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Animal Medical Center of Streetsboro vet: laser treatment effective, painless for pets



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Streetsboro -- Veterinarian Dr. Scott Leffler offers Cutting Edge Laser Technologies' new laser therapy at the Animal Medical Center of Streetsboro for both small and large animals. He said the therapy is designed to treat pain, inflammation and muscle spasms, increase local blood circulation and repair superficial lesions.

Laser therapy is not limited to the Animal Medical Center. Other locations offer this treatment as well; however, many still do not, he said.

"I'd say nine out of 10 times it's used for some sort of pain: arthritic pain mostly, lower back pain, any surgical procedures," Leffler said. "You're going to expect a lot of inflammation afterward, and it really alleviates a lot of that. The laser therapy is a remarkable method to use for your beloved pet if treatment for pain or inflammation is needed because it minimizes the use of drugs, lessening the need for surgical intervention, and is therefore safer for your pet."

Laser therapy is risk free and painless, unlike medications that commonly cause side-effects or liver and kidney failure. Drugs often alleviate pain quickly; however, they are taken often and many animals stay on medications for life because of this, Leffler said.

"There is no need for sedation or restraint, and most pets will start to feel better at home within one to two treatments, as it also accelerates the healing process," he said. "With the use of two different laser light wave lengths, it has been proven safe and effective for over 30 years in human treatments. I also feel that using laser treatment after surgery is a great method since it may allow patients to yield less pain, less swelling and a quicker recovery."

The laser technology uses light to favor and accelerate the body's natural healing processes, Cutting Edge Laser Technologies stated in a recent news release.

Don Hamel, a customer at the Animal Medical Center, said his dog, Molly, rarely limps and appears more active after receiving Cutting Edge Laser Technologies' new laser therapy. She has suffered from hip dysplasia since she was 2 years old.

"I could tell it was really bothering her," Hamel said. "And as opposed to coming in every time she gets hurt, we were looking for something a little more long-term."

Molly underwent the standard laser therapy used for issues such as arthritis. The standard therapy cost \$269

for one-area treatment and \$299 for multiple-area treatment that involves six sessions and additional sessions every four to six months, Leffler said.

"Basically, I'm doing a pulse setting," veterinary assistant Megan Bivona explained while using the laser technology on Molly. "I do five different points on the hips -- basically all around the ball of the hip for about 30 seconds each and then on the top of the ball of the hip, as well. It's pretty easy."

Leffler said he has had the technology nearly five years and uses it at least once every day.

"Just the fact this dog is doing so much more than she has in years is a testimony that this works," Leffler said of Molly.

For more information, call Animal Medical Center of Streetsboro at 330-626-4935 or visit <http://www.animaldogtor.com/>. The office is located at 9094 Route 14.

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