

ACSMA Newsletter

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Orthotic Application in the Canine Patient: A Case Report

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Introduction:

Orthotic intervention has been in use for many years in human physical therapy to achieve mechanical and rehabilitative goals. An orthotic is defined as a device used to support an injured limb. Until recently, the use of orthotics has been minimal in the field of veterinary medicine. The following case study describes a dog in need of ambulation assistance post scapulectomy.

Signalment: "Peabody", 12-year old, male, golden retriever mix.

History: Peabody underwent a scapulectomy of approximately two-thirds of his right dorsal scapula as a result of osteosarcoma.

Clinical Presentation: After having seen two other physical rehabilitation therapists, Peabody remained non-ambulatory on the right forelimb. He presented to the Colorado Canine Sports Medicine / Rehabilitation Clinic (CCSMRC) 5 weeks post surgery non-weightbearing on the right forelimb. He would occasionally touch the right limb to the ground in standing, though was severely abducted at the elbow. Chronic instability in the shoulder region produced a large seroma around the surgical site.

After further investigation, the operative report revealed removal of the cranial, caudal and dorsal majority of Peabody's scapula (Fig. A). With the

loss of approximately 2/3 of Peabody's scapula, origination points for shoulder musculature were virtually eliminated making it impossible for Peabody to regain a normal stride without assistance. Shoulder extensor origination points were removed eliminating the use of the supraspinatus,

infraspinatus, subscapularis and trapezius muscles. The teres major and spinal portion of the deltoid was eliminated thus limiting shoulder flexion. In addition, origination points for the rhomboids and serratus ventralis musculature were also removed. Triceps and biceps musculature remained intact, therefore Peabody maintained the ability to support his weight against gravity on the right forelimb and to flex and extend the elbow. The free-floating scapular fragment continued to aggravate the seroma.

Treatment: A passive shoulder extension-assist brace was designed to support weightbearing and encourage a normal gait pattern (Fig. B). As Peabody shifted weight onto his left forelimb, the brace allowed passive shoulder extension through the right forelimb

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A . C . S . M . A .



AMERICAN CANINE SPORTS MEDICINE ASSOCIATION

American Canine Sports Medicine Association

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Canine Star

Showing sound structure and great enthusiasm for the sport, this Irish Setter earned the top agility award, her MACH, at 11-1/2 years "young".

Allie, Am/Can CH MACH Harborlight Promises To Keep, CD, JH, VC, EAC, EJC, OGC, is the first champion Irish Setter in the U.S. to accomplish this feat.

The pictures to the right illustrate Allie's ease in going through the obstacles.

Allie finished her MACH by winning first place on a Jumpers' course where speed is critical - showing that she still has what it takes!

*Owned and handled by:
Bev Wallace
Bothell, WA*

Canine athletes excelling in their performance sports

If you know of an athletic dog excelling in their sport, please send information to Dr. Patti Schaefer: PattiDVM@aol.com.



President's Letter

I hope the entire membership enjoyed a productive 2004. Keep in mind that our annual meeting of the Board of Directors will take place at the AVMA meeting in Minneapolis in July. Begin now thinking about attending the AVMA meeting and investigating a more active role in ACSMA.

Ed Aycock in Lewisville, TX, is your incoming President. I am sure Ed would appreciate anyone contacting him offering to

help in his new "administration". If you have questions about ACSMA or want to suggest improvements, contact me personally. Thanks to everyone who has helped much over the past 18 months. We intend to end strong and look forward to Ed's leadership next year. Although he doesn't assume office until July, I wanted to get the word out to the membership early enough to

allow you to consider taking a proactive role in our group for next year.

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Orthotic Application (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

swing phase of gait. It also provided lateral stability at the shoulder during stance phase of gait.

Re-Evaluation: After three weeks of gait training and adjusting the speed of passive extension of the shoulder brace, Peabody was partial to full weightbearing with a mild limp on 100% of strides on the right forelimb while donning the brace. A large decrease in size of the shoulder seroma and increased lateral stability of the shoulder was also observed.

Special thanks to:
Martin Kaufmann, A.T.
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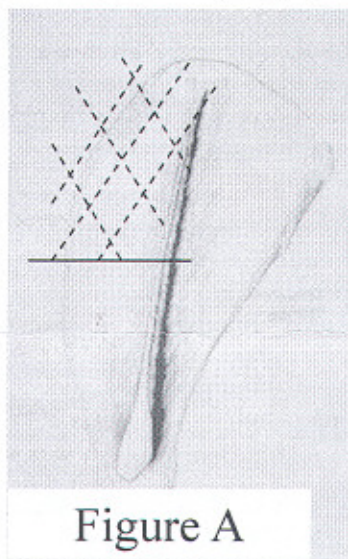


Figure A



Figure B



Mark your calendar with the following important dates in 2005:

Dues for ACSMA membership now!

Renew your

ACSMA Symposium July 16
(in conjunction with AVMA Conference 7/16-20)

Newsletter deadlines: for all articles & contributions

Jan-March	Feb 25
April-June	May 25
July-Sept	August 25
Oct-Dec	November 30

What Do Those Letters Mean?

Many times a proud owner will brag about the accomplishments of their dogs and, when reading about the Canine Stars in the newsletter, there will be mention of acronyms in the dog's name. Just what do they mean?

These letters stand for the titles that the dog has received from different organizations in specific competitions. The competitions can reflect what the dog was bred for, such as herding or hunting, or trained activities such as obedience and agility. Also represented in the title is the level of competition.

Beginning in this issue, the American Kennel Club titles for conformation, obedience and agility will be identified. Following issues will identify other titles from the AKC and other major organizations.

Dogs competing in AKC events must be registered with AKC. AKC registration means a dog, its parents, and its ancestors are purebred.

CONFORMATION - intended to evaluate breeding stock. The dog's conformation (overall appearance and structure), an indication of the dog's ability to produce quality puppies, is judged.

All titles in conformation precede the registered name of the dog (see below).

OBEDIENCE - demonstrating the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the obedience ring and emphasize the usefulness of the purebred dog as a companion to man. The basic objective is to recognize dogs that have been trained to behave in the homes, in public places and in the presence of other dogs.

Title suffixes:

CD: Companion Dog
CDX: Companion Dog Excellent
UD: Utility Dog
UDX: Utility Dog Excellent

CGC (Canine Good Citizen) - a certification awarded to dogs that demonstrate good manners at home and in the community. A good first-step in training one's dog and a foundation for other AKC activities.

AGILITY - demonstrating a dog's agile nature and versatility by following cues from the handler through a timed obstacle course. The course has jumps, tunnels, weave poles, and other obstacles. In the standard class, obstacles such as the dog walk, the A-frame and teeter are included. The Jumpers with Weaves class, emphasizes speed using only jumps, tunnels and weave poles as obstacles throughout the course.

Title suffixes:

NA: Novice Agility
NAJ: Novice Agility Jumpers
OA: Open Agility
OAJ: Open Agility Jumpers
AX: Agility Excellent
AXJ: Agility Excellent Jumpers
MX: Masters Agility
MXJ: Masters Agility Jumpers

Any agility title with a "P" stands for preferred which means the dog jumps at a lower height.

Prefixes to the AKC registered name represents the ultimate level of achievement in that area of competition. Prefixes for conformation, obedience and agility are:



CH	Champion
BIS	Best in Show (All-breed Show)
BISS	Best in Specialty Show (Show restricted to dogs of specific breed)
OTCH	Obedience Trial Champion
NOC	National Obedience Champion
MACH	Masters Agility Champion

