

COMMON INJURIES IN WORKING SHEEPDOGS

There are a variety of injuries that we see in the working sheepdog and other athletic dogs.

COMMON INJURIES

- Strains
- Sprains
- Myopathies
- Biceps brachii tenosynovitis
- Medial shoulder instability
- Supraspinatous insertionopathy
- Teres minor strain
- Lumbosacral disease
- Gracilis myopathy
- Achilles Tendon injury
- Superficial Digital Flexor Tendon injury
- Cranial Cruciate Ligament injury (CCL) partial or complete rupture
- Digit injuries
- Pad injuries
- Fractures

This does not cover every injury but is a good starting point for those working in this area of specialism.

SOLUTIONS FOR THE BEST APPROACH

1. Contact your Registered Veterinary Surgeon (RVS) for an assessment and advice on appropriate medications and actions to take. The RVS will then refer you to an appropriate therapist.
2. It's important to find a therapist who is qualified in their profession, is a member of a professional association and has knowledge and experience of treating working dogs. Many therapists treat multiple species (dogs, horses and humans, along with other species), it would be prudent to ensure your chosen therapist specialises in canine therapy.
3. Integrated practice of land based physiotherapy and water based physiotherapy (aquatic and hydrotherapy) consistently achieves the best results. It's the skill of the therapist working with the dog in a positive, focused and engaged way that counts in delivering best practice.
4. The therapist must have sound knowledge and understanding of dogs "natural balanced motion", the proprioceptive system, canine biomechanical model and canine behaviours.



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5. Therapists who use positive behavioural modification techniques linked to canine Movement Enrichment techniques will achieve great results quickly and that are long lasting.
 6. Therapists who provide a graduated home programme that fits each dog's specific needs will empower the owner/trainer's results.

Be careful when taking advice on social media platforms by well intentioned individuals. It's essential to have a "face to face" hands on assessment and integrated treatment programme specific for each dog in their professional care.

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