

# ★ STAAR ★

Symposium on Therapeutic Advances in Animal Rehabilitation

**The Most Practical  
Training, Hands Down!**

April 30 - May 2, 2025  
Parsippany, New Jersey

**PROGRAM &  
RESOURCE GUIDE**



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★ **STAAR** ★

## Vital Vet and STAAR



### bridge the gap in animal healthcare and bring the rehab community together

Finding the right products, resources, and expert insights for animal rehabilitation, physiotherapy, and fitness can be overwhelming. Pet parents and veterinary professionals often struggle to locate specialty items and reliable information scattered across the internet. That's where Vital Vet® comes in – a comprehensive, one-stop resource designed to connect the entire pet wellness community with the tools and knowledge they need.

Co-founded in 2020 by Ilaria Borghese and Maria Denzer, Vital Vet was created with a clear mission: to bring together veterinary professionals, ultra-dedicated pet parents, and industry experts in one centralized hub. With over 20 years of experience in the rehab education and product development space – including founding STAAR Conference and Thera-Paw, Inc. – Borghese and Denzer understand this field from every angle. Their passion for innovation, advancement, and community-building has made Vital Vet the go-to platform for rehab and pet

mobility solutions, with close to 1/2 million visitors, 18,000 loyal subscribers, and over 600 veterinary specialty practices. Think of Vital Vet as “Chewy.com” for the animal specialty space! And if you want to add your veterinary practice to Vital Vet’s growing list of wellness professionals, just scan here:



But it doesn't stop there. STAAR Conference is where hands-on education and connection come to life. As the most interactive and immersive event in the veterinary rehab world, STAAR brings together experts, practitioners, and passionate pet parents for an unparalleled learning experience.

Together, Vital Vet and STAAR are strengthening the veterinary rehabilitation community like never before – offering education, collaboration, and access to the best rehab solutions all in one place.

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## Like, Totally 80's Cocktail Party

Dig out your spandex, leg warmers, and ripped jeans! And get ready to play our 80's Movie & Music Connection Game!

Thursday • 7:15 - 9:15 pm | Game 9:00 pm • Exhibit Hall

# ★ STAAR ★ WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE

WED - AM April 30		WED - PM April 30		THURS - AM May 1		THURS - PM May 1		FRI - AM May 2		FRI - PM May 2					
Pre-Symposium: Advanced Manual Therapy for the Canine Spine 2 1/2 days BEGINS TUESDAY, APRIL 29 Laurie Edge-Hughes <b>BORON ROOM</b>				Strain Counter-strain 1/2 day Laurie Edge-Hughes <b>SALON A</b>				GOLPP and the Vagus Nerve 1/2 day Laurie Edge-Hughes <b>SALON A</b>				Baseline Sporting Dog Assessment 1/2 day Laurie Edge-Hughes <b>SALON A</b>			
Shoulder Rehab for the Canine Patient 1/2 day Elena Saltis <b>SALON B</b>		Mulligan & Joint Mobilizations 1/2 day Elena Saltis <b>SALON B</b>		Advanced Rehab Strategies and Treatment of the CCL Patient 1 day Elena Saltis <b>SALON B</b>				Mulligan & Joint Mobilizations 1/2 day Elena Saltis <b>SALON B</b>		Shoulder Rehab for the Canine Patient 1/2 day Elena Saltis <b>SALON B</b>					
Soft Tissue Mobilization with Tecar Technologies and More 1/2 day Deb Torraca <b>SALON A</b>		Mindful & Responsible Leadership Panel Discussion 1:30-3:30pm Business Essentials for Canine Rehab Professionals Lecture 4:30-6:30pm <b>SALON A</b>		Practical Applications Using Extracorporeal Shockwave for Tendinopathies, Myelopathies, and OA 1/2 day Samantha Wong <b>SALON A</b>		Conservative Management of IVDD - Focus on Return to Mobility 1/2 day Samantha Wong <b>BORON ROOM</b>		Conservative Management of IVDD - Focus on Return to Mobility 1/2 day Samantha Wong <b>NITROGEN ROOM</b>		Practical Applications Using Extracorporeal Shockwave for Tendinopathies, Myelopathies, and OA 1/2 day Samantha Wong <b>NITROGEN ROOM</b>					
Practical Exercises for Thoracic Limb Injuries 1/2 day Leslie Eide <b>NITROGEN ROOM</b>		Building Blocks for Canine Fitness 1/2 day Leslie Eide <b>NITROGEN ROOM</b>		Building Blocks for Canine Fitness 1/2 day Leslie Eide <b>NITROGEN ROOM</b>		Practical Exercises for Thoracic Limb Injuries 1/2 day Leslie Eide <b>NITROGEN ROOM</b>		Advanced Manual Therapies for the Canine Extremities 1 day Ria Acciani <b>BORON ROOM</b>							
Role of Kinetic Lines in Myofascial Tension and Posture, and Treatment Ideas 1/2 day Kirsty Oliver <b>SALON D</b>		Role of Kinetic Lines in Myofascial Tension and Posture, and Treatment Ideas 1/2 day Kirsty Oliver <b>SALON D</b>		Evaluating Whole Body Posture 1/2 day Kirsty Oliver <b>SALON D</b>		Acupuncture Without Needles: How to Use Laser Acupuncture to Optimize Patient Outcomes 1/2 day Kara Amstutz <b>SALON D</b>		Neurorehabilitation: Maximize Neurological Evaluation and Therapeutic Techniques 1/2 day Kara Amstutz <b>SALON D</b>		Acupuncture Without Needles: How to Use Laser Acupuncture to Optimize Patient Outcomes 1/2 day Kara Amstutz <b>SALON D</b>					

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## INFO

Breakfast & Lunch

SALON C

Dog Volunteer Area

HYDROGEN ROOM

Storage

OXYGEN ROOM

Cocktail Party

EXHIBIT HALL

Movie & Music Game

SALON C

Hilton Parsippany

Check-in 4:00 PM

Check-out 11:00 AM

### REGISTRATION HOURS

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Tuesday: Pre-Symposium only
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Tuesday
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

### EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

Exhibit Hall hours are suggested and not mandatory. Breakfast begins at 7:30 am and Exhibitors are welcome to open their booths at that time.

8:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Wednesday
8:00 AM - 9:15 PM	Thursday (includes Cocktail Party)
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Friday

### PRE-SYMPOSIUM - APRIL 29 TUESDAY

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch

### APRIL 30 WEDNESDAY

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 AM - 12:45 PM	Morning Workshops
12:45 PM - 2:15 PM	Lunch
2:15 PM - 6:30 PM	Afternoon Workshops

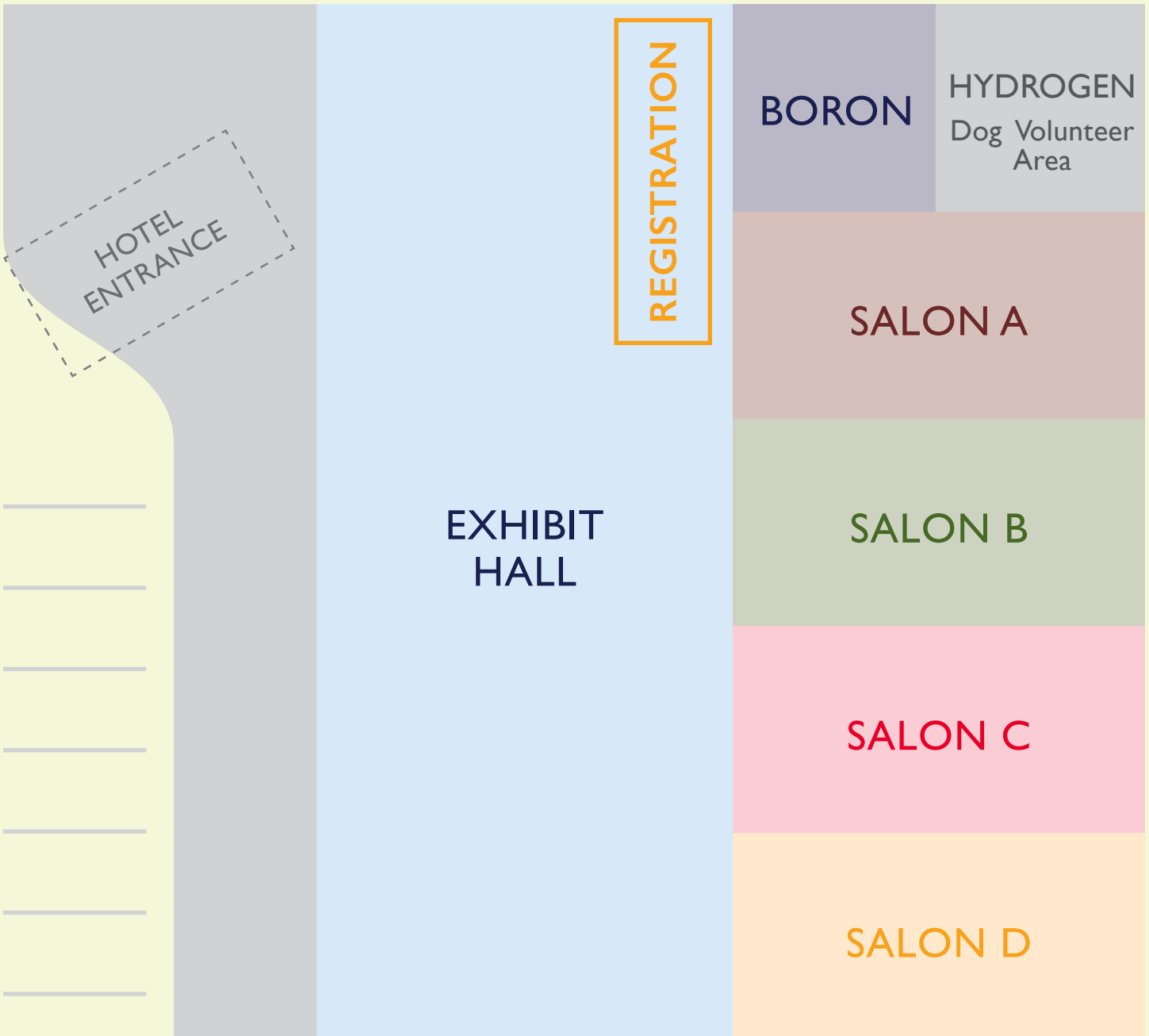
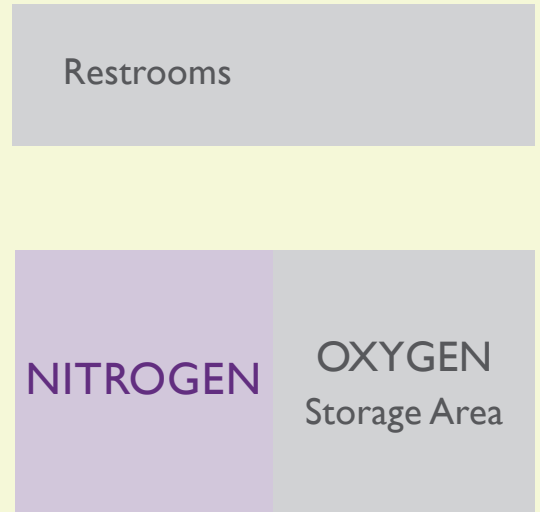
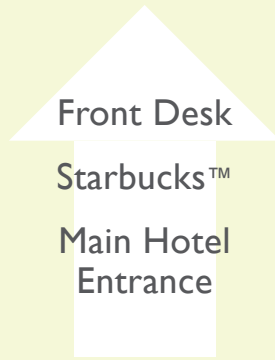
### MAY 1 THURSDAY

