



ANDOVER
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Around the Barn

Andover Animal Hospital

243 Newton Sparta Road
Newton, NJ 07860
Phone: (973) 940-BARN (2276)
Fax: (973) 940-0309

www.andoveranimalhospital.com

Hours

Monday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
Tuesday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Wednesday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am - 12:00pm
Sunday: Closed

Harvey E. Hummel, VMD
Shelley L. Parker, DVM
Wendy Turner, DVM

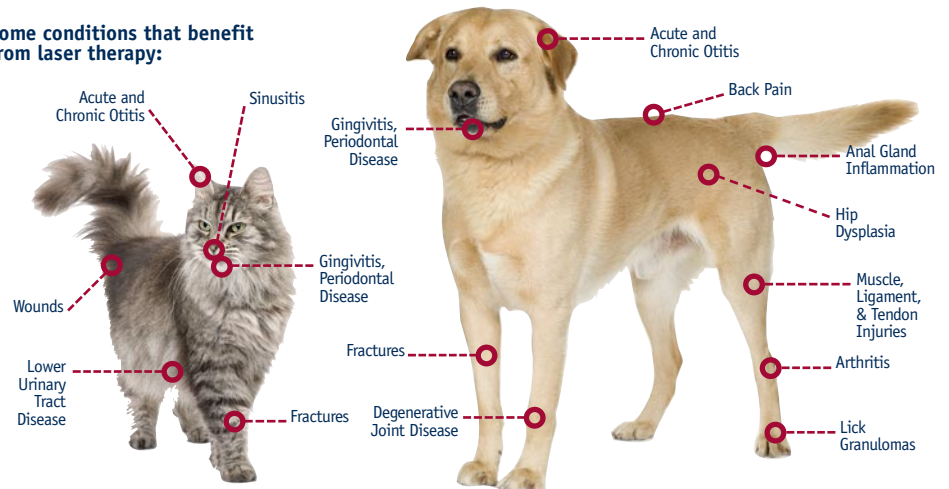
Laser Therapy

Andover Animal Hospital is pleased to offer Class IV laser therapy to our patients as an effective treatment for many cases of acute and chronic pain, inflammation and wound healing. Laser therapy can be used alone or in conjunction with other treatments, and has the benefit of being a drug-free, non-surgical, safe means of providing lasting pain relief.

Class IV laser therapy uses light to penetrate tissue in a process called "photobiostimulation." It is commonly used on humans for everything from sports injuries to rheumatoid arthritis. Studies show that laser therapy helps reduce inflammation, reduce pain and accelerate healing.

We routinely use laser therapy to treat conditions such as arthritis, back pain, muscle strain or tear, wounds and many other conditions. We perform laser therapy on the incision of every pet we spay or neuter. Most laser therapy treatment plans require three to six visits for acute conditions, and more than that for chronic conditions, such as arthritis. After the initial series, many of our arthritic patients continue to come in at bi-weekly or monthly intervals to maintain their progress.

Some conditions that benefit from laser therapy:

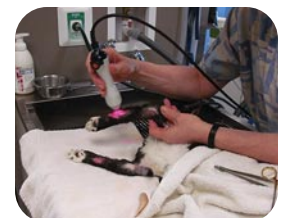


Staff Happenings

Diane, our practice manager, and Carol, our receptionist team leader, traveled to Chicago early in September to attend Henry Schein's Veterinary Technology Summit. They spent three days networking, absorbing insights from top veterinary speakers on the use of technology in practice management, and attending cutting-edge software training classes. Lots of new information to bring back and use to make our client service even more exceptional!

Remember Sparky? Laser therapy was a key part of his daily burn treatment. And this was a cat who was very close to needing a front leg amputation!

Of course, there are no miracle cures (other than Sparky, of course), but laser therapy is helping many of our patients enjoy their days a bit more than before. If you think your pet may benefit from this treatment, call us to learn more.



Sparky (above left to right) soon after we adopted him; 3 weeks later, leg wounds much smaller; getting his daily laser treatment. Six weeks later, his leg wounds were completely healed.



