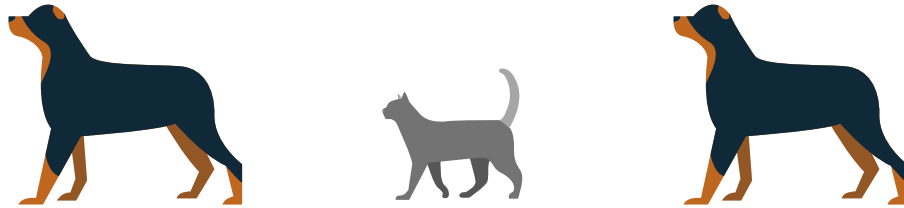




515 Benjamin Rd.  
Waterloo, ON N2J 3Z4  
519-699-0875  
info@laurelwoodvets.ca

# VETERINARY SPINAL MANIPULATION THERAPY



## HOW DO JOINT PROBLEMS EFFECT YOUR PETS?

Dogs and cats experience many minor injuries through their regular daily activities. These minor injuries can affect the many joints of their spine or limbs by causing a specific joint to lose its ability to move the way it normally should. This decrease in mobility of a single joint has a large impact on the rest of your dog or cat's body.

Each joint is made up of the bones on either side of the joint, but it is also supported by ligaments, tendons, and muscles that allow the joint to move in flexion and extension. These joints and muscles are fed by nerves. The nerves sense information including position of the limbs, head position, and pain. In addition, nerves transmit a signal from the brain to the muscles to move the body in a specific way.

Since the movement in a joint occurs with the help of many structures, when there is poor movement in one joint, more than just the joint is affected. Poor movement in one joint will lead to improper use of the muscles moving that joint. This, in turn, can lead to pain and weakness in the affected area. When one area of the body isn't moving well, other areas of the body will compensate by allowing more motion elsewhere, often where it doesn't belong.

Over time the compensation for the joint immobility may cause under use and weakness of some muscles and overuse, pain and tension in others. Further damage and degeneration is caused by not treating this dysfunction in the body.

## HOW DOES VSMT HELP MY PET?

Veterinary spinal manipulation therapy is a non-invasive, quick adjustment affecting a specific joint that has improper movement. When the adjustment is applied to the affected joint, it allows that joint to regain its normal range of motion. Having normal range of motion through the appropriate joints will allow for normal muscle use and gait which allows your pet to have comfortable motion and a better quality of life. VSMT adjustments also affect the body at a neurological level and can help in pain relief.

## WHAT ANIMALS BENEFIT FROM VSMT?

Most animals will benefit from VSMT in one way or another. Here is a non-exhaustive list of patients that may show improvement with VSMT:

**Senior pets:** Seniors have had a lifetime of adventure! With adventure comes wear and tear on the body. Have you noticed your senior pet having difficulty rising from laying down? Does he have difficulty getting in or out of the car? Is he struggling to climb the stairs or tumbling down them? Have you noticed your dog dragging her feet? Does she seem slower on her walks? If you answered yes to any of these questions then your dog or cat may benefit from a VSMT treatment. They have learned to compensate for their old injuries, but this is causing more stress on their aging body.

**Athletic pets:** Whether your dog is a Frisbee fanatic, ball-obsessed or an avid hiker, dogs that are always on the go have a higher chance of causing themselves minor injuries. These may go largely unnoticed by their humans as they quickly learn to compensate by putting more stress on another part of their body. Eventually we can see their body break down from the stress of compensating. VSMT can help to alleviate the dysfunction and help them get back to their active lives!

**Pets recovering from surgery:** Whether your pet had an orthopedic surgery, an abdominal procedure or a dental cleaning, their body was put through a stressful event. These procedures occasionally require them to be in an abnormal position for an extended period of time which also may stress the body. Unusual posture due to favouring a limb or abdominal pain before or after surgery causes the body to compensate and muscles to become tense. VSMT can help these patients by re-establishing movement in joints that may have become less mobile in their recovery period.

**Performance dogs:** The stress and strain on the body and joints of our performance dogs is much higher than most pet dogs. Our expectations of performance dogs are high! We also need to ensure proper care for their bodies so that they can continue to perform at their optimum. When joints are not moving properly in these pets it can be more noticeable and can affect their speed and performance.

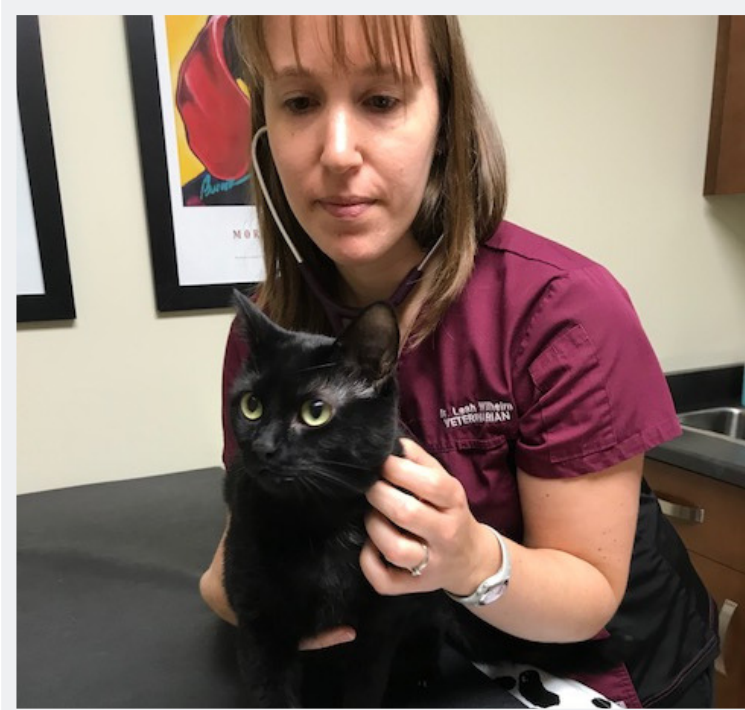
## HOW OFTEN WILL MY PET NEED AN ADJUSTMENT?

Every pet's treatment schedule will differ based on their individual problem. Some things that could affect the frequency and duration of treatment may include how long the problem has been present, their lifestyle and activity level, and how tolerant they are of the treatment.

For pets who have an ongoing problem, it may require more frequent, regular adjustments. We may focus on the most affected areas first to help with pain relief and improve functionality. In time, they will be able to start using the appropriate muscles normally again and will require less frequent adjustments.

VSMT can also be used to maintain your pet's health and well-being by having regular maintenance visits. These are less frequent, but also assess your pet's spinal joint and peripheral joint movement to prevent dysfunction and degeneration over time

## HOW DO I GO ABOUT SCHEDULING A VSMT APPOINTMENT?



If your pet is already a patient of the Laurelwood Veterinary Hospital, please contact us to discuss whether VSMT would be beneficial for them.

If your pet is a patient at another veterinary hospital but you or your veterinarian feel VSMT may be beneficial to them, please have your veterinarian call 519-699-0875 for more information.

A completed intake form is required for the initial consultation