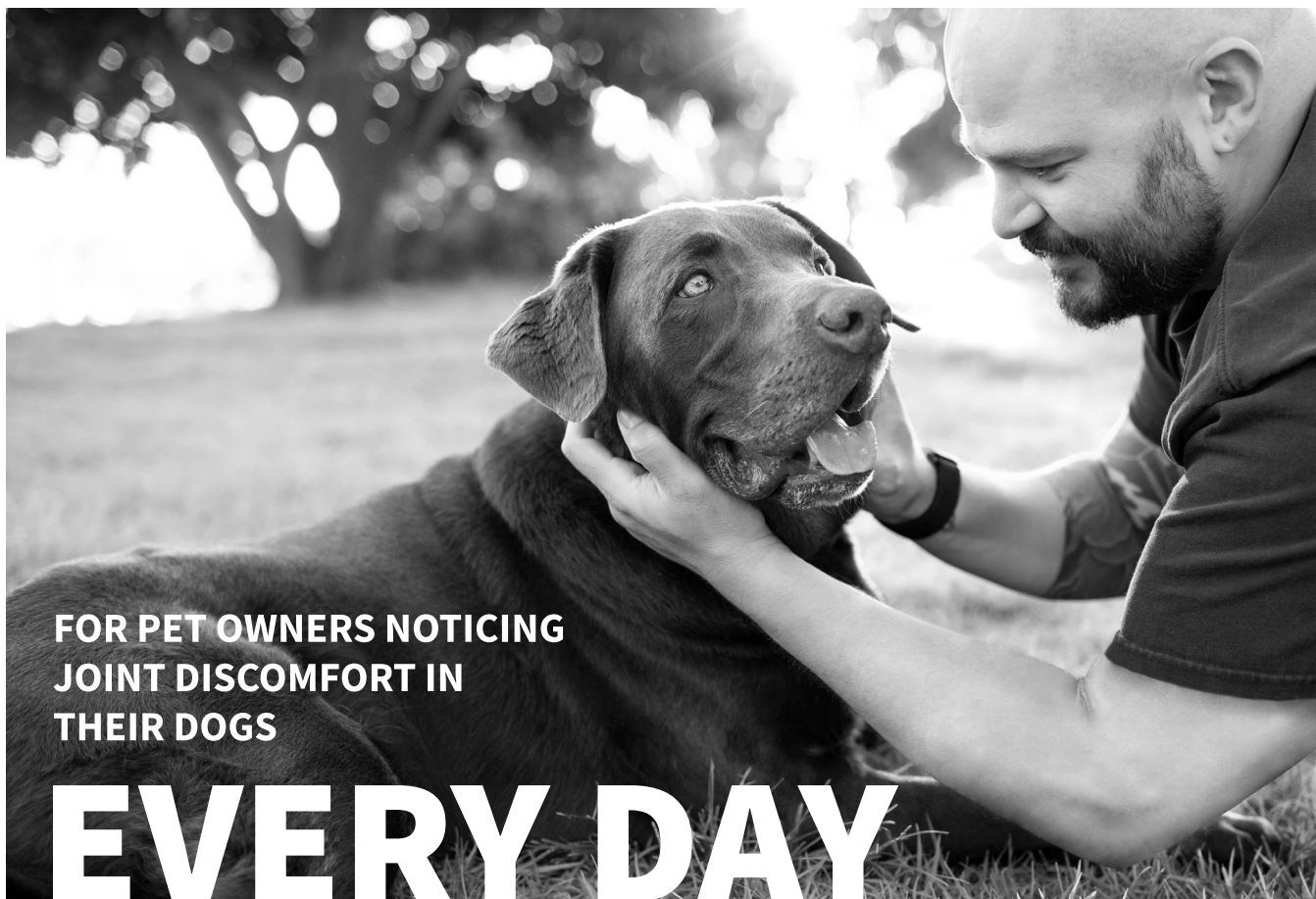
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\*Source: Survey conducted among small animal veterinarians who recommended animal supplements.

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# Groundbreaking Study Proves Efficacy of Calmer Canine® for Separation Anxiety

The first placebo-controlled, double-blind study using video data to conclusively demonstrate the independent efficacy of a non-pharmaceutical therapy to significantly reduce separation anxiety signs in dogs.