Osteoarthritis

Do you have a relative who has a hard time opening jars due to pain in her hands? Perhaps you know someone who has trouble standing because his knee hurts? Joint pain can be debilitating, and one of the most common causes is osteoarthritis (OA), also known as Degenerative Joint Disease. OA is a degenerative condition in which the cartilage that normally cushions joints breaks down and wears away. As it erodes, the bones rub together, leading to pain and swelling in the joints.

Cats and dogs can also suffer from OA. Cats have evolved to disguise symptoms of pain and illness, so their signs of OA are often subtle. Cats may jump on furniture less frequently, be less meticulous about grooming or show inappropriate litter box behaviors. Dogs may be less active, show occasional lameness and/or stiffness and may even lick at the painful joint.

Talk to your veterinarian if you notice behavior changes or suspect your pet may have OA, because there are a number of treatment options available that can reduce pain, increase mobility and increase your pet's quality of life. These include nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories, steroids, nutritional supplements (such as glucosamine), laser therapy, surgery (if the OA is secondary to an underlying cause, such as hip dysplasia), physical therapy and alternative therapies (such as acupuncture).

Obesity is a factor, because it adds stress to the joints. One of the most important things you can do for your arthritic pet is keep the extra pounds off!



“We already have invisible fencing. If you could add an invisible mansion and an invisible pool, we could live like kings!”

Super Vision

You're sitting on your couch enjoying a good book and suddenly notice your cat seems to be watching something. You glance in the direction of her gaze, but see nothing unusual. Your cat appears to think otherwise and, tail twitching, her eyes follow something across the room.

Is it possible that your cat can see something you can't? A new study published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* suggests that, indeed, cats and dogs can see things invisible to humans: ultraviolet light. Ultraviolet (or UV) light has a shorter wavelength than visible light, and infrared has a longer wavelength. Humans are unable to see within the UV spectrum because the structure of the eye blocks this light, and in fact, UV light can damage our eyes. Interestingly, some humans who have had cataract surgery or traumatic injury that causes removal or damage to the portion of the lens that absorbs UV light later reported detailed vision in part of the UV spectrum.

It has long been known that many insects, such as bees, can see within the UV spectrum, and that this helps them in many ways, such as finding the best nectar on flowers. More recently, scientists have discovered that some birds, fish and reptiles also have this ability.

The study examined other species as well, including hedgehogs, ferrets and okapis, and found that more mammals than expected can detect UV light. In addition to helping nocturnal animals see at night, the study's authors speculate that vision in the UV spectrum may help reindeer detect the white fur of a polar bear against a snowy landscape, for example, or enhance a predator's perception of a urine trail that leads to prey.

“Pets are our seat belts on the emotional roller coaster of life—they can be trusted, they keep us safe, and they sure do smooth out the ride.” – Dr. Nick Trout



Hip Dysplasia

The word “dysplasia” is derived from Greek words meaning “abnormal formation.” Hip dysplasia is an abnormal formation of the hip joint, and is one of the most common skeletal problems in dogs. It’s also found in cats and people. In a normal hip, the femur (thigh bone) meets the pelvis in a ball and socket joint, where the top of the femur is a rounded ball (called the caput), which fits perfectly into the concave socket (called the acetabulum) of the pelvis. The bones are held together by ligaments, and where they meet they’re covered with a layer of cartilage, which acts as a cushion. The joint also contains lubricating fluid. When properly formed, it is stable and strong.

In a dysplastic joint, there is an improper fit of the ball and socket, causing a loose fit (laxity) or only a partial fit (subluxation). In addition, one or both of the bones may be misshapen, causing abnormal friction as the bones move against each other each time the leg moves. Over time, the friction damages the cartilage, which is slow to repair. Inflammation follows as the body attempts to heal. Osteoarthritis typically occurs as the body tries to correct the instability; in fact, hip dysplasia is considered the most common cause of osteoarthritis in canine hips.

Hip dysplasia is an inherited disease, and all breeds of dogs are at risk. It is predominantly seen in larger breeds, although Pugs and some other small breeds appear to have a high incidence as well. Obesity can increase the severity of disease in all dogs. In puppies that are prone to dysplasia, injury, repetitive stress or overexertion before fully mature may contribute to the disease, as can rapid growth and inappropriate nutrition.

