



Established 1985

Out-patient care

- **Gait re-education** to reduce compensatory patterns of movement
- **Proprioceptive, balance and co-ordination exercise**
- **Muscle strengthening and core stability training**
- **Owner education and home exercises**



Physiotherapy for Spinal Cord Dysfunction



In-patient care

- **Pain management**
 - ▶ laser, pulsed electromagnetic energy, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation
- **Functional positioning**
 - ▶ sternal lying, sitting, assisted standing
- **Maintain normal range of movement**
- **Normalise tone**
- **Encourage voluntary movement**
- **Hydrotherapy**

Research

Draper et al. (2012) found 3B laser reduced time to ambulation in dogs post laminectomy by 50%.

Gandini et al. (2003) found that 36/54 dogs with FCE that underwent physiotherapy, starting within 24-48hrs of onset, achieved spontaneous paw positioning in 2 weeks. This was supported by Kathmann et al. (2006).

Nakamoto et al. 2009 found that 21/26 dogs with fibrocartilagenous embolism improved with physiotherapy in 2 weeks but continued to improve up to 2 months after onset. They indicated that physiotherapy should be continued with follow up visits during this time.