

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine – UC Davis Rehabilitation Curriculum

Discussion from UC Davis Faculty: *One of the most important points in the faculty discussion was that diagnosis and therapy are the scope of practice of veterinarians. The faculty feels strongly that the recommendation for rehabilitation treatments is part of therapy and they pointed out there is now a recognized veterinary field in Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation.*

Four years of training goes into providing the students with normal and abnormal form and function of core veterinary species in order to lay the foundation for diagnosis and therapy covered in the last 2 years of the curriculum. All these aspects are very different in animals compared to people. While the Physical Therapists will claim that they know more about their treatments, these really are only some of the tools in a larger toolbox that might be appropriate as part of a therapeutic plan for animals, after appropriate work up and diagnosis - skill sets in which veterinarians are trained and are the purview of veterinarians.

Rehabilitation is a key component in patient management for Neurology/Neurosurgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Equine Surgery and Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery and students on those rotations are involved in rehabilitation treatments especially when their patients are referred to the Integrative Medicine Service.

Didactic Education

- **Year 1 and 2**

- Integrative Medicine Club
 - 2-5 yearly lectures
 - Monthly 3 hour hands on laboratory sessions
 - 2015-6 topics
 - Therapeutic exercises
 - Acupuncture,
 - Chiropractic
 - Laser therapy

- **Year 3**

- Vet 433A- 1hour lecture- Physical Rehabilitation for orthopedic surgery
- Vet 432A Comparative- 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of case based learning discussion
 - Introduction to physical rehabilitation modalities in large and small animals
 - Introduction to acupuncture and chiropractic in large and small animals
 - 4 case based discussions: 2 large, 2 small animal
- Vet 433C - 1hour lecture on palliative care for oncology patients; future proposal for additional hours to cover orthotics/prosthetics and other rehab modalities for oncology patients
- Vet 435A- Large Animal Stream - Equine Emphasis- 1hour lecture and 2 hour lab on equine integrative sports medicine (acupuncture, chiropractic, laser therapy, saddle fit)

Clinical Education

- **Year 4 rotations**

- Small Animal Integrative Medicine
 - 1-3 students each rotation for maximal student experience
 - Two-week minimum rotation
 - Case load: 3-5 new patients per week; 20-30 treatment patients per day
 - New out-patient and in-patient consultations
 - Types of patient referrals
 - Neurology
 - Orthopedic surgery
 - Softtissue surgery
 - Oncology
 - Internal Medicine
 - Critical Problem solving
 - History taking and owner functional assessment
 - General physical exam
 - Orthopedic/neurologic/ functional exams
- Equine Integrative Sports Medicine: equine in-patient, out-patient and field visits of sports medicine cases incorporating integrative modalities in diagnosis and treatment (acupuncture, chiropractic, laser therapy, thermography, saddle fit)
 - Development of Problem lists
 - Development of rehabilitation goals and assessments
 - Creation and implementation for patient based plan on
 - Re-evaluations
 - Re-examinations
 - Assessment of progress or decline
 - Modifications of treatment plans
 - Modalities
 - Theory
 - Indications
 - Contraindications/Precautions
 - Appropriate frequency, settings, and application
 - Perform treatments on clinical patients
 - Modalities discussed and performed
 - Therapeutic exercises
 - Therapeutic ultrasound
 - Cold laser therapy
 - Electrical therapies: NMES, and TENS
 - PEMF
 - Hydrotherapy/Underwater Treadmill
 - Land treadmill
 - Manual therapy

- Rounds
 - Patient rounds daily
 - Topic rounds 2 hours twice a week
 - Cold Laser
 - Electrical therapies
 - Hydrotherapy/UWTM
 - Muscle anatomy with stretches
 - Pain management: pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical treatments