Clinical trial published December 20, 2021 in *Front. Vet. Sci.* 8:775092.  
doi:10.3389/fvets.2021775092.

## Randomized, placebo-controlled prospective clinical trial evaluating the efficacy of the Assisi Anti-Anxiety Device (Calmer Canine) for the treatment of canine separation anxiety

Katherine Pankratz, Judy Korman, Carrie Emke, Brianna Johnson, Emily H. Griffith, Margaret E. Gruen

Forty client-owned dogs with moderate to severe separation anxiety (SA) completed the placebo-controlled double-blind study. Videos showed significant reduction in negative behaviors of the active group compared to the placebo group by week six ( $p = 0.036$ ), and higher percentage of success at week four ( $Z = 2.83$ ,  $p = 0.005$ ), week six ( $Z = 1.65$ ,  $p = 0.098$ ), and across the full study ( $Z = 1.99$ ,  $p = 0.047$ ). In owner questionnaires, no difference in behavior or overall score was found between the active and placebo groups ( $p > 0.05$ ).

Separation anxiety (SA) in dogs is a common behavioral disorder, affecting between 14 and 20% of the pet dog population.<sup>1,2</sup> Common active signs of SA, recognizable by owners, include destructiveness, vocalization, and housesoiling during periods of separation. Owners miss important signs of SA which are not detectable without video of the dog left alone. Video analysis is becoming the gold standard for evaluating signs of SA, as owners are unable to recognize the more common, but less active signs. Dogs with SA spend a significantly greater proportion of their time in a hypervigilant state, orienting to the environment, and not resting, or playing when compared to dogs not affected by SA.

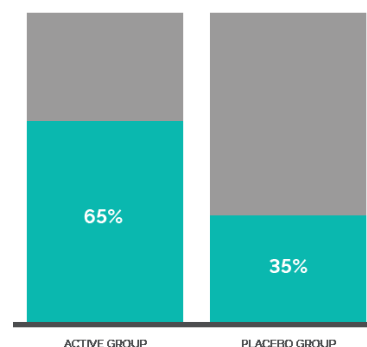
This groundbreaking study conclusively shows that the pulsed electromagnetic field (PEMF) device, Calmer Canine®, is an effective and well tolerated treatment for significantly reducing the signs of separation anxiety in dogs. The results demonstrated that

- Dogs treated with the Calmer Canine device showed a significant reduction ( $p < .05$ ) in separation anxiety signs by week 6 of treatment compared to dogs treated with a placebo device (i.e. a six-fold greater improvement in passive behaviors)
- Actively treated dogs had a much higher percentage of success (improvement in positive behaviors) at all time periods compared to dogs in the placebo group
- Calmer Canine was shown to be safe and well-tolerated, even when combined with psychotherapeutic medication

Calmer Canine significantly improved the time moderately to severely affected dogs spent exhibiting positive, desirable behaviors. It increased the desirable behaviors to a level that falls close to the normal range in dogs not affected by SA, as described in Scaglia, et al (2013).<sup>3</sup>

### IMPROVEMENT IN POSITIVE BEHAVIORS

■ Dogs with less than 100% improvement  
■ Dogs with 100% or greater improvement



## 50% of owners documented improvement after one week of treatment

<sup>1</sup> Ballantyne KC. Separation, Confinement, or Noises: What Is Scaring That Dog? *Vet ClinNorth Am Small Anim Pract.* 2018;48(3):367-86.

<sup>2</sup> Bamberger M, Houpt KA. Trends in canine and feline behavioral diagnoses: 1991-2001. Mills D, Levine E, Landsberg G, Horwitz D, Duxbury M, Mertens P, et al., editors 2005. 168-72 p.

