



Pawsitive Steps Canine Rehab

Putting the pep back in your pup's
step

405-367-5732
Canine
Rehabilitation
Services

Limb Amputation/Tripod/Congenital limb deformity

Amputations may be recommended for either a front or hind limb, and as partial or complete. In the case of a complete amputation, which is most common, the affected limb is removed high up where the limb attaches to the body. In partial amputations, only a segment of the limb is removed, leaving a stump that requires daily care to ensure proper skin protection. Prosthetics are usually recommended in this case as the remaining portion of the limb may become injured during daily activities or impede normal movement. Dogs may also be born with a congenital deformity, in which the limb never fully developed and has thus been unable to utilize.



How will my dog adapt?

Dogs actually adapt pretty well to amputations. Hind limb amputations are easier to recover from as the majority of a dog's weight is on their front limbs. There are several factors that can affect recovery.

- Age
- Weight
- Overall strength of other limbs
- Overall health

Specialized Equipment and Prosthetics

Using a harness to help your dog get around, such as when getting in and out of a car or going up and down stairs, may be helpful in the first few weeks after surgery, and possibly longer depending on his or her age and general health. For high-quality harnesses that are made for lifting and assisting with the dog's comfort in mind, be sure to check out [Ruffwear](#) and [Help 'Em Up](#) harness systems. We rent and sell Help 'Em Up harness systems.

Prosthetics are also an option. There are a few prosthetic companies in Oklahoma who design and modify prosthetics for animals. Additionally, there are online companies who also create 3D printed prosthetics as well.

Wheelchairs may also be an option needed, depending on age, weight, and overall health of the dog. These are also available for rent or purchase.



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How will rehab help?

Yes! Rehab will help. Pain management is the first goal, and then working on balance, strengthening and mobility. Younger dogs generally adapt quicker, but old dogs are also stubborn and set in their ways (just like some humans) and do not want your assistance. Regardless, we are here to help. We also help prevent overuse injuries from a new way of walking and perform massage and range of motion to assist with that.

If your dog gets a prosthetic, we also do prosthetic limb training.

During our evaluation, we determine what exercises should be done and walk you through the exercises. Within 48 hours of the evaluation, we will send you a link to a portal that has the prescribed pictures and videos for you to continue to do exercises at home. THE HOME EXERCISE PROGRAM IS THE BIGGEST COMPONENT OF SUCCESS. CARRYOVER IS ESSENTIAL.



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Mobile and Clinic (Waterloo Animal Hospital)
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