

One of the things the organization of this symposium tried to do is to encourage you to open your mind and meet people from other disciplines. So you could see that cooperation makes you stronger.

To reach this goal, we asked veterinarians and animal physiotherapists, who work in a multi-disciplinary way, to tell you about this cooperation in the lectures we started the symposium with.

But we also used other methods, one of them was giving you the opportunity to discuss several topics with each other. We promised to share the outcome of these discussions with you:

- One of the things we all appear to agree on is that it is important not only to respect the knowledge and skills of other disciplines, but also that it is important to respect yourself and your own skills. Don't be afraid to tell other disciplines who you are and what your contribution to rehabilitation can be. Personal contact is very important.
- Another outcome of the Round Table Discussions is that Evidence based physiotherapy is not as absent as