



# Bringing Home the Gold in Feline Care

By Dr. Jessica DeMarco

We're proud to share that our hospital has once again earned Gold Level Cat Friendly Practice® status from the Feline Veterinary Medical Association—and just like in the Olympics, achieving gold takes dedication, training, and a true commitment to excellence.

At Animal Clinic of Chardon, every part of your cat's visit is thoughtfully designed to reduce stress and promote comfort. From quiet waiting areas and feline-friendly exam rooms to gentle handling techniques and a team specially trained in feline behavior and medicine, we focus on creating a calm, supportive experience tailored just for cats.

Gold status also reflects our continued investment in education, equipment, and compassionate care—because in feline health, standing on the podium isn't about medals; it's about helping cats live longer, healthier, happier lives.

As a veterinarian with a special interest in feline medicine and behavior, and ACOC's Cat Friendly Advocate, I never cease to be amazed by the many ways our Gold Level Cat Friendly Practice comes to life each day. One example that stands out is a young kitten named Thistle. She was quite fearful at her first visit—so much so that she hid in her dad's jacket sleeve. By utilizing our Cat Friendly techniques—a slow, considerate approach, offering food, and gentle handling—along with socialization at home with her family, she was confidently exploring the exam room and cat trees at her next kitten visit.

We may not be standing on the podium in Milan, but all of us here at Animal Clinic of Chardon are just as proud of our own "gold," which allows us to provide our feline patients with the very best care possible. Moving forward, we will continue striving for excellence by welcoming more feline advocates to our practice, providing ongoing team training in the most up-to-date standards of feline health and behavior, and continually refining our techniques to ensure the most comfortable veterinary visits possible for your cat.

Thank you for trusting us with your feline family members. With your support, we'll keep striving for gold in everything we do for cats.



HOW IT STARTED



HOW IT'S GOING

WINTER 2026

# SITS & WIGGLES

The Newsletter of the Animal Clinic of Chardon

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Laser Therapy for Pets

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# Laser Therapy for Pets: A Modern Approach to Pain Relief and Healing

Laser therapy, also known as therapeutic laser or photobiomodulation therapy, is a noninvasive treatment increasingly used in veterinary medicine to reduce pain, decrease inflammation, and accelerate healing. Safe, comfortable, and drug-free, this therapy is commonly recommended for both acute injuries and chronic conditions in dogs, cats, and other companion animals.

## How Laser Therapy Works

Therapeutic lasers emit specific wavelengths of light that penetrate the skin and underlying tissues. This light energy stimulates cells, increasing circulation and encouraging the production of ATP (the energy source for cells). The enhanced cellular activity helps damaged tissues repair more efficiently, reduces inflammation, and relieves discomfort.

## Conditions That May Benefit

Veterinarians use laser therapy to treat a wide range of medical issues, including:

- Arthritis and degenerative joint disease
- Muscle strains and ligament injuries
- Back pain and intervertebral disc disease
- Post-surgical healing
- Wounds, hot spots, and skin infections
- Ear infections
- Dental inflammation and oral pain
- Chronic pain conditions

Laser therapy is often used alongside medications, rehabilitation exercises, or other treatments to improve overall outcomes.



## What Happens During a Session

During treatment, a veterinary professional places a handheld laser device over the affected area for several minutes. The procedure is painless, and most pets remain relaxed throughout the session. Protective eyewear may be used for safety. Some pets show improvement after the first treatment, while chronic conditions typically require multiple sessions followed by occasional maintenance treatments.

## Benefits of Laser Therapy

Laser therapy offers several advantages for pets and pet owners:

- Noninvasive and painless
- No sedation required
- Minimal side effects
- Can reduce the need for certain pain medications
- Promotes faster healing of injuries and surgical sites
- Improves mobility and comfort in pets with chronic conditions



## Talk With Your Veterinary Team

Laser therapy is not necessary for every condition, but it can be an excellent addition to many treatment plans. Your veterinarian can determine whether laser therapy is appropriate based on your pet's diagnosis, age, and overall health. With its ability to ease pain and support faster healing, laser therapy has become a valuable tool in helping pets recover more comfortably and maintain a better quality of life.



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