

About Dr. Krisi Erwin:

Dr. Krisi Erwin, a Loudoun County native, received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 2003. She became a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist in 2008 and a Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist in 2009. Dr. Erwin belongs to several professional organizations including: the American Veterinary Medical Association, the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society, the International Association for Animal Hospice and Palliative Care, the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management, the Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement, and the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association.



Dr. Erwin is a regular contributor to the Virginia Dog Magazine and has been very involved with several community service projects, including the Pet Loss Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony. She was very honored and humbled to be listed among the veterinarians in the Leesburg Today "Best of Loudoun Poll" for 2009.

Dr. Erwin combines conventional medicine with Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine and Rehabilitation techniques so she can treat the whole pet and not just the symptoms of disease. This comprehensive care helps to provide the best possible quality of life for pets throughout all life stages.

Dr. Erwin knows the human-animal bond is very strong and that families need extra care during their pet's end of life. She is committed to offering pet hospice and palliative care as well as in-home euthanasia services for Loudoun County and the surrounding areas. She is committed to supporting her families as well and has completed the Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement's training workshop for pet loss counselors.

Dr. Erwin enjoys reading, painting and drawing, and spending time with family and friends. Currently, her family includes: her husband, Jeremy, their dogs (K.C., Luna, and Sam), and cats (Mabel, Georgette, Amos, and Oliver).



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Wholistic Paws

Veterinary Services



Canine and Feline

Rehabilitation

Advanced, state of the art integrative therapies to give your companion a new leash on life!

Canine and Feline Rehabilitation

Q: *What is Pet Rehabilitation?*

A: Canine and feline rehabilitation employs the same techniques used in human physical therapy to achieve one or more of the following goals:

- Speed recovery from injury or surgery.
- Increase mobility and flexibility.
- Improve endurance and agility.
- Decrease pain.
- Promote weight loss.
- Maintain function and prevent further problems.
- Enhance quality of life.

Q: *What does Pet Rehabilitation entail?*

A: A variety of modalities may be used in your pet's treatment plan including: massage, stretching, neuromuscular electrical stimulation, therapeutic laser or ultrasound, and home exercise programs. Not all therapies are best for each pet and a personalized rehabilitation plan will be made for your companion. Pet



A Wobble Board helps to build core strength and to improve balance.

Rehabilitation may also be combined with acupuncture, nutritional counseling, and pain management protocols to help ensure the best quality of life for your pet.

Q: *How do I determine if my pet needs Rehabilitation?*

A: Most pets can benefit from some form of rehabilitation. Some common indications include:

Orthopedic:

- Joint surgeries.
- Arthritis.
- Sports injuries.
- Fracture repairs.
- Tendon and ligament repairs (i.e. torn cruciate ligaments).
- Hip and elbow dysplasia.

Neurologic:

- Post-operative spinal or disc surgeries.
- Non-surgical intervertebral disc disease.
- Wobbler's syndrome.
- Uncoordinated movement (ataxia).
- Peripheral nerve injuries.
- Degenerative nerve disease.

General:

- Chronic pain.
- Aging (weakness, stiffness, arthritis).
- Obesity/weight reduction and maintenance.
- Strength and fitness training for canine athletes and working dogs.



A Balance Ball helps to improve core strength.



Cavaletti rails help to improve strength and coordination.

Q: *Who can provide Pet Rehabilitation services?*

A: Only a veterinarian or physical therapist that has received training in pet rehabilitation can oversee cases. Licensed Veterinary Technicians and Physical Therapy Assistants that have received training in pet rehabilitation can help to care for patients under the supervision of a veterinarian or physical therapist. At Wholistic Paws, Dr. Krisi Erwin, Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist (CCRT) directs our program. She earned her certificate through the Canine Rehabilitation Institute in 2009. She is also a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist (CVA).



Carts can provide mobility for paralyzed animals.

Q: *How do we get started?*

A: Speak with your regular veterinarian about rehabilitation. Working with you and your veterinarian, we will be happy to schedule your first appointment.

During your initial visit, Dr. Erwin will ask you pertinent medical questions and will perform a thorough examination on your pet's gait, range of motion, strength, mobility, and pain. From this information, she will create a treatment plan that is tailored to your pet's needs and which will return your companion to optimal function. The treatment plan may include a written, at-home exercise schedule. Your involvement and participation can be crucial to your companion's rehabilitation! We will do our best to provide clear, consistent communication with you and your veterinarian to make sure that all parties are involved in making therapeutic decisions for your pet. Call and schedule your appointment today!