



Gulf Coast Animal Rehabilitation and Fitness (GCARF)

www.gcvs.com | 713.693.1111

General Information

Initial Appointment

Your first appointment with the Therapist will be for a comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation and planning. This appointment will last approximately 60 minutes, dependent on your pet's needs and tolerance. The Therapist will take measurements, discuss your goals for your pet, and make recommendations for the rehabilitation plan. Most patients will also receive treatment during this first appointment. In order to facilitate owner education and instructions, we ask that you either remain with your pet during this visit, or schedule a time to meet with the Therapist when you return to pick up your pet.

If your primary Veterinarian referred your pet to GCARF, please bring your pet's medical records, including any radiographs and lab results, to your first visit. If you were referred to GCARF by a Veterinarian at GCVS, your records will be accessible for the Therapist. In either case, please arrive 10-15 minutes prior to your appointment time to complete paperwork.

Follow-up Appointments and Drop-offs

The therapist sees patients Monday through Friday by appointment. The frequency of your pet's treatments will be discussed after an evaluation of your pet has been completed. To accommodate your schedule, in most cases your pet may be dropped off as early as 7:15 and picked up as late as 5:30 p.m. Mid-day drop offs and pick ups can also be accommodated.

Communication is Key!

All of your questions are encouraged! We want you to be well informed about your pet's condition, recommended treatment, and prognosis. Your pet is receiving the finest care in our specialty hospital. We are proud of our facility and staff and want you to be comfortable in all aspects of your pet's care. Comments, concerns and constructive feedback are always welcome.

You may always reach the Rehabilitation team to communicate any questions or concerns via email (rehab@gcvs.com) or phone (713-693-1111). In the event we are not able to immediately accept your call due to active patient treatments, we will return your call promptly. To facilitate direct communication, if you drop your pet off early in the morning prior to the arrival of the Rehabilitation team, you will be asked to complete a drop off communication form. We are happy to provide this to you in advance so you may complete it prior to your arrival.

As your pet's condition changes during the course of therapy, his/her home program and activities will also change. You will periodically receive updates to your home program when you pick up your pet or by email. The Rehabilitation technicians and assistants help convey information about your pet's care to and from the therapist, allowing her to remain in the treatment area to provide your pet the best level of care.

Grooming/Hygiene

GCARF does not provide grooming services. However, in order to maintain water quality in our underwater treadmill chamber, your pet's coat must be clean and free of debris/matting. If we must bathe your dog prior to treatment, a fee will be assessed.

Billing/Fees

Your pet has been referred to GCARF by your veterinarian in the knowledge that we can provide the best care by highly qualified and experienced specialists and staff. The techniques and instruments used are equivalent (and in many cases, identical) to those used on human patients receiving physical therapy services. We feel fortunate to be able to offer your pet the same type of care and treatment you want for a family member.

Following an assessment of your pet, the therapist will outline the proposed treatment program and provide a written estimate of the anticipated costs. Payment is due following each treatment session. Discounted pre-paid packages of 12 sessions or more are also available. To avoid any misunderstandings, we urge you to discuss with the therapist all questions regarding fees before treatment begins.

Our business office staff is also available to assist you with these questions and finance options. We want you to have a positive experience and a healthy outcome for your pet through Gulf Coast Animal Rehabilitation and Fitness.

Online Resources

Additional information about our services may be found on our website: www.gcv.com. Join our community on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to enjoy tips, tricks, and behind-the-scenes information.

About GCARF

GULF COAST ANIMAL REHABILITATION AND FITNESS is a referral practice lead by a Physical Therapist licensed in human practice (licensure is not offered in Veterinary medicine) who has received intensive training to transfer her skills to the animal world. Our staff includes a technician certified in Rehabilitation and highly trained support staff. Collaboration is available with the surgical specialists at GCVS as well as with your family Veterinarian to enhance your pet's recovery.

Our facility features state-of-the-art equipment, including two underwater treadmills, LASER, ultrasound, electrical stimulation, and exercise equipment designed to facilitate your animal's recovery. Our caseload includes patients with a wide variety of orthopedic, neurologic soft tissue and oncologic (cancer) problems. We also provide services to "healthy" dogs that need assistance with exercise for weight loss, conditioning, cross-training, and sports-specific exercise programs to maximize performance (including agility, field trial, flyball, lure coursing, obedience, and conformation competitors).

About our Therapist

NANCY D. DOYLE, MPT, attended Texas A&M University for three years, then completed her studies at UTMB-Galveston to receive her Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) degree. She became licensed in Physical Therapy in 1996 and practiced for over six years in numerous facilities providing care to humans, including Texas Orthopedic Hospital in Houston. She completed coursework and an internship through the University of Tennessee, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and personal studies to prepare for her transition into the rehabilitation of animals. Nancy is an active member of the APTA, TPTA, and the Animal Special Interest Group (SIG). After years of informal collaboration, Nancy joined Gulf Coast Veterinary Specialists in 2002 to create and develop Gulf Coast Animal Rehabilitation and Fitness. She is recognized as a leader in the field and frequently speaks at conferences attended by Therapists, surgeons, and other Veterinarians. Presentations to dog clubs, performance groups, and pet owners are also provided.