



## Article of Interest



The founding mission of CARE is to provide practical, evidence-based information for vets and pet owners caring for dogs with OA. Each month, we will share a published article that relates to OA. Most articles will be specifically about canine OA diagnosis and treatment, but we will also dig into the translational research.

That means we'll occasionally share an article from a human or equine medical journal if the topic is relevant to canine OA. Articles may be hot off the press, or may be "oldies but goodies." As always, you can find a long list of references, for dog owners [here](#) and veterinary professionals [here](#).

**This month's article:** Evaluation of acupuncture for the treatment of pain associated with naturally-occurring osteoarthritis in dogs: a prospective, randomized, placebo-controlled, blinded clinical trial

**Authors:** Alice Baker-Meuten, et al

**Journal:** BMC Veterinary Research

**Year:** 2020

### Key findings:

- The aim of this study was to prospectively evaluate the efficacy of acupuncture on lameness and clinical function in dogs affected by naturally-occurring OA using objective outcome measures.
- The applied acupuncture protocol did not show improvement in function when using objective outcome measures for OA in dogs.
- However, certain CMI measurements recorded some degree of treatment response.

[See the abstract here.](#)



THE NEW SCIENCE OF  
**OA PAIN**

## New Insights into Canine and Feline Osteoarthritis Pain

New scientific knowledge has revealed the important role of nerve growth factor (NGF) as a powerful mediator of osteoarthritis (OA) pain. The ability to target this key component of the pain pathway using monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapy will give veterinarians a novel option for providing long-lasting control of OA pain to dogs and cats.

Learn more on [TheNewScienceofOAPain.com](http://TheNewScienceofOAPain.com)

## Massage and OA: How it helps manage chronic pain in dogs



While the administration of a variety of medications is often a necessity for controlling pain caused by OA, concerns about the side effects of long-term use of NSAIDs along with the burgeoning opioid epidemic have made both clients and veterinary professionals explore alternative medical treatments and physical modalities.

In this article, guest authors Dr. Megan Ridley, DVM, and Denise Theobald, LMT, CVMRT, NCCMT, review some of the the following topics relating to massage and OA:

- How does massage fit into an OA treatment plan?
- Understanding the pain pathways of OA
- Why a multi-disciplinary approach to OA is necessary
- What studies have found about massage
- Observations in animal patients
- Top techniques and approaches
- And more.

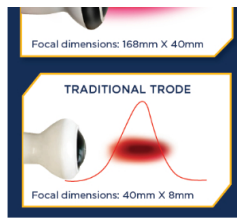
[Read the full article HERE.](#)

You **MUST** be logged in to view.



**SEDATION-FREE  
Shock Wave Therapy  
now available**

Shock wave therapy is a time-tested and reliable method for treating canine



osteoarthritis (OA). While there is a wide variety of shock wave generators available, the electrohydraulic method, which creates an initial supersonic pressure front followed almost instantaneously by a reflected compressed wave, is by far the most clinically validated.

These high-pressure energy waves move through tissue in a matter of billionths of a second, putting compressive and tensile stresses on the cells they interact with.

Those cells respond by releasing a wide range of proteins that have been well-documented to slow the disease process of OA as well as ease the pain and discomfort associated with OA.

Unfortunately, putting all this energy through the body can be quite uncomfortable and it has historically required sedation to utilize the electrohydraulic method.

A new reflector hand piece, or "trode", has recently been developed that substantially reduces the discomfort associated with this type of shock wave treatment by spreading the energy of the reflected wave over a larger volume, eliminating the need for sedation for most patients.

Shock wave therapy is now easier than ever to use for treating OA, as well as many other conditions, including fracture healing, chronic tendon and ligament injuries, and chronic back pain. [Learn more on PulseVet](#) about using shockwave technology in your practice.

**Watch how the hand-held reflector makes shockwave therapy more comfortable**

PulseVet is also honored to announce the formation of our Small Animal Advisory Board. In conjunction with our ongoing efforts to provide the most advanced and innovative products, as well as supporting and facilitating optimal clinical research, we have established this esteemed group of individuals to help guide us in these initiatives.

[Meet our Small Animal Advisory Board!](#)

Do you feel uncomfortable talking with the owner/handlers of canine athletes because you are not familiar with their sport? Do you see canine athletes in your practice and wonder how to return them to peak performance after an injury? Are you stuck in a rut using the same therapeutic exercise plans for reconditioning your patients?



**If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then *Canine Sports Medicine* is the course for you!**

Canine Rehabilitation Institute (CRI) will be offering this popular 3-day continuing education course in Colorado this September. Chris Zink, DVM, PhD, DACVP, DACVSMR, will be the instructor - a recognized leader in the field. She is the former president of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, and an award-winning author and editor of multiple texts on canine sports medicine.

Dr. Zink will introduce students to canine sporting events and discuss common injuries, including their causes, prevention, and rehabilitation. She will also talk about the role that psychology can play in the conditioning and rehabilitation of the canine athlete. Students will have the opportunity to observe and work with dogs in Colorado Veterinary Specialty Group's brand new 7000 square foot canine sports arena in Littleton, Colorado.

Here's what students had to say about *Canine Sports Medicine*:

*"I thought the course was one of the best I've been to in years, and I am looking forward to future classes. Thanks, Chris (Zink), for your patience with all my questions."*

—David Hirsch, DVM, CCRP, CVA,  
Cape May Court House, New Jersey

*"This class really made learning fun. Dr. Zink is a great instructor. The videos were excellent! I feel like I have a much better understanding of canine sports. Seeing dogs in action in each of the sports was very helpful. Great class!"*

—Mandy Brody, RVT, CCRA,  
Atlanta, Georgia

*Canine Sports Medicine* will be held September 16-18, 2021, at CVSG in Littleton, Colorado. There are a few seats remaining so [REGISTER NOW!](#)

### Special Thanks to the CARE Sponsors!



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