

Class IV Laser Therapy - New Tool for various conditions!

We have the privilege of using a new laser therapy instrument that gives us another tool by which to treat a variety of conditions without having to use heavy duty pain medicines.

What is class IV laser therapy?

Laser therapy is an intense beam of light in the 790-980 nanometer wavelength that is directed into tissue to reduce pain, reduce inflammation, and to accelerate healing. This is in the UV light range that we cannot see with the naked eye.

Class I and II laser is used in CD players and printers.

Class III ranges from 5 milli-watts to 0.5 watt. These are used in pointers and some topical skin applications.

Class IV ranges in power from 1 Watt to 15 Watts. 1-2 Watts is used for just superficial wounds. 6-15 Watts is used for deeper situations such as arthritis, bladder infections, strains, anal gland infections, and lick granulomas.

How does it work?

It Reduces pain: by the effects of the light wavelength on nerve cells and pain receptors to reduce pain, reduced nerve impulses in response to pain, and increased endorphin ('feel good') hormone release.

It Reduces inflammation: by decreasing release of prostaglandin and inflammatory hormones at the cellular level, increasing white blood cell scavenger cells, and reducing swelling by dilating lymphatics.

It Accelerates healing: by increased blood flow to the area, increased new blood vessel production, increased healing processes of new tissue. This is all aided by increased oxygen delivered to the area being treated.

Depending on the sites, typical treatment times average 5-20 minutes.

What patients are candidates for laser therapy?

Any patient presenting with pain, inflammation, or healing tissues are excellent candidates.

This effectively includes: arthritis, sprains and strains, back pain, anal gland abscesses, bite wound abscess, any kind of wound, lick granulomas, hotspots, post surgical incisions, swollen ear infections, post teeth cleaning and extractions with gum swelling, ear hematomas, etc.

To date, we have had good results with quicker healing with anal gland abscess, bite wounds, hotspots, and post surgical incisions.

We have been particularly impressed with most arthritic dogs and cats that we have used it on. Animals that could not go up and down stairs or run or jump are now doing so again. We continue to use Adequan or Dasuquin in these individuals to help decrease further joint damage and the

laser enhances their effect. Typical laser charges are the same or cheaper than putting these animals on pain medicine and the accompanying blood monitoring tests that are needed. The key is starting before advanced arthritis is present.

Keep an eye on our website at interesting cases menu where I will share results that we see.