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 AM - 12:45 PM	Morning Workshops
12:45 PM - 2:15 PM	Lunch
2:15 PM - 6:30 PM	Afternoon Workshops
7:15 PM - 9:15 PM	<i>Like, Totally 80's</i> Cocktail Party
9:00 PM	Movie & Music Connection Game

### MAY 2 FRIDAY

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 AM - 12:45 PM	Morning Workshops
12:45 PM - 2:15 PM	Lunch
2:15 PM - 6:30 PM	Afternoon Workshops

# ★ STAAR ★ CONFERENCE MAP





# ★ STAAR ★ INSTRUCTORS



## **Ria Acciani - MPT, CCRP, IADN cert.**

Co-Owner, Advanced Canine Rehabilitation Center, Warren, New Jersey, US

Ria Acciani received her Masters in Physical Therapy degree from University of St. Augustine, Florida. She has over 25 years of experience in both human and Canine Physical Therapy. She received her CCRP from UTN and was the first Physical Therapist, along with her husband, in New Jersey to practice on dogs. Ria owns and operates the Advanced Canine Rehabilitation Center, a practice that focuses on orthopedic and sports rehabilitation and specializes in performance and sporting dogs. She travels extensively to national and international dog competitions and works with top level competitors. She is the Official Therapist for the AKC US World Team, IFCS US Agility Team, WAO US Agility Team, and has travelled with these teams since 2010. Ria conducts instructional seminars on a variety of topics for dog handlers and educates them on how to prevent injury and enhance performance within their sport. Ria worked closely with Dr. Sherman Canapp and VOSM to establish the rehabilitation protocol for various shoulder elbow and pelvic limb conditions. She has published works in Veterinary Surgery, Veterinary Clinics of North America, and articles in Clean Run. She has presented at STAAR (since 2010), IAVRPT, ARSIG/APTA, and SCIVAC. She is a former Board Member for ARSIG/APTA and a member of AARV. When not working Ria is active with swimming, pilates and yoga. She loves to spend time with her 3 Border Collies, hiking and playing. Ria and David have 3 children, 2 in college and a junior in high school, and all 3 are very active in sports.

## **Kara Amstutz - DVM, DACVSMR, CVA, CVPP, CCRT** CEO, Canine Rehab Institute, Springfield, Missouri, US

Dr. Kara Amstutz is presenting on behalf of the Canine Rehab Institute (CRI) and in cooperation with STAAR Conference. Dr. Kara Amstutz was born and raised in Springfield, Missouri. After completing a Biology degree at Missouri State University, she earned her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Missouri in 2000. She started Hometown Veterinary Hospital in 2002, growing quickly over the following years. In 2013, Dr. Amstutz became a Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist through Canine Rehabilitation Institute. The following year, Dr. Amstutz became a Certified Veterinary Pain Practitioner through the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management. Then, in 2019 she became a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist through the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society. These advanced certifications allowed Dr. Amstutz to found River Canine Rehabilitation and transition her daily practice to rehabilitation and pain management cases only. In 2022, Dr. Amstutz became the new owner and CEO of Canine Rehabilitation Institute (CRI), a postgraduate rehabilitation and acupuncture certification program for veterinarians, physical therapists, and veterinary nurses. Dr. Amstutz is a lead instructor for multiple courses offered through CRI. Dr. Amstutz is also the CEO of Canine Arthritis Resources and Education (CARE), an online platform for veterinary health professionals and pet owners that helps care for dogs with osteoarthritis. Dr. Amstutz became a Diplomate of The American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation in 2023. Dr. Amstutz lectures nationally and internationally about osteoarthritis, the business of canine rehabilitation, and rehabilitation therapy. Looking into the future, Dr. Amstutz will continue her education and veterinary practice efforts focusing on sports medicine, pain management, and mobility. She loves to travel with her husband and four children in her free time.





# *a tribute to Jet*

I'd like to share a tribute to an incredible dog who truly embodied the spirit of STAAR — my companion, Jet, a Border Collie/Australian Shepherd mix. Many STAAR participants, staff, presenters, and exhibitors will remember Jet as he strutted through the halls and conference rooms each year at STAAR. He believed STAAR was his domain, and it seemed his mission was to help others learn about rehabilitation.

While many thought Jet was my dog, in reality, he was only mine for one week a year during the STAAR conference and every Wednesday at my clinic. His true owner, Rebecca Umberger, brought Jet into my life in July of 2013. At the time, I had just completed my CCRT and gave a presentation on physical rehabilitation to a local agility group, where Rebecca was in attendance. She brought Jet to my clinic for an evaluation and shared his story. Jet had been a typical, active puppy until around 4 months of age, when he suddenly started experiencing significant pain and difficulty moving. After numerous tests, including radiographs, MRI, and spinal and joint taps at both VT and UNC veterinary hospitals, no clear diagnosis emerged. Despite treatments with doxycycline, prednisone, and NSAIDs, Jet's pain persisted, and Rebecca hoped physical rehabilitation could offer a solution.

