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Newsletter – Spring 2020

FAQ's...

Do I need a referral even for a fitness swim? Yes! We work 100% on a vet referral basis. Even if the owner believes their dog to be healthy, we still need vet consent to know the dog in fit condition to carry out the exercise.

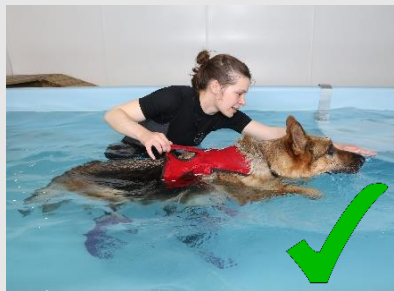
Can I leave my dog and come back at the end of their treatment? No. To minimise stress to the dog we require the owner to stay throughout the session every time so they get the most out of their treatment.

Can I get in the water with my dog? No. There is no benefit to the dog to have the owner in the water with them and it would just increase health and safety risks. Owners can be at the poolside throughout the session.

How long will my dog be in the pool? Well this very much depends on the fitness, ability and condition of each patient. Some dogs may only be in the water for 10 minutes and others up to half hour. We work based on the quality and not quantity of the treatment.

Why we use harnesses and not floatation jackets...

At Pawsome Paddles we always use a Y-shaped harness instead of a floatation jacket. At first some owners can be a little concerned that their dog will not be in a buoyancy aid. However, our hydrotherapists, who are in the water with every patient, provide the dog with the required support via the harness. The hydrotherapist can then tailor the required support specific to each patient.



Dogs naturally have their own buoyancy so if you put them in a floatation jacket you disturb their normal balanced movement. A floatation jacket also turns off the dogs epaxial muscles, which are located all down the spine. If you switch these off you are no longer engaging the dogs core and as a result not building the desired muscle mass or body awareness. Whereas when you put a dog in a Y-shaped harness you are stimulating every muscle in the dogs body, allowing a natural balanced movement and the development of even muscle in the correct places. Y-shaped harnesses also encourages the dogs full natural range of movement, whereas if they are in a floatation jacket they can become quite idle in their movement.

For larger or more difficult dogs we simply have two hydrotherapists in the pool to provide any additional required support.

Article by Kathryn Clarke MCHA, Hydrotherapist

COVID-19 Closure...

As of the 23rd March we have been closed due to COVID-19, to protect our clients and prevent the spread of the virus. Sadly, this means that some of our patients will deteriorate during this period but once we have reopened, rest assured we will be putting in place individual treatment programmes to get back on track.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all veterinary staff who are still providing emergency treatment during this crisis.



Pool maintenance...

We've taken this opportunity to drain and thoroughly clean the pool so that when we reopen the water will be in tip-top shape.

As always, we'll be testing our chlorine and pH levels at least 3 times a day and send off for bacterial analysis once a month.