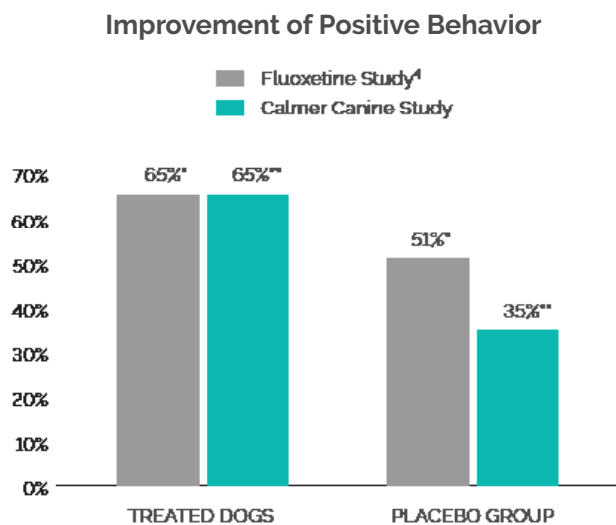
<sup>3</sup> Scaglia E, Cannas S, Minero M, Frank D, Bassi A, Palestini C. Video analysis of adult dogs when left home alone. *J Vet Behav.* 2013;8(6):412-7.



## Additional Insights

### Effectiveness of treatments

The Calmer Canine device performed similarly to medications when comparing the percentage of treated dogs that showed at least moderate improvement with treatment. Medications do not seem to enhance the effects of Calmer Canine therapy. Dogs receiving psychotherapeutic medications (30% of Calmer Canine treated dogs) showed the same level of improvement as dogs not receiving medications.



\* Fluoxetine Study after 8 weeks of treatment (Landsberg et al. 2008)

\*\*Calmer Canine Study after 6 weeks of treatment

### Calmer Canine therapy is safe, effective and well tolerated.

Eighty-five percent of the actively treated dogs in the fluoxetine study, Landsberg et al (2008) were reported to experience adverse side effects such as lethargy, depression, and loss of appetite.<sup>4</sup> Where only 30% of the Calmer Canine treated dogs were reported to have adverse events of which none were believed to be related to the treatment.

### Unbiased video

Video data is essential to the diagnosis of SA in dogs since it is objective and unbiased whereas owner survey data tends to have a high caregiver/placebo effect.<sup>4,5</sup> The Calmer Canine Study is the first of its kind to use video data to demonstrate the efficacy of a non-pharmaceutical device (i.e., Calmer Canine) – prior pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical studies relied only on owner survey data.

### tPEMF Therapy

Time-tested, FDA cleared and proven effective, targeted Pulsed-Electro Magnetic Field (tPEMF™) signals have been used to therapeutically relieve pain and inflammation for decades. This study expands the utility of tPEMF therapy in clinical veterinary medicine, adding anxiety as a new therapeutic target. The findings of this double-blinded, placebo-controlled study are consistent with and support the results of the earlier pilot study on Calmer Canine (2019).

<sup>4</sup> Landsberg, GM; et al. Effectiveness of fluoxetine chewable tablets in the treatment of canine separation anxiety. J Vet Behav. 2008;3(1):12-19.

<sup>5</sup> King et al. Treatment of separation anxiety in dogs with clomipramine: results from a prospective, randomized, double-blind. Placebo controlled, parallel group, multicenter clinical trial. Appl. Anim. Behav. Sci. 67:255-275.

Learn more about Calmer Canine and the technology behind it at:

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They have gained essential expertise with treatment modalities such as dog therapeutic exercise, dog hydrotherapy, electrical stimulation, Class IV therapeutic laser, and shockwave therapy. Additionally, Dr. Julie Letosky is also certified in veterinary acupuncture. We also offer weight management programs and conditioning for athletic pets.

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### Rehabilitation



### Acupuncture

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- Osteoarthritis Symposium
- Myofascial Techniques for the Rehabilitation Therapist
- Diagnostic Musculoskeletal Ultrasound



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## WHAT IS THEK9PT ACADEMY?

TheK9PT Academy is about bridging the gap in business knowledge for canine rehab therapists. It's not just about becoming the best clinician, it's getting people to work with you so you can put your skills to use. This program was formed from my passion to help support business owners so they can avoid make the same mistakes that I did. I went through the process of starting TheK9PT and growing it to a 7-figure business and I wanted to give back by teaching others so you don't have to figure it out on your own! To date, our programs have already helped 50+ canine therapists, including physical therapists and veterinarians, to start or grow their canine rehabilitation practice.