I'll never forget my first meeting with Jet. He appeared like an elephant balancing on a ball — so much pain that he growled when I entered the room. Yet, from the moment I met him, Jet trusted me. He allowed me to use my newly acquired skills to evaluate and treat him. Even as a beginner, I was able to offer him some relief, which fueled my determination to learn more and help him improve. I reached out to Thera-Paw for advice on bracing, and Ilaria not only called back but also encouraged me to attend the STAAR conference. With Rebecca's kind permission, I took 11-month-old Jet on his first road trip to New Jersey.

From 2013 onward, Jet and I made the journey from Roanoke, VA, to New Jersey every year. We attended every class we could — neuro courses, manual therapy, splinting, exercise, myofascial therapy, craniosacral therapy, neurodynamics, and more. Jet happily allowed me and other STAAR participants to practice what we learned. He greeted everyone with enthusiasm, never once complaining. Every year at STAAR, I gained knowledge, confidence, and the support to continue refining my rehabilitation practice, helping both Jet and my other patients.

While Jet may not have been "fixed," thanks to the friendships and knowledge gained at STAAR, he lived a full, active life

as an agility and farm dog. Despite his physical challenges, Jet became a beloved member of the agility community. With the support of Rebecca and myself, he competed in lower-level agility with his hock braces, reminding me of "Special Olympic" athletes — joyfully competing at his level with more enthusiasm than any other participant. Judges and competitors alike cheered him on through every course, captivated by his spirit. Though Jet retired from competition after a few years, he continued to travel with his housemates to trials.

Jet was able to attend STAAR's return in October 2023, enjoying a walk on the beach at the Jersey Shore. Unfortunately, in January 2025, Jet was put to sleep due to an unknown neurological condition that was unresponsive to treatment. There will be an empty spot at STAAR this year, and Jet will be greatly missed.

May we all carry the memory and spirit of Jet — and other dogs like him — who bravely and humbly push through challenges to become more than anyone ever expected. May Jet, along with all the animal volunteers, inspire us to appreciate the value of rehabilitation and the learning and friendships that STAAR fosters.

— Lisa Wilson, DVM, CCRT

*Jet: my patient, my teacher, my friend, and my hero.*



# ★ STAAR ★ INSTRUCTORS



**Laurie Edge-Hughes - BScPT, MAnimSt (Animal Physio), CAFCI, CCRT, CSm Anim Acup / Needling**

Co-Owner, The Canine Fitness Centre, Ltd., Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Laurie Edge-Hughes obtained her Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of Alberta in 1993 and has since focused her post-graduate training on orthopedics, osteopathy, acupuncture, and animal rehabilitation. Additionally, she completed her Master of Animal Studies in Animal Physiotherapy through the University of Queensland (Australia) in 2006. Laurie taught the first canine physiotherapy/physical therapy courses in Canada (1999), the USA(1999), and Australia (2001). She has been involved in the Animal RehabDivision since its inception in 1994 and

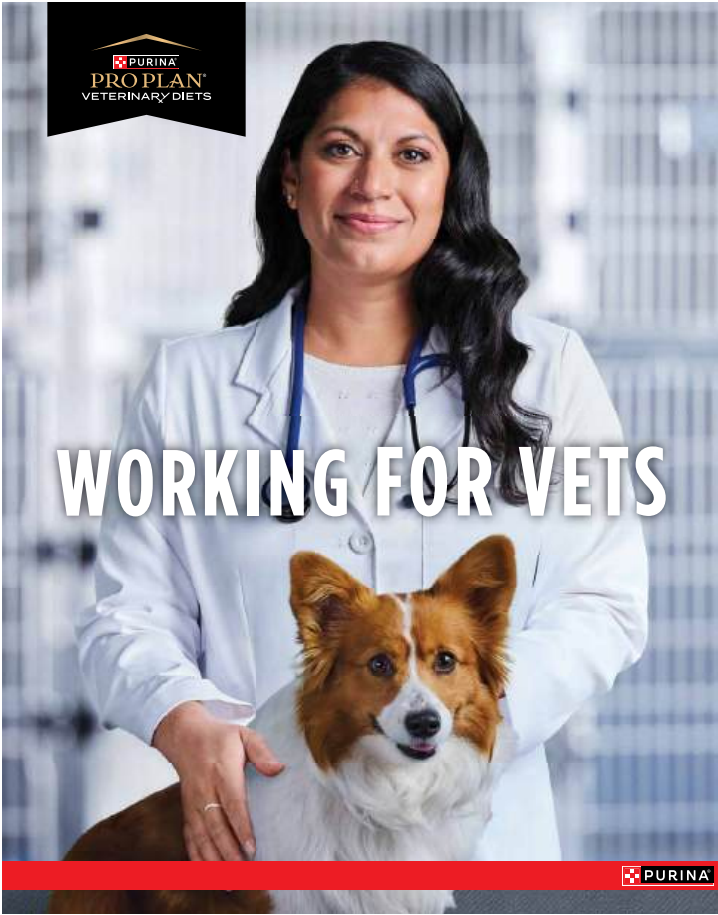
teaches canine physiotherapy and rehabilitation courses for the Animal Rehab Division (ARD) of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA). Additionally, she holds the position of Advocacy Lead for the ARD and is chair of the Registry of Allied Animal Health Practitioners of Canada. FourLeg.com, an online educational platform for continuing education in canine rehabilitation / physiotherapy. Laurie co-owns and practices out of the Canine Fitness Centre Ltd (caninefitness.com) in Calgary, Alberta.

