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# Rehab Beyond Humans: The Current Trends and Challenges in Veterinary Physiotherapy: A Review

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## Abstract

Numerous studies on the advantages of physical therapy have been published throughout the years, and has long been employed in human medicine. However, the use of physiotherapy in veterinary medicine is a relatively recent idea, and the body of research supporting such treatments is still in its infancy. Thus the purpose of this study is to review different domains and trends in veterinary physiotherapy. Elsevier, Hindawi and Scencedirect databases for articles on veterinary physiotherapy were extracted. Various articles were studied and different techniques were reviewed. Veterinary PT has emerged as a promising tool in rehabilitating animals of various groups, equines and canines most commonly seen in veterinary PT practice, although agricultural animals such as cows, sheep, goats, alpacas and companion animals such as cats and rabbits are infrequently referred; with major studies conducted on equine, canine and feline animals. Electrotherapy emerged as an essential core in success of animal PT. Hydrotherapy has shown positive results in all animals for various musculoskeletal and neurological conditions. Dry needling and ballistic stretching are indicated to increase flexibility, strength, endurance and proprioceptive input to overcome lameness in sporting equines and canines. DME and kinesiotaping improved thoracolumbar posture and movements respectively in equines. Olfaction training, particularly in dogs, has been indicated for forensic and CSI assistance. Neurofunctional rehabilitation has shown positive results in SCI rehab for cats. Orthotics like wheelchair cart are recommended for severely disabled animals. To conclude Veterinary PT is a growing and promising specialization which requires careful prioritisation and clinical reasoning for making best treatment plan. Future medical needs, therefore, will make veterinary PT a lucrative and necessary service across the globe.

**Keywords:** *Veterinary PT, physiotherapy, animal, emerging, education.*