### What **our** students say

"I learned simple, practical things like how to structure my business and finances for success. I gained clarity on what I really want. Francisco helped me develop an efficient business and he helped me make smart decisions when getting a new location with step-by-step guidance. I learned so much from working with him".

-Dr. Josh Hall PT, DPT, CCRT

## WHO DO WE HELP?

- Those who might on paper have a "successful business" because they are busy treating patients, however they have no time for themselves or their loved ones.
- Those just getting certified who want to get their business up and running.
- Clinic owners who feel stuck and want to learn how to grow and be more profitable.
- Anyone looking to start, grow or optimize their canine rehab business.

## HOW DO WE HELP?

- K9Rehab Marketing Platform - an all inclusive client relationship and marketing management platform for your business that's simple to use.
- Business Accelerator Program - step by step blueprint for marketing, sales and operations systems on how to start or grow a profitable canine business.
- Incubator Mastermind program for ongoing business coaching & accountability
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# Canine Rehab? Think Kinesio®

## KINESIO TAPING® CANINE FOR DOG LOVERS





The Kinesio Taping® method can be used for canine rehabilitation, postural changes, musculoskeletal issues, and with complementary therapies. Kinesio canine taping is a natural method that assists in the rehabilitation of a dog in any phase; its main goal is to help the body back to homeostasis.

Dr. Kenzo Kase developed the Kinesio Taping® Method for his patients and now he has designed applications specifically for canine issues.

This taping method gently lifts the layer of skin, attached hair follicles and tissue covering the muscle so that blood and other fluids can move more freely in and around that muscle.

Kinesio Canine Tape is designed specifically for dogs and is recommended for use with Kinesio canine applications.

[KinesioTaping.com/Canine](http://KinesioTaping.com/Canine)

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*Kinesio Taping® Canine for Dog Lovers* is a new book in the Kinesio series that describes symptoms to help dog owners quickly discover the best Kinesio Taping application to use. Included in the book are clearly written, step by step directions and detailed illustrations to help dog owners easily apply Kinesio Tape.



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## Custom Fit Pet Mobility Solutions



### Why a Prosthesis or Cart?: A Good Step Forward

The goals of our mobility devices are to reduce strain on the remaining limb(s), prolong the onset of health issues related to limb loss such as hyper-extension, arthritis, or injury. Each animal is different in build, lifestyle, and personality and their mobility device should match that. Incremental training, patience, and dedication to creating a more mobile and comfortable life for your pet are vital to a smooth adoption of any device.

### The Build Process

Step 1: **Cast**



Step 2: **3D Scan**



Step 3: **Design**



Step 4: **3D Print**



Step 5: **Assemble**



After we receive the cast or scan, it gets digitally modified by our custom software. Once modified, we are able to send the 3D design file of your pet's harness to one of our high resolution 3D printers for it to be printed from our flexible material. We then post-process the harness cleaning up any sharp edges and imperfections before it is sent to assembly. In assembly, we attach human-grade prosthetic components and our custom 3D printed foot or wheel attachment to complete your pet's prosthesis. Upon final inspection, the device ships right to you!

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# New Beginnings at Canine Rehabilitation Institute

*Kara Amstutz, DVM, DACVSMR, CVA, CVPP, CCRT*

In early 2022, Canine Rehabilitation Institute, CRI, had a “changing of the guard.” I decided to hang up my veterinary practice ownership role to take over the reins of CRI from Dr. Janet Van Dyke.

Dr. Van Dyke founded CRI in 2002 and developed it into the top certification program for veterinary rehabilitation over the next two decades. CRI stands out for its emphasis on evidence-based, hands-on learning, small class sizes, and dedicated, experienced faculty with diverse backgrounds.

Since the transition in 2022, my husband and business partner, Dwight, and I have taken this legacy of excellence and added to the learning experience in various ways.

## **But first, my “Why Statement”**

When I considered what to do with the second chapter of my veterinary medicine career, I dug deep into what made me happy and how I could replicate that in my daily work. Over and over, my heart came back to how CRI changed my life just a few years before.

