CONDITIONS THAT MAY BENEFIT FROM REHABILITATION AND THE UNDERWATER TREADMILL INCLUDE:

**Musculoskeletal Conditions:**
- Cruciate injury
- Patellar luxation
- Hip dysplasia
- Total hip replacement
- Arthritis/degenerative conditions
- Muscle strains and ligament sprains
- Corrective orthopedic surgery
- Soft Tissue Injury

**Neurological Conditions:**
- Spinal Surgery
- Spinal disc disease
- Spinal cord shock/trauma
- Nerve palsies or injuries
- Degenerative Myelopathy

**Weight Management**
The main goal of obesity and/or weight management is to provide a safe means of exercise in addition to the current nutritional and medical care the patient is already receiving.

The primary means of exercise is hydrotherapy so the dog can exercise without the added joint stress secondary to obesity. The program will be monitored for the dog’s tolerance.

**Key Uses**
Obesity, thyroid problems, weight management, regular exercise to increase metabolic rate. For extreme cases or those under a veterinarian’s medical management for obesity, a veterinarian referral and combined approach (including progress reports) may be necessary.
**Animal Rehabilitation**

Rehabilitation is a universally accepted standard of care in human medicine. Recently the benefits of rehabilitation have been recognized in veterinary medicine. This therapy is now available to aid in recovery of these conditions in animals.

Animal Rehabilitation aims to restore normal movement, muscle mass & function, reduce pain, swelling and inflammation.

**Underwater Treadmill**

P.A.W.S. is the first to offer Underwater Treadmill for pets in the Tucson area. Our state of the art Oasis Treadmill revolutionizes rehabilitation and fitness. This aids in recovery from a variety of ailments.

- Post surgical strengthening and gait re-education
- Strengthening of muscles and joints in arthritic patients
- Neurological
- Weight loss
- Orthopedic
- Conditioning

Underwater Treadmill Therapy has been proven to achieve great results in paretic & paralyzed dogs following spinal injury or surgery as well as those with other neurological conditions. By using the treadmill to retrain standing and walking, many pets with spinal injuries will walk in the treadmill with minimal or no assistance. This will help build confidence before they are able to walk independently.

**Health & Safety**

To ensure high standards of hygiene, our water management system filters, heats, and sanitizes the water through a circulation pump with a specially designed in-line electric heater. A high-rate filter system cleans water before a low dose of bromine is added manually.

*Doggy life vests are available for those dogs just learning to swim or those needing a little extra support.*

**Rehabilitation Plans**

During the first visit, a veterinarian trained in rehabilitation will assess your pet and develop a rehabilitation plan specific to your pet’s needs. Many factors are considered when designing a rehabilitation program, and deciding which particular therapies will be suitable for each animal.

**The Factors Are As Follows:**

- Age/Temperament
- Type of injury
- Time since injury
- Pre-existing conditions
- Lifestyle/Occupation of pet
- Recovery Goals

Home programs are provided to all rehabilitation clients to enable physical therapy to be continued at home on a daily basis.

**Veterinary Referral**

We liaise regularly with your pet’s veterinarian to ensure continuity of care and ensure any specific rehabilitation requirements are met. A Veterinary Referral is important to make sure your dog has a correct diagnosis, and that all relevant tests and any medical/surgical requirements have been performed.

Communication is vital to ensure common goals are set and any specific recommendations or contraindications are followed.

**Treatments Techniques Include:**

- Soft tissue and joint mobilizations
- Stretching
- Strength & Endurance
- Movement re-education
- Massage, trigger point therapy and myofascial release
- Balance and proprioception re-training
- Thermotherapy
- Dry needle, laser, aqua, electro and acupuncture
- Underwater treadmill & hydrotherapy
- Thermoplastic splinting
- PST—Pulsed Signal Therapy
- Athletic Conditioning
- Iontophoresis & Phonophoresis