

CANINE REHABILITATION THERAPIST

INTRODUCTION

The Animal Specialty Hospital of Florida (ASH) is looking to hire a Canine Rehabilitation Therapist with at least two years of experience. ASH will give preference to candidates who are licensed or certified (CCRP or CCRT/CCRA). For the right candidate, ASH can structure this position to be full- or part-time.

Physical Rehabilitation is a new area of veterinary medicine, which has become essential in providing the best opportunities for animals to recover from neurosurgical, surgical (orthopedic), arthritic and chronically-debilitating diseases and conditions.

With special programs designed for sports medicine, performance optimization, fitness and weight management, the physical rehabilitation service performs outpatient consultations, as well as plays an integral part in hospitalized, post-operative orthopedic, neurological and debilitated critical care patients.

PRIMARY JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

The physical rehabilitation center at ASH is fully equipped with a suite of high-tech equipment and services. Candidates should have at least two (2) years' experience in canine rehabilitation using the below techniques:

- Underwater treadmill
 - Therapeutic ultrasound
 - Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS)
 - Massage therapy
 - Heat and cold therapy
 - Strengthening exercises
 - Balance and coordination training
 - Gait training
- Obtain and record patient histories.
 - Provide specialized nursing care for injured or ill animals.
 - Assure the physical rehabilitation center's equipment is in good working condition.
 - Communicate with and educate owners.
 - Educate clients on products and medications sold including dietary products and answer questions regarding product purchase/use.
 - Maintain inventory of pharmaceuticals, equipment and supplies.
 - Clean, maintain and sterilize instruments, equipment, and materials.
 - Knowledgeable regarding related federal and state animal health laws and regulations including OSHA and DEA. Ensure that the hospital and its employees are in compliance with regulations. Inform the veterinary hospital administrator of any regulatory issues.
 - Work well with all team members and ensure that your actions support the hospital, the doctors, and the practice philosophy.
 - Perform other duties as assigned.

CONTROLS OVER WORK

The Canine Rehabilitation Therapist works under the supervision of the Hospital Administrator who will indicate general assignments, limitations and priorities. Recurring assignments are performed independently. Deviations or unfamiliar situations are referred to the supervisor. Completed work is reviewed for technical accuracy and compliance with established procedures.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of the procedures used for receiving, treating, and scheduling physical rehabilitation patients.
- Knowledge of the use, care, and storage of veterinary instruments, materials and equipment.
- Knowledge of sterilization techniques to sterilize various instruments and materials.
- Knowledge of the instruments, materials, and standardized procedures used in the full variety of treatments to make preparations and provide “tableside” assistance.
- Knowledge of principles and processes for providing client and personal services. This includes client needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of client satisfaction.
- Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition and grammar.
- Ability to work independently on assigned tasks as well as to accept direction on given assignments.
- Critical thinking: understanding logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Amount of Time Spent on Task

Task	None	Less than 1/3	1/3 to 2/3	More than 2/3
Stand				X
Walk				X
Sit			X	
Use hands to finger, handle, or feel				X
Climb or balance			X	
Stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl			X	
Talk or hear				X
Taste or smell			X	

The job requires the following lifting requirements and/or exerted force be performed on the job.

Amount of Time Spent on Lifting Amounts

Lifting Amount	None	Less than 1/3	1/3 to 2/3	More than 2/3
Up to 10 pounds				X
Up to 25 pounds				X
Up to 50 pounds				X
Up to 100 pounds		X (with assistance)		
More than 100 pounds		X (with assistance)		

Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception and ability to adjust to focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is exposed to hazards associated with aggressive patients; hazards associated with infected animals and controlled substances; exposure to unpleasant odors and noises; exposure to bites, scratches and animal wastes; possible exposure to contagious diseases.

Follow federal and state animal health laws and regulations including OSHA and DEA.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Receive, handle and treat patients with skill, compassion and care during all physical rehabilitation procedures.
- Input data into computer software system.
- Ability to observe animal appearance and activity for general physical condition, disease and discontent.
- Regular attendance and timeliness are an essential function in order to fulfill the requirements of this position.
- Strong communication and client service skills. Considerable tact and diplomacy is required. Ability to work with clients and patients in a professional, friendly, hospitable manner.
- Work well with all team members and ensure that your actions support the hospital, the doctors, and the practice philosophy.
- Perform general physical activities that require bending, standing, stooping, moving from room to room, sit, talk, and listen; may be required to walk or stand for long periods of time while administering physical rehabilitation services; will use hands to manipulate, handle, or feel; will reach with hands and arms.
- Frequently lift, carry and handle dogs weighing 50 lbs.