In 2012, I was a burned-out solo practitioner in a busy general practice when I discovered rehabilitation. Rehabilitation was a new way to evaluate and treat patients I was never exposed to in my veterinary education. At that time, I was frustrated with the limited treatment options I could offer my patients. Rest and Rimadyl just weren’t enough for many of my patients. When I discovered the world of rehabilitation, my eyes were opened to the possibilities, and I was “in” for all of it. It was just the spark I needed to be excited about learning again and, quite honestly, to want to go to work every day.



Over the next few years, I got certified in rehabilitation, acupuncture, and pain practitioner. Just this year, I finished a Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation residency. To say rehabilitation changed my life is an understatement. It restored my passion for veterinary medicine, gave my pet owners

hope for their pet’s well-being, and, most importantly, restored my patients’ health and mobility.

Educating students from all over the world helps my core mission of “Bringing Rehabilitation to every Community.” It also spreads the joy this profession brought to me.

## **CRI Headquarters**

In the past, CRI classes were held in various locations in the US. However, once we took over, a focus on balancing work and family came into view. With a busy home life of four children and pets, it made sense to bring CRI to our hometown of Springfield, Missouri.

The Queen City of the beautiful Ozarks boasts many claims to fame, including being the birthplace of Route 66. Springfield is centrally located in the US and has its own airport for easy travel into town. Once our students arrive at the host hotel, CRI offers daily complimentary shuttle service to and from class.

Our CRI-dedicated facility offers a large classroom, comfortable seating, and plenty of workspace. Once we break into lab groups with our beloved “Dog Professors,” you will find yourself in a quiet room with only your lab group and teaching assistant. Relaxed dogs with no distractions allow for the best learning.

Students who have been to one of our previous locations always comment on the improvements of having our own space.

## **Efficient Scheduling of Courses**

For the 2024 year, we are instituting two significant changes to ease the travel requirements for our students.

First, in the rehabilitation certification programs, you only have to travel away from home two times to complete the required coursework. Students will come to CRI Headquarters for their first module (Introduction to Canine Rehabilitation), and then the subsequent two modules will be held back to back for all certification programs.

Our Acupuncture certification will continue to be three in-person course modules.

Secondly, all courses will end at 3:00pm on the last day of class to allow students the opportunity to head home that same day.



Taking an in-person course is a big time commitment away from your work and family. We are doing our best to provide a fantastic learning experience and reduce expenses and travel time.

### **Updated Curriculum**

The faculty of CRI has always been responsive to the needs of the students. We aim to give you the education you need to confidently practice rehabilitation and the research to back it up. I recently sat and passed the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation board certification examination. New research is infused into the core curriculum regularly so that our students understand not only the foundations of rehabilitation but also new horizons in our field.

### **New Website & Registration Process**

After 14 months of behind-the-scenes work, you will see a new look to the CRI website! We are proud of our new website's ease of use, available information, and beautiful aesthetic. Our new registration process is streamlined to make registering for courses effortless.

### **Expanded Continuing Education Opportunities**

One of our biggest goals is to help fill the space between certification programs and board certification with excellent, next-level, hands-on continuing education experiences.

We understand that you have several options for fulfilling your continuing education requirements. We aim to offer you practical education that you can implement in your practice immediately. Below are some of the exceptional CE courses you can enroll in through CRI:

#### **The Osteoarthritis Symposium**

You will learn an updated understanding of osteoarthritis pathophysiology, which is not simply attributed to joint wear and tear. This knowledge will inform your decision-making for patient care. The course covers different therapeutic options, such as medical management, nutraceuticals, physical modalities, therapeutic exercise,

and intra-articular injections. A wet lab session on the second day of the course will provide ample opportunity for joint injection practice.

#### **Myofascial Techniques for the Rehabilitation Therapist**

If you're seeking fresh approaches to soft tissue therapy, this course is perfect for you. You'll learn about the significance of myofascia for patient health and discover specific treatment techniques utilizing the latest rehabilitation methods, such as cupping, IASTM tools, and kinesiotaping.

#### **Exercise Physiology of the Working Canine**

Have you ever wanted to learn about the astounding athletic feats of the Alaskan Sled Dog? Are you curious about how extreme athletes manage to do all they do physiologically? The course is a deep dive into the research behind working dogs. You go from learning to doing by driving your own sled dog team. This course is held in Big Lake, Alaska, and is a bucket list item!

