

Case study

Barney, a 5 yr 8month Labradoodle was referred for physiotherapy after having surgery (tibial tuberosity advancement) for a ruptured cruciate ligament and surgery for a right patella luxation. The owner reported that Barney showed signs of stiffness following long periods of rest, and would hold his leg up or swivel when he manoeuvring on the wooden floors in the living area and hold his right hind limb up when going up and down the stairs.

Barney presented with reduced weight bearing through the right hind limb compared to the left hind limb, and there was significant loss of right hindquarter muscle bulk- with his muscle mass circumference measured as 28.6cm on the left hind limb and the right hind limb measuring at 27.1cm.

Barney's treatment consisted of massage techniques of the spinal muscles, gluteals, quadriceps and hamstring muscles to alleviate tightness and techniques used to increase muscle bulk. Pulsed electromagnetic therapy was applied to the right stifle and a patient specific home exercise programme was made to consist of gentle weight transference exercises, strengthening exercises in the form of sit to stand exercises, low wide step work and structured walks with warm up and cool downs and core stability exercises. The home exercise programme was reviewed at each session and modified as appropriate.

Barney progressed well with physiotherapy and was a pleasure to treat, enjoying the massage component of the physiotherapy immensely. There was an improvement in his range of motion, an increase in his hind quarter muscle bulk- Muscle mass circumference- Left hind limb- 29.8cm; Right Hind limb- 29.3cm.

Barney confidently uses his right hind limb and no longer holds his right hind limb up when going up and downstairs.