**Leslie Eide - DVM, CCRT**

Owner, The Total Canine, Marysville, Washington, US

Dr. Leslie Eide graduated from Colorado State University's Veterinary School in 2006. She completed a rotating internship in small animal medicine in Albuquerque, NM from 2006-2007, and worked in general small animal practice for 5 years. In 2012, she became certified in canine rehabilitation with a focus in sports medicine. She completed 3 years of residency training in Rehab/Sports Medicine, but ultimately stopped due to Covid. She currently owns her practice, The Total Canine in Marysville, WA. Leslie regularly teaches online classes and webinars for both the pet parent and rehab/sports medicine professional. Previously, she taught for Fenzi Dog Sports Academy, Camddwr Canine, and NES. She also helped create the Certified Canine Fitness Trainer (CCFT) program through the University of Tennessee's NorthEast Seminars. Leslie has competed in agility since 2002 with multiple dogs. She competes at the national level in both AKC and UKI with her Border Collies and Australian Shepherd. She recently competed in Poland at the annual Border Collie Classic. Leslie's love for exercise physiology and fitness comes from her swimming background. She started swimming competitively at age 5 and rounded out her career at the University of New Mexico where she held the school record for the 400 Individual Medley for 4 years.







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# ★ STAAR ★ INSTRUCTORS



## **Kirsty Oliver - VN, RVT, VTS (phys. rehad), CCRP, CCAT, CCMT, CVPP**

Veterinary Surgical Centers, Vienna, Virginia, US

Kirsty Oliver is presenting on behalf of NC State/NES and in cooperation with STAAR Conference. Kirsty Oliver is an English trained Veterinary Nurse who holds an Advanced Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (surgical). Having dedicated the first half of her career to nursing surgical and orthopaedic patients, Kirsty qualified in veterinary rehabilitation (CCRP) in 2005. In 2010, she added CVPP (Certified Veterinary Pain Practitioner) through the IVAPM. Kirsty joined VSC/VSCR in 2016 after spending 14 years at a large veterinary hospital in New Jersey. In 2018, she obtained her VTS in Physical Rehabilitation with the APRVT (Academy of Physical

Rehabilitation Veterinary Technicians). In 2022, Kirsty was invited to become an instructor for the new CCAT Rehabilitation Program through NE Seminars and NC State. Kirsty has a passion for manual therapy and myofascial treatment to help patients move better after injury. When she isn't working, Kirsty lives with her hubby, 3 cats, 4 chickens, and 2 bee hives in the mountains of West Virginia.

## **Elena Saltis - BSc, NZPT, APA, CCRT**

Owner & Director, Animal Physio NZ, Christchurch, New Zealand

Elena Saltis received her undergraduate degree in Physical Therapy at Ohio State University. She started PhysiotherapyNZ Limited, a prominent, successful, multi-clinic human Physio business in the South Island of New Zealand. She went on to obtain her certificate in canine rehabilitation (CCRT) from the Canine Rehabilitation Institute (CRI). After graduating she continued to hone her skills, attending post graduate courses at CRI, further study through the Australian Physiotherapy Association - Special Interest Group, and multiple internships at various facilities. Elena went on to become an instructor for CRI in both the US and Australia, and presented at numerous international conferences. Elena is passionate about giving back and imparting her therapy skills on animals most in need. She established a rehabilitation clinic in Spain in partnership with the Galgo Rescue sanctuary. She started Street Tails, a charity providing veterinary and physical therapy services to the pets of people who are homeless. Also, she developed Canine NeuroPark Charity Trust, a private rehabilitation and enrichment park in Christchurch, New Zealand.





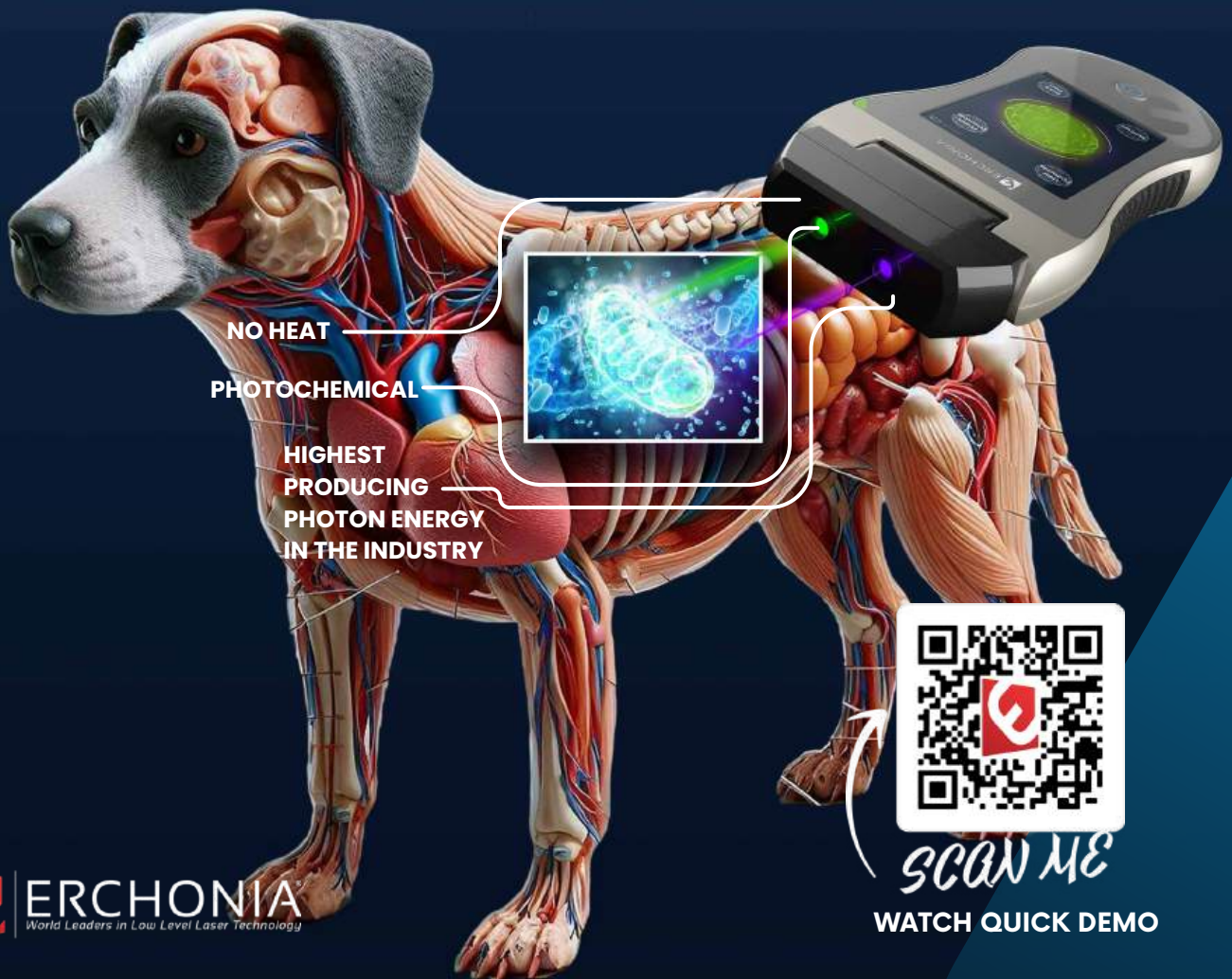
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# ★ STAAR ★ INSTRUCTORS



