

Pine Woods Animal Hospital

(716)695-7836

Hospital and Wellness Center
570 East Robinson Street
North Tonawanda NY, 14120

Surgery and Rehabilitation Center
66 Mead Street
North Tonawanda NY, 14120

TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION, WAIVER, AND RELEASE

Owner's Name:

Pet's Name:

I would like my pet treated at the above-named facility. In support of that treatment I state the following:

- 1) I am aware that there is a veterinarian on site. My veterinarian is aware that I am pursuing rehabilitation, hydrotherapy, and/or a swimming exercise program for my pet and has cleared my pet for such activities.
- 2) I acknowledge that a person trained in canine rehabilitation has discussed treatment with me and has advised me of the risks and contraindications associated with the treatment of my pet. I have read the attached materials given to me on the subject by the facility.
- 3) I have provided the facility with a complete and accurate medical history including details of the present injuries and illnesses of my pet.
- 4) I understand that rehabilitation and hydrotherapy in dogs is an evolving field and scientific evidence to measure effectiveness is currently limited.
- 5) I understand the nature and purpose of rehabilitation, hydrotherapy, and/or fitness programs and that such treatment may not accomplish the desired objective.
- 6) Any rehabilitation equipment provided by the facility is for the sole purpose of use with my pet, and is not for human use. I understand that said equipment is utilized for my pet at my own risk.
- 7) I understand that in some instances, certain conditions can be exacerbated or worsened by rehabilitation and/or hydrotherapy. I am aware that there are serious and potentially fatal risks associated with hydrotherapy, rehabilitation, and some of the exercise programs.
- 8) I have been advised of the risks of hydrotherapy, including but not limited to the risks of animal bites, equipment, accidents, or injuries. I have read the material entitled **Benefits and Risks of Rehabilitation and Hydrotherapy** that is on the back of this page and have had the opportunity to ask questions concerning it.

UNDERSTANDING ALL THE ABOVE, I HEREBY AUTHORIZE THERAPISTS AT THE FACILITY AND ANY ASSISTANTS SELECTED OR SUPERVISED BY THEM TO PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND/OR HYDROTHERAPY FOR MY PET.

On behalf of myself, my heirs, personal representatives and executors, I expressly agree to hold harmless and release the facility and its employees, officers, and agents from ANY AND ALL responsibility, liability, claims, causes of action, or demands of any nature and cause, including costs and attorneys' fees.

I have read the above and accept these conditions.

Signature of Owner

Date

For veterinary referral patients:

You have been referred by your veterinarian to Pine Woods Animal Hospital Surgical and Rehabilitation Center for rehabilitation or conditioning purposes only. In order to uphold a professional relationship with your veterinarian, we are unable to perform any routine veterinary care for your pet. We ask that you return to your veterinarian for follow-up care. We will update your veterinarian on all findings and treatments performed.

I have read and agree to the above policy.

Signature of Owner

Date

BENEFITS AND RISKS OF REHABILITATION AND HYDROTHERAPY

Benefits of Rehabilitation and Hydrotherapy

Rehabilitation may include a variety of treatments, including: range of motion, stretching, therapeutic exercise, balance and proprioceptive training, strengthening, endurance training, sensory re-education, gait retraining, electrical stimulation, functional training, heat/cold, and hydrotherapy.

Rehabilitation and Hydrotherapy benefits may:

- Increase muscle mass and strength
- Improve range of motion and flexibility
- Improve overall endurance
- Assist with gait training
- Improve coordination and balance
- Improve neuromuscular function
- Improve cardiac and respiratory function
- Reduce edema
- Improve superficial circulation
- Assist with weight loss and weight control by increasing metabolism

Risk to dogs of Rehabilitation and Aquatic therapy

Rehabilitation and hydrotherapy in dogs is an evolving field, and scientific evidence to measure effectiveness is currently limited. Rehabilitation and hydrotherapy for fitness have associated risks. The risks to your pet vary based on the medical history and condition of your pet as well as the treatment modality that is employed. The following potential risk factors are listed for both you and your dog. Most importantly, despite careful supervision there remains a risk of drowning for you or your pet.

Risks to humans of Rehabilitation and Aquatic therapy

- Slips and/or falls resulting in injury
- Injury during transfers of your dog into or out of the underwater treadmill
- Drowning
- Ear infections
- Skin rash
- Dog bites

Contraindications for Hydrotherapy programs include:

- Fever
- Cardiac conditions / instability
- Abnormal blood pressure (hypo tension or hypertension)
- Infectious diseases
- Contagious skin rashes
- Perforated eardrums or severe ear infection
- Open wounds
- Unstable epilepsy / seizures
- Severe asthma or uncontrolled respiratory illness
- Late stage or high risk pregnancy
- Aggression
- Water phobia / panic

IMPORTANT - The aforementioned list of contraindications is not exhaustive and there may be other conditions identified by your veterinarian that would prevent treatment. This is one reason we require veterinary pre-authorization for any rehabilitation, hydrotherapy or fitness / swimming program.