



**Kelley Gebhardt, DVM  
Happy Tails Veterinary  
Emergency Clinic**

Dr. Kelley Gebhardt graduated from North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005. Since graduation, Dr. Gebhardt has worked in both general practice and in emergency medicine. Her passion for emergency medicine inspired her and her family to open the Happy Tails Veterinary Emergency Clinic in February 2008.

Dr. Gebhardt is happily married to her husband, Lee Allen (Clinic Director of HTVEC). They share their home with their four furry children – one dog (Nugget) and three cats (TJ Meow Meow, Uno, and Nimbus). In their limited spare time, Dr. Gebhardt and Lee enjoy hiking with their dog, mountain biking, kayaking, and spending time outdoors.

## THERAPEUTIC LASER FOR YOUR PET

The benefits of the K-Laser in decreasing pain and inflammation and promoting healing are tremendous. Personally, I have experienced the benefits of K-Laser through my chiropractor and truly believe in the same potential benefits for our veterinary patients. For years, I have suffered from severe back pain and joint issues. On days when I can barely walk into the chiropractor's office, I am 80% to 90% improved and less painful after a single K-Laser treatment. It is an amazing therapeutic tool.

### What is laser therapy?

Laser (light) therapy is a technique used in both human and veterinary medicine to promote healing through a process called "photobiomodulation". Therapeutic laser is different from a surgical laser. When injured tissues are treated with the infrared and near infrared light of a therapeutic laser, the body produces a natural healing response. The laser does not cut or damage tissues. Treatment with therapeutic laser significantly decreases pain and inflammation, reduces muscle spasms, increases circulation, improves flexibility and function, promotes healing, and reduces symptoms associated with arthritis. The K-Laser is unique in that it is more powerful than other therapeutic lasers and uses three

different wavelengths of infrared light, which allows for deeper penetration into the body to more effectively treat areas such as your pet's spine, hip, and deeper muscles. It also uses visible red



light, which is excellent for treatment of superficial wounds.

Another great advantage of laser therapy is that it is a soothing, pain free, non-invasive, and drug-free treatment option. There are also no negative side effects. Each treatment can be completed in less than 10-15 minutes and can be done while your pet is fully awake. It is an excellent therapeutic tool to use alone or as part of an integrative approach in conjunction with medication or surgery to address your pet's needs.

### What problems can improve with laser therapy?

The clinical applications for K-laser therapy are nearly limitless in both acute and chronic conditions. The following is a brief list of conditions that can benefit from laser therapy. However, the potential applications for laser therapy are limitless!

- Arthritis
- Acute/chronic pain and inflammation
- Soft tissue injury (sprain, strain)
- Cruciate ligament injury
- Herniated disks (IVDD)
- Fractures
- Wounds
- Skin infection
- Bladder inflammation
- Ear infections
- Lick granulomas
- Anal gland infections
- Dental pain
- Snake bites
- Bite wounds
- Abscesses
- Post-surgical pain
- Feline acne

### How many laser treatments will my pet need?

The number of treatments each pet will need depends on the underlying problem and the individual pet's response to treatment. Some pets will feel an immediate benefit and may only need one or two treatments. For more severe, chronic problems, some pets may require multiple treatments to experience the maximum benefit. To establish a treatment plan specific to your pet's needs, your pet must be examined by one of our doctors. After a treatment plan is established, the laser treatments are performed as a brief outpatient procedure.

As an emergency clinic, we work in conjunction with your regular veterinarian to provide your pet with the best care possible. We frequently use laser therapy for acute problems that present on emergency and recommend continued laser therapy through your regular veterinarian. If your regular veterinarian does not yet have laser therapy for ongoing treatment, we have cost effective laser packages for your pet to continue laser treatment through Happy Tails. All primary care would be continued through your regular veterinarian.

Please ask your regular veterinarian if your pet could benefit from this non-invasive, drug free, pain relief treatment option!



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