## **Deb Torraca - DPT, CCRP, CCAT, Dipl. ABPTS**

Wizard of Paws, Colchester, Connecticut, US

Dr. Debbie Torraca began her career in human physical therapy (PT) and specialized in orthopedics, sports medicine, and pain management. With a solid foundation in human PT, she has adapted her skills (including her expertise in the Mulligan Technique) to her work with animals. Dr. Torraca is a pioneer in the field of canine physical rehabilitation and is a core faculty member of the NC State Veterinary School's Certified Companion Animal Therapy (CCAT) program. She also founded and heads the Certified Canine Manual Therapy (CCMT) program at UTN. Following her doctorate in Physical Therapy from UTN-Chattanooga, she transitioned to her work with animals and has been practicing canine rehabilitation for more

than 25 years. Dr. Torraca has authored many chapters in veterinary textbooks and writes for professional journals and magazines dedicated to the dog enthusiast. She has been a speaker and instructor at many veterinary conferences including the International Association of Veterinary Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy (IAVRPT), American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS), North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC), Atlantic Coast Veterinary Conference (ACVC), and Western States Veterinary Conference (WSVC). She sits on the advisory board for Companion Animal Health and has been a key speaker at the American International Medical Laser Association. Dr. Torraca is a longtime member of American Physical Therapy Association Special Interest Group (APTA-SIG) and has held the office of President. She is also a member of the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management (IVAPM). She is an active member of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, the American Bullmastiff Association, the Clumber Spaniel Club of America, and various other local dog clubs and organizations including the Connecticut Police Canine Unit.

## **Samantha Wong - DVM, CCRP, CVA**

Integrative Canine Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Department,  
Garden State Veterinary Specialists, Eatontown, New Jersey, US

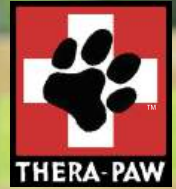
Dr. Samantha Wong was born and raised in New York City. She received her BSc. in Animal biology at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, followed by her DVM at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island, Canada. She returned to the Tri-State area to complete a rotating internship at Red Bank Veterinary Hospital in Tinton Falls, NJ, and a surgical internship at the Veterinary Medical Center in Long Island, NY.

Dr. Wong then completed a three-year residency in Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Animal Medical Center in New York City training under Dr. Leilani Alvarez. Her advanced special training in Integrative Medicine allows her to utilize veterinary acupuncture, nutrition focused on weight management, nutraceuticals, assistive devices (orthotic braces, prosthetics, and assistive carts) with formal physical rehabilitation. Her special interests include geriatric and palliative care, soft tissue and sports injuries, and neurologic rehabilitation.





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PT, MSPT, PhD (Canine Biomechanics), tCPT, fellow IAVRPT  
CEO, CanineIQ



**Kara Amstutz**

DVM, DACVSMR, CVA,  
CVPP, CCRT  
CEO, Canine Rehab Institute



**Karen Atlas**

PT, MPT, CCRT  
President, Animal PT Coalition



**Carrie Britt**

DVM, CCRT, DACVSMR  
Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Specialist, Care First Animal Hospital



**Darryl Millis**

DVM, DACVS, CCRP, DACVSMR  
Director, CARES Center for  
Veterinary Sports Medicine



**Kirk Peck**

PT, PhD, CSCS, CCRT, CERP  
Associate Professor,  
Creighton University



**Debbie Torraca**

DPT, CCRP, CCAT, Dipl. ABPTS  
Wizard of Paws



**Janet Van Dyke**

DVM, DACVSMR, MANZCVS  
(VSMR)  
CEO, Van Dyke & Assoc., Inc.