Signs:

- Decreased activity/exercise intolerance
- Difficulty rising
- Reluctance to climb stairs
- A “bunny-hop” gait
- Intermittent or persistent lameness
- Decreased muscle tone in the back legs

Veterinarians can determine whether a dog is dysplastic, and the degree of the problem, using x-rays.

Treatment options depend on the size of the pet, age of onset and severity of the condition. Medical management entails maintaining proper weight, nutritional supplements, moderated exercise, physical therapy (to keep supporting structures strong) and medication. There are several surgical options that aim to modify, repair or replace the hip joint, and again, the type of surgery depends on the specific patient. If caught early enough, the prognosis for a high quality of life following surgery is usually very good.



Feline Hip Dysplasia

Hip dysplasia has long been thought to be a disease that only plagued dogs, but we now know that cats can suffer from this condition as well. As with dogs, it is more likely to affect larger breed cats such as the Maine Coon, but smaller cats can be dysplastic.



Because of their smaller size, great agility and the fact that they’re not exercised in the same manner as dogs, many cats with hip dysplasia will show no obvious signs of the disease. Others will show occasional lameness and a reluctance to jump or climb stairs, which gets worse as osteoarthritis progresses. Inappropriate litter box habits are sometimes the first indication of a hip problem, due to the cat having difficulty entering the box or squatting comfortably.

As with dogs, both medical management and surgery are options to help alleviate pain and improve quality of life for affected cats.

Hip Evaluation

Conscientious breeders of dogs and cats are careful to avoid breeding pets that may pass on this painful inherited condition. There are two standard methods of evaluating hips, known as OFA and Penn-Hip.

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) will assess x-rays submitted by veterinarians, and they maintain the world’s largest all-breed registry. OFA categories are: **Normal** (Excellent, Good, Fair), **Borderline**, and **Dysplastic** (Mild, Moderate, Severe). You can learn more, see statistics for your breed and see sample x-rays of canine hips in each category on the OFA website, at www.offa.org/hd_grades.html

The University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program (PennHIP) uses unique radiographic views of hips to identify and quantify joint laxity. Learn more about this method at www.info.antechimaging.com/pennhip.



Normal hips (left) and Dysplastic hips (right) *Images courtesy Orthopedic Foundation for Animals*



Coming Events!

October 9: Come join our "It's a Dog's Life Club." Does your dog bolt/bark/hide/bite/go crazy when visitors arrive at your house? Trainer Dee Broton will show you how to teach your dog to be a polite host at her presentation, "There's a Knock at the Door..." Call our office at 973-940-2276 for registration. Just in time for holiday guests!

- Don't forget Dee's fun **puppy socialization classes** on select Thursday evenings! Your puppy must be a patient of ours to participate, and attendance is by reservation only. Call our office for available dates.
- November:** Do you know what to do in the event your pet is injured? (other than call us of course!) Now's your chance to learn how to care for your pet until proper medical help can be obtained. We will be hosting a Pet First Aid and CPR class for pet owners. It will be taught by certified

instructors, and you will leave with a certification card from the American Safety and Health Institute as well as new confidence in your abilities.

- December:** Create great memories and gifts with pictures of your pooches and kitties with Santa (aka Dr. Hummel!)
- January:** "It's a Dog's Life Club" with trainer Dee Broton. With so many great topic choices, we haven't chosen yet!

Stay tuned to Facebook and our website for event details on dates and registration.



A N D O V E R ANIMAL HOSPITAL

243 Newton Sparta Road, Newton, NJ 07860

25 years of excellence



member/acquaintance/co-worker, you'll both receive a \$20 professional services credit on the day your friend comes in with their pet for their first exam appointment! Stop by our office for your supply of referral cards you can freely give away (make sure you put your name on it first!) or download a copy from our website, andoveranimalhospital.com. The person you refer must be a new client to us, and there is no limit on the credits you can receive!

Do you know about our new **Share the Care Referral Program?**

If you refer a friend/family

Bravecto

Tired of the monthly flea and tick prevention ritual? Consider Bravecto for Dogs, an oral chew tablet that provides flea and tick control for 12 weeks. Bravecto kills fleas, prevents flea infestations, and kills the black-legged tick, American dog tick and brown dog tick. It is approved for dogs 6 months and older. Call our office or stop by to see if Bravecto is a good choice for your dog.

