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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO CONSIDER WHEN COMPLETING THE CANINE MASSAGE QUESTIONNAIRE**

### **When might massage NOT be suitable for my dog?**

- If your dog is lame and has not been seen by a vet
- If your dog has open wounds
- If your dog is in shock or suffering from exhaustion or dehydration
- If your dog has a fever or virus
- If your dog has diarrhoea or vomiting
- If your dog is pregnant
- If your dog has cancer
- If your dog has a skin infection
- If your dog is an uncontrolled epileptic
- If your dog has a skin condition
- If your dog has severe bruising or inflammation
- If your dog is within 2 weeks of vaccines
- If your dog has had recent surgery/neutering depending on veterinary advice

### **What if my dog won't stay still to be massaged?**

Most dogs will move around during a massage session, and this is perfectly normal. It would be counterproductive to force your dog to stay still as this would inevitably prevent your dog from relaxing and increase stress and tension both physically and mentally. Allowing your dog choice and freedom to move away builds trust, massage must be consensual for it to be beneficial. Generally, dogs quickly become accustomed to the feeling of massage and will lie down as we work on the parasympathetic nervous system (rest and digest) working to calm the body.

### **What happens after an appointment?**

You will be given written instructions to help your dog get the full benefit from their session. A report will be sent to your dog's vet to ensure there is good communication with the veterinary team.

### **Is massage therapy covered by my pet insurance?**

Many insurance policies now include cover for complimentary therapies. Please contact your own insurer prior to your appointment to find out if the cost of sessions will be covered.

### **Why do I need a Veterinary referral?**

Canine Massage therapists must work according to the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and Exemptions Order 2015. Owners must always consult their Veterinary Surgeon before seeking massage treatment for their dog. Healthy dogs do not always require a vet referral for massage; however, all dogs must be registered with a vet and veterinary consent for massage given. If any underlying health issues are suspected, then the dog will be referred to their vet.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Please ensure that your dog has not had a meal for 2 hours before their appointment.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



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### Canine Massage Questionnaire

Please complete this form prior to your dog's initial consultation. Kindly note that veterinary consent is required before your dog's first appointment. You can download the relevant form from our website, or I can request this for you.

#### Client Information

Client Name:

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#### Dog Details

Dog's Name:

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Registered Veterinary Practice:

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Dog's Age:

Dog's Breed:

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Sex:

Is your dog neutered? if yes at what age:

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#### Appointment Details

Reason for Requesting Appointment and Concerns:

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#### Veterinary Care and Health History

Is your dog currently under veterinary care? If so, please specify the reason:

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Has your dog received any vaccinations in the last 2 weeks? Y/N if yes please provide the date:

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Does your dog have any history of illness or injuries or had any operations?

Is your dog currently taking any medication, including natural remedies or supplements?

**Diet**

Briefly describe your dog's daily diet (e.g. kibble, raw, wet

**Mobility and Behaviour**

Have you noticed any recent changes in your dog's ability to walk, run, jump on and off furniture, or move up and down stairs?

Have you noticed any changes in your dog's temperament or behaviour?

**Touch Sensitivity**

Are there any areas of your dog's body where they do not like to be touched?