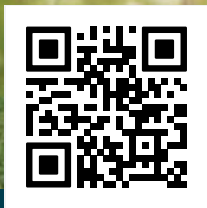
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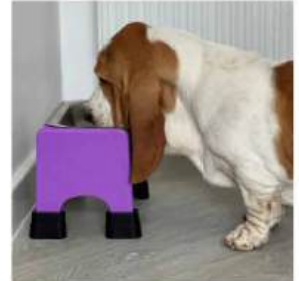
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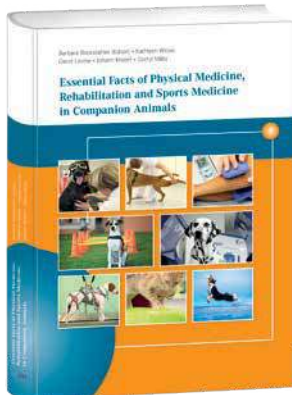
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## More than Medicine: The Profound Rewards of Global Veterinary Outreach

By Dr. Lonnie Kasman, Director of Global Engagement, Veterinarians International

It's a *long* journey to Todos Santos, Guatemala. This remote Mayan village tucked in the Western Highlands is a full day's worth of travel on winding roads from the capital of Guatemala City. But once you arrive, you're filled with a whole new energy. During my first trip to Todos Santos in 2018, I quickly learned that in this vibrant community, access to veterinary care had previously been almost nonexistent, and preventable diseases, parasites, and injuries in dogs and cats mostly went untreated. Thanks to the work of The Global Alliance for Animals and People (The GAAP) and support from Veterinarians International (VI), this reality has shifted and I have had the honor of being a small part of that story.

I traveled to Todos Santos as part of VI GIVES, Veterinarians International's immersive travel program for veterinary professionals, vet students, and anyone passionate about animals. VI GIVES offers journeys of discovery to serve local communities, learn about and promote conservation efforts, and take part in well-being and self care activities. In Todos Santos, alongside an incredible team of veterinarians, licensed vet technicians, and local caregivers, I spent several days providing essential medical care for the community's animals — conducting physical exams, administering vaccinations, treating illnesses, and performing spay/neuter surgeries.

One moment that stuck with me was meeting a woman who had walked for miles down the mountainside, carrying her cat in a bag so she could access the vet care provided at our clinic. She was deeply concerned about the cat's health, and though she had little money to give, she offered what she had as payment—just to make sure her cat would be cared for. Her love and dedication were palpable. It was at that moment that I was reminded of the true purpose of our work. Veterinary medicine isn't just about science and treatment; it's about compassion, connection, and ensuring that every animal, no matter where they are, has a chance at a healthier life.



The rewards of volunteering my time and talent have been far greater than I ever imagined. This experience has changed my perspective—not only on global veterinary medicine but also on the responsibility we have as professionals to extend our reach beyond our own communities. There are countless veterinarians and specialists in well-resourced countries with the knowledge and ability to make an impact, and I encourage my colleagues to step into this work.

It's for these two reasons - for the powerful collective impact we can create and for the feeling of purpose and passion it can reignite - that I invite you to consider participating in an immersive travel experience through VI GIVES. It's an opportunity to step outside the familiar, to get a firsthand look at the reality of veterinary care in places with extremely limited resources, to help where you can, and to come back with a renewed sense of purpose. And if travel isn't in your plans for this year, supporting Vets International through a donation is another meaningful way to contribute. Every bit of support helps ensure that veterinarians around the world have the equipment, supplies, and training they need to care for animals and protect fragile ecosystems.

These experiences are just the start of my journey of giving back through veterinary medicine. I hope you'll join me in making an impact where it's needed most.



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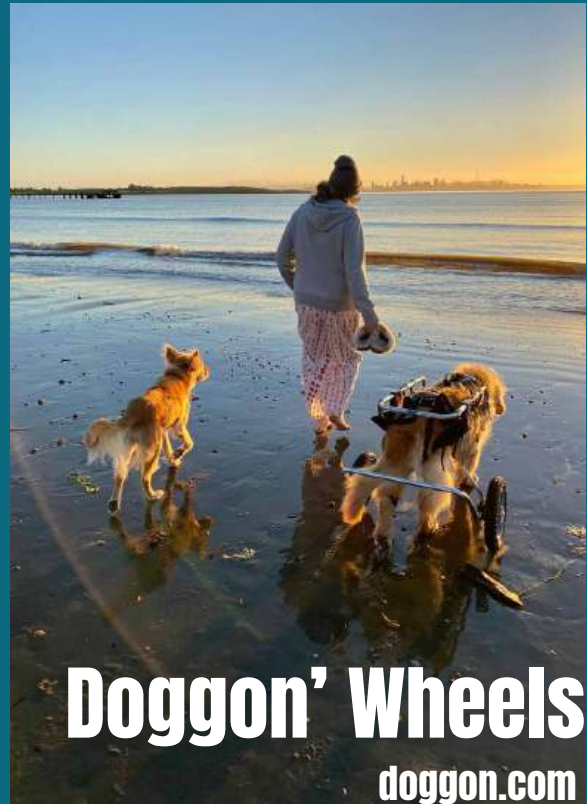
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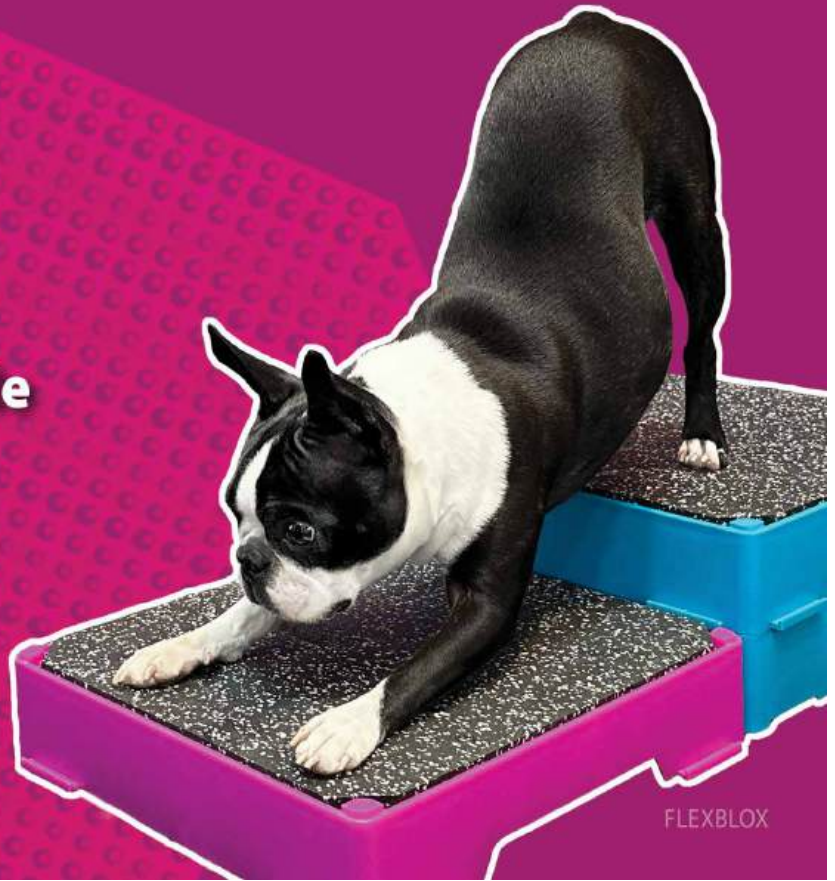


