

My German Shepherd had injuries to both ACLs by the time she was 4 years old. She was active and did well for the next four-five years, but towards the end of that time, she started limping, avoiding use of one of her back legs. She got into physical rehab, eventually working steadily with Dr. Pérez at Ta'ina Canine Rehabilitation. Dr. Pérez worked to maintain her leg function and range of motion. Some range of motion was probably uncomfortable, but my dog preferred cooperating with her, usually not allowing me to do the same moves.

Exercises, laser treatments, massage and hydrotherapy were the mainstays of treatment, but as the arthritis progressed there were other things to try - booties, tape, electro-stimulation, electromagnetic fields, new medications to use along with chronic meds for pain relief. Dr. Pérez was up to date on recently approved treatments for arthritis, where we could get them, when they were available, whether appropriate for my dog's age and condition. One of the treatments helped significantly for at least a year. The last new injection was started as soon as the medication was released for use, but by that time I think my dog's arthritis was too severe.

I highly recommend Ta'ina Canine Rehabilitation. The doctor is knowledgeable, helpful and kind to our dogs. There are treatments available for arthritis and having someone who can make appropriate recommendations helps immensely in keeping the dog functioning to the best of its ability.

Treatment costs and time for pet owners are not inexpensive. I was fortunate to have had pet insurance for many years with substantial coverage for treatments. I also had the time and energy for many appointments. As these do not align for everyone, awareness of priorities and goals for your dog and yourself is important.

We all do the best we can for our pet family, and considering the challenges we faced, I feel fortunate that Ta'ina Canine Rehab was available to help with ours.

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