

# Pawsitive Press

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## Laser Therapy

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Laser is an acronym that stands for “light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation.” The types of laser used in rehabilitation (for both pets and people!), also known as low-level laser therapy (LLLT), are considered cold laser and use wavelengths of light (red and near-infrared) to create therapeutic effects.

### Benefits

- Decreases pain and inflammation
- Improves and speeds-up healing
- Increases blood flow and promotes joint cartilage health



- Prevents excessive scar tissue formation and decreases tissue swelling



### Conditions Treated with Laser

- Injuries (torn cruciate ligament, muscle strains)
- Arthritis (hip dysplasia, elbow arthritis, knee pain)
- Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
- Wounds (hot spots, non-healing ulcers, lick granulomas)
- Inflammation (ear hematomas, ear infections, skin infections, bladder pain)
- Post-Surgery (tooth extractions, spay and neuter incision healing)

### Classification of Lasers

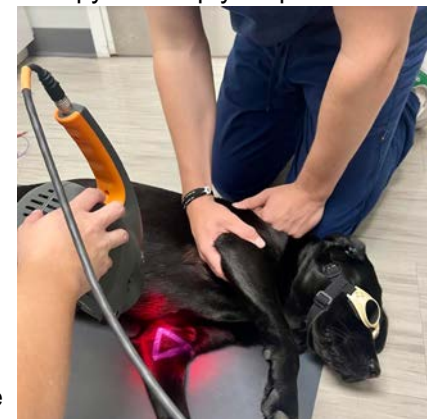
Lasers are classified according to The American National Standards Institute based on their ability to cause tissue damage (most importantly the eye). Class 1 lasers have very low output and are not considered to be dangerous to accidental

exposure to the eyes. Examples of Class 1 lasers include check out scanners, laser printers and DVD players. Class 2 lasers include common laser pointers and some ‘therapeutic lasers’ purchased over the counter. Class 1 and 2 lasers are not considered to be capable of delivering the energy needed for therapeutic effects. Most true therapeutic lasers used in vet clinics and in human physical therapy fall into the Class 3 and 4 categories. Class 4 lasers are the most powerful lasers while still being safe for the tissues being treated. This is the class of laser we use at the Animal Hospital of Dunedin!

### Treatments

Treatments have cumulative effects and are usually done in a series. Acute conditions, such as post-surgery healing, require less treatments (1 to 3 being common) while more chronic conditions, such as arthritis, require more treatments to get the maximum benefit. There are very few risks with laser therapy but it should not be used on the eye, during pregnancy, directly over tumors or over the joints of growing puppies and kittens.

Call the office to see if laser therapy can help your pet!



I wanted to write a review on for 2 great vets at the Animal Hospital of Dunedin. I'll start by providing some background and then I'll share our story and everything about what Dr. B and Dr. Caputo have done for our Vader boy!

Back in September 2019 our lab, Vader, was diagnosed with liver cancer and we were told by Blue Pearl in Tampa that he had 4 years to live if they were able to successfully retrieve the tumor with surgery. We attempted an expensive surgery; however, due to the tumor being in the back of the liver the surgeon was not able to remove the tumor and gave us options about trying chemo. We were devastated to say the least – Vader is part of our family and we couldn't fathom losing him at 9 years old. Money was no object – we were determined to do everything in our power to keep him alive as long as he was in good spirits. Anyhow, we met with the oncologist and she told us he would get chemo for 6 months and the life expectancy with chemo treatments would be 1.5 years...but he wouldn't be able to lick us and we'd have to wear gloves when he went to the bathroom as it wouldn't be safe. Our Vader constantly licks us and gives kisses to our little girl and our entire family – this would be punishment for him and us, so we decided to turn down the option as this wouldn't work for our family. So Blue Pearl recommended a holistic vet in Dunedin, Dr. Bartholomew. We live in Wesley Chapel, so 90 minutes to Dunedin was a bit long but we'll do anything for our pooch so we made an appointment and met with Dr. B and his staff. Dr. B is great and he provided an arsenal of holistic solutions from Chinese herbs that Vader takes daily, to monthly acupuncture, to quarterly high doses of Vitamin C treatments via IV as this helps fight cancer, etc. Then Dr. B introduced us to Dr. Caputo – she's a traveling vet but she does work out of Animal Hospital of Dunedin (AHOD) once a week. Dr. Caputo is a well-rounded vet and she performs a special ozone/oxygen treatment that Vader gets monthly (basically a 10 minute therapy that's used to help kill cancer cells as cancer doesn't thrive well with oxygen).

Both vets are great...initially we went there weekly for the first 3 months, then biweekly and now it's been monthly. Vader also had some bad arthritis in his back legs and Dr. Caputo recommended what we call our miracle drug "grapiprant". The medicine is safe for the liver and helped with the leg inflammation and arthritis – at first it gave Vader terrible diarrhea and after a few months of adjusting the dose combined with prescription dog food that Dr. B recommended for gastrointestinal to help maintain normal stool, we final found the right combination for Vader (1/3 a pill every 3 days) and he's no longer limping and doing great. You can't even tell he has cancer – he's a happy boy and I owe many many thanks to the AHOD and these 2 miracle vets Dr. B and Dr. Caputo! To any pet owner who's thinking about trying holistic solutions...I hope our story helps you make the decision that's right for your family – if we did the chemo route we were looking at 1.5 years life expectancy and I'm extremely happy to say Vader is currently doing well and he has surpassed 3.5 years with his holistic treatments.



Current pics of Vader and his favorite pal, Bella



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