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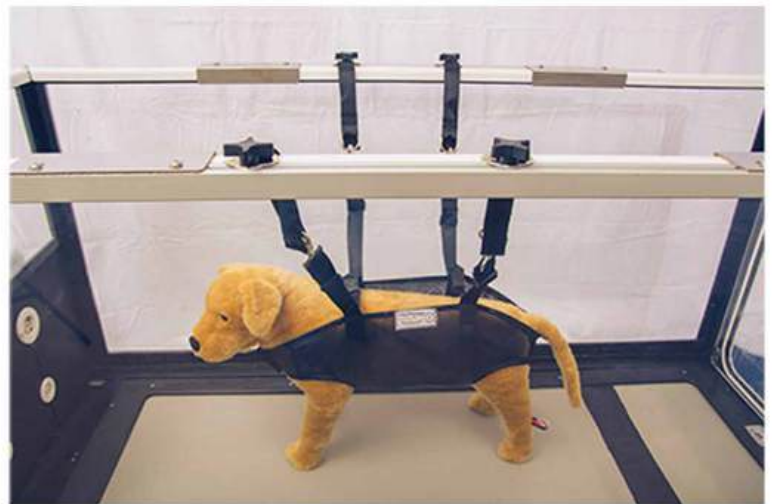


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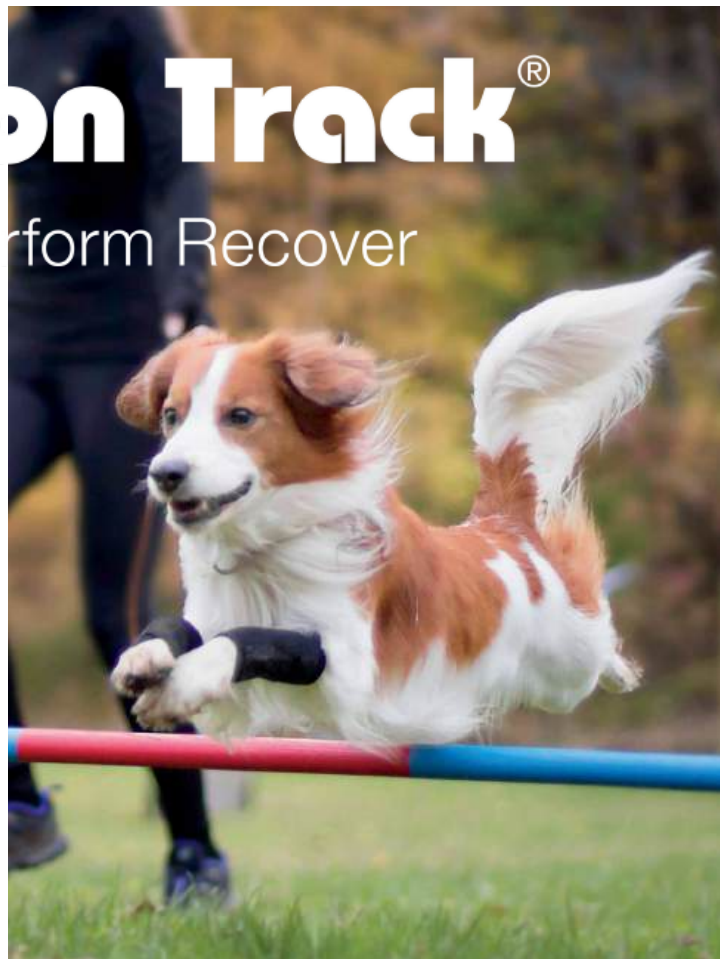
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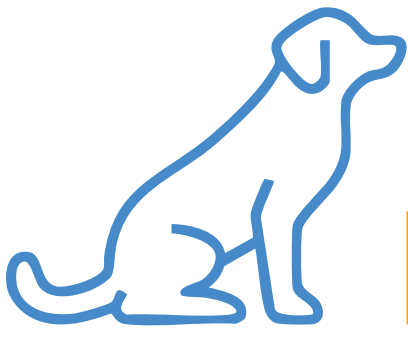
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