

# ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

**Dear Dr. Schmidt, My neighbor said she is having Laser Therapy done at your hospital for her dog's sore knee. What is Laser Therapy? Thank you, Jillean**

Dear Jillean, Laser Therapy is a form of Light Therapy that has been around for treatment since the 1960's. It stands for "Light Amplification by Stimulated Emissions of Radiation". Similar to photosynthesis in plants, the light delivered by the Laser is converted to energy that the body can use. Three main things happen with that energy within the body: 1) it increases the healing process, 2) it decreases inflammation 3) it decreases pain. All three are desirable effects we look for in recovering injuries, post surgery healing and arthritic joints, to name a few. It helps increase blood flow to the affected region, which in turn carries more oxygen and nutrients to the affected area, and helps carry the bad stuff away, which helps everything out. It really speeds up the healing of those injuries and surgeries, and many other things that may be inflamed. A response to the therapy can usually be seen within 1-3 sessions. Some take longer than others, and some conditions need it off and on indefinitely to control the symptoms. Laser Therapy has also been found helpful with ear infections, skin infections, sore backs, even chronic bladder infections. It is also a great complement to other forms of healing practices like antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medications. So Jillean, my guess is that your neighbor's dog is benefiting from Laser Therapy following some form of injury, surgery or arthritis of the knee. I'll bet he is smiling when he comes home from here! Let me know if you have any other questions. Thanks Jillean, Dr. Doug

**Submitted by: Dr. Douglas Schmidt**

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