#### **Internal Medicine & Pain Management for the Advanced Rehabilitation Therapist**

We all have those cases that just don't do as well as we had hoped. Endocrine, metabolic, or pain states frequently hinder the patient's progress and outcome. You'll get practical tips on managing your most complex cases from the rehabilitation perspective. This course is held in Big Lake, Alaska, allowing the student to experience sled dog driving!

#### **We still offer crowd-favorite CE courses:**

- The Business of Canine Rehabilitation
- Diagnostic Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

I hope you take the time to learn how CRI can help you start or advance your veterinary rehabilitation and acupuncture career. We'd love to see you soon!

For more information visit: [caninerehabinstitute.com](http://caninerehabinstitute.com)  
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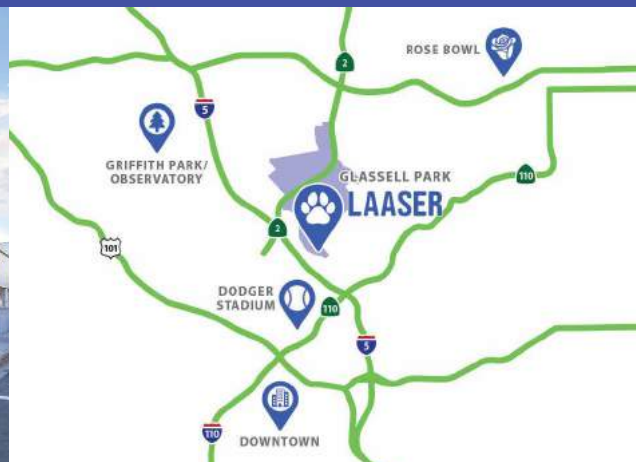
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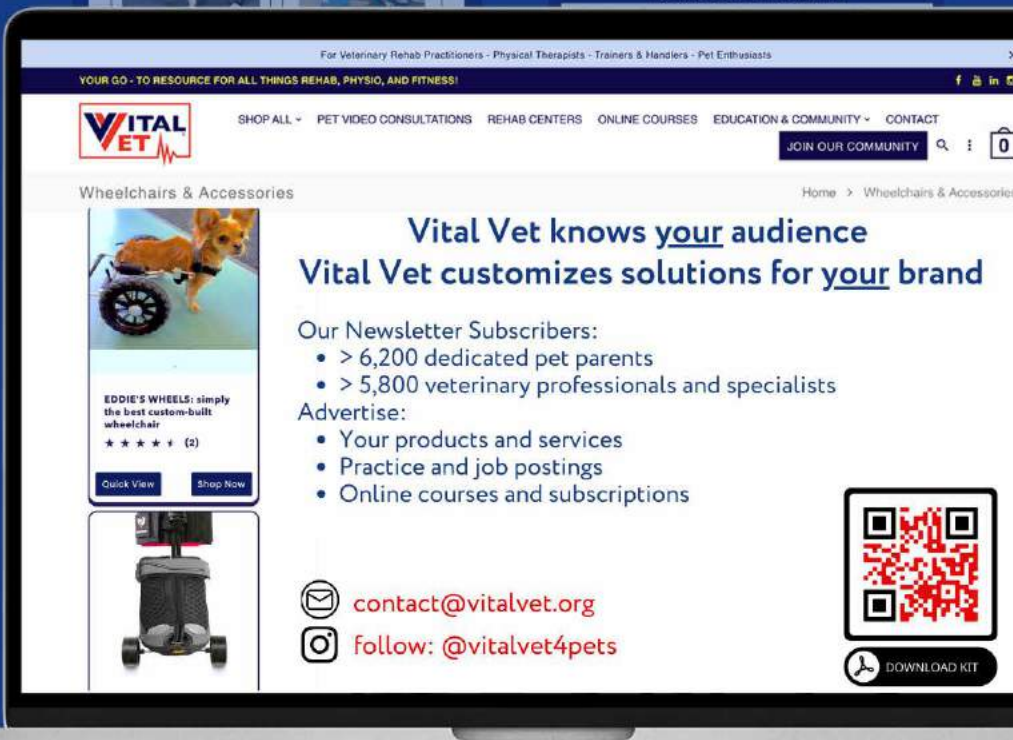
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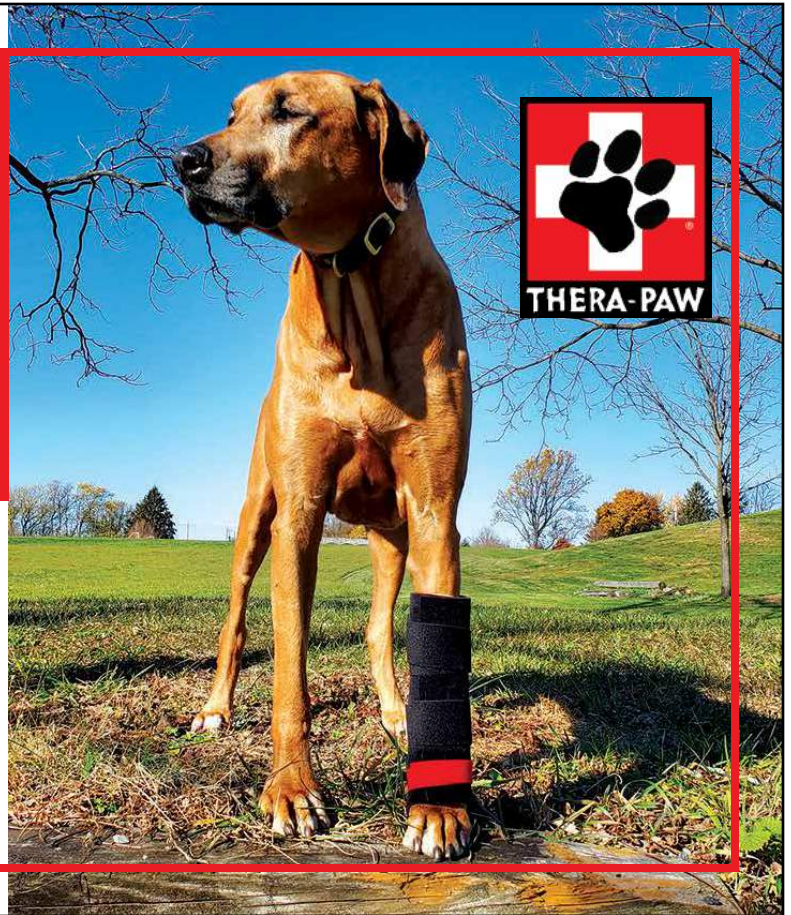


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# Management of Medial Patellar Luxation in Small Dogs and Cats: An Investigation into the Use of a Manual 3D Patellar Repositioning Technique

*Susan E. Davis, PT, DPT | Laney Baris, VMD | Donna L. Frownfelter, PT, DPT, FAPTA | Wendy Rheault, PT, PhD, FASAHP, FNAP*

## ABSTRACT

**Background and Purpose:** Medial patellar luxation (MPL) is a common condition managed with surgery, medication, and observation. There is a lack of literature regarding specific conservative MPL intervention. Conservative treatment is important for milder non-surgical cases to prevent progression of luxation and future joint degeneration. The purpose of this retrospective study is to document and investigate the significance of manual 3D repositioning technique, developed by Dr. Susan Davis, on outcome scores of small dogs and cats having medial patellar luxation (MPL) grades one or two.

**Methods:** Data from 37 eligible medical records were statistically analyzed using Wilcoxon signed rank test.

**Findings:** A statistically significant difference ( $p < .01$ ) was found using manual 3D patellar repositioning in reduced lameness and improved functional scores for a combined sample size of 37 canine and feline

patients between initial evaluation and discharge and in a separate analysis of 29 dogs ( $p < .01$  lameness,  $p = .001$  function). Results were inconclusive ( $p = .011$  lameness,  $p = .014$  function) in separate analysis of a smaller sample size of 8 cats.

**Clinical Relevance:** Physical Therapy for MPL grades one and two should include manual 3D patellar repositioning in small dogs and cats. An average of 6 visits is effective, though neutered males may take longer.

**Conclusion:** Manual 3D patellar repositioning is effective in reducing lameness and increasing function in small dogs and cats having MPL grades one and two.

**Key Words:** instability, mobilization, patellofemoral dysfunction





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