

ANIMAL REHABILITATION

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

“Members on the Move” - This is a new section we hope to keep as a regular part of our newsletters in the future. It is designed to recognize members pursuing further education or specialization in their field, those receiving accolades for the work they do, or just a way to “toot your own horn!” If you know of anyone that should be recognized in future newsletters, please forward information to Lisa Bedenbaugh at LHinerman2@aol.com.

Carrie Adamson, our SIG Vice President, has recently been awarded a PhD in Canine Biomechanics from the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University. Congratulations, Carrie!

Amie Hesbach, our SIG President, has recently been accepted by the University of Montana for her transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy—best of luck, Amie!

Lisa Bedenbaugh, the SIG newsletter Editor, will be presenting at the Australian Physiotherapy Association’s national meeting in Brisbane, on October 30th. She will be talking on “Chiari Malformation in Yorkshire Terriers” and “Trends and Issues Facing PTs in the Animal Rehabilitation Field in the U.S.”

Kirk Peck, PT, PhD, CSCS, CCRT, is collaborating with Dr. Jennifer Hebel, DVM, PhD, CCRT, on a joint research project to investigate lumbosacral and sacroiliac joint pathokinesiology that may limit or even completely stop breed specific populations from competing in agility. The purpose of the study will be to explore various factors related to LS and SI joint dysfunction that may impact sport capacity.

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Through Northeast Seminars: (www.neseminars.com)

“Pain Procedures for PT Patients,” presented by Robin Downing, DVM, CCRP, in Loveland, CO on October 21-22.

Canine V - “From Head to Tail; The Business of Canine Physical Rehabilitation,” presented by Debbie Gross-Saunders, DPT, MSPT, OCS, CCRP, Nashua, NH on October 21.

Canine V - “From Head to Tail—Treatment for Common Canine Conditions,” Debbie Gross-Saunders, Nashua, NH on October 22-23.

Through Canine Rehabilitation Institute

(www.caninerehabinstitute.com)

“Orthotics and Prosthetics in Canine Rehabilitation & Conditioning Group,” Patrice M. Mich, DVM, MS, DABVP, DACVA, CCRT, Martin W. Kaufmann, C-Ped, BSBA, Prosthetic/Orthotic Technologist, Broomfield, CO on October 8-9.

Educational Handouts:

Thank you to Amie Hesbach and Massachusetts Veterinary Referral Hospital for the following educational material, appropriate to share with owners:

The following is a list of helpful tips from a former client whose pet was incontinent following spinal surgery. Marie’s family hopes that the following will help other people and their pets.

- ✓ [When Marie was allowed on the furniture...] we got a shower curtain and put it over the sofa where Marie loves to spend time. (We stapled it to the back of the sofa since it kept slipping.) An old plastic garment bag works well too, which is what we used to wrap Marie’s favorite bed. We line each with a washable 3x5 carpet and doggie pads. I use Clorox bleach pads to clean the shower curtain and garment bag when they get soiled.
- ✓ Marie’s favorite place was always the sofa, so we also got a child’s bed rail and put it under the sofa cushion to keep her from falling. (She is supervised on the sofa because her inclination is to follow us when we leave the room, which could result in a fall. She is very persistent and found a way around the bed rail, but in the early days it was a help.) (The right bed rail for a sofa was a little tricky to find since most are secured with rails that are as long as a twin bed is wide; just read the packaging carefully. The one we bought has a strap vs. a rail to secure it.)
- ✓ Vinegar is great to help neutralize the urine smell in a non-toxic way. I pour vinegar on a paper towel and place it on the bottom of the wastebaskets where I dispose of Marie’s doggie pads or diapers. I also line those waste baskets with a plastic bag (on top of the vinegar pad) to dispose of them daily. BTW, the waste baskets with a cover are best and emptied daily.
- ✓ Buy some foam carpet cleaner for pet stains. (For urine, I blot with vinegar first.) Resolve or other brands are great; just spray them on and wait 5 minutes then blot.
- ✓ I put a large old carpet over the existing carpet to protect against permanent staining, although the carpet cleaner is really doing the trick.
- ✓ We bought baby diapers vs. doggie diapers; they are much less expensive. My personal choice is Huggies organic. Size 4 works for Marie...she’s 25 lbs. Just cut a hole in the back for her tail which is important since she has nerves there. We use the diapers at night, and let her private area get as much air as possible during other times of the day to avoid infection.
- ✓ Diaper cream works great if her private area is getting red. Something with zinc oxide is helpful provided she cannot reach it to ingest it.

- ✓ I bought a baby changing table topper and lined it with a towel and doggie pads as a very portable place for Marie to sleep. The sides are contoured and it moves easily around the house. (A typical bed is too soft for her, and reduces her ability to stand.) I'm sure they are available at most stores that sell baby products, but the one I bought (\$20 at Walmart) is "Simmons Kids - Two Sided Contour Changing Pad with Non-Skid Bottom."
- ✓ We purchase an essential oil called "Purification" for odor neutralization by Young Living. Just a couple of drops added to water and a spray bottle is non-toxic, good for the environment, has a fresh (non-perfume) scent. (FYI – It also neutralizes cigarette odors; I never travel without it!) This can be purchased on-line or through me.
- ✓ To reduce Marie's sliding on her bum (vs. walking), I got a children's play yard for her and put it up in the front yard. She can still see her doggie friends go by and follow them a few feet, but not enough to get hurt. (Marie is smart and managed to go under it, so we staked it to the ground.)
- ✓ Marie has acupuncture 2-3x/week.
- ✓ We hired a dog walker to help off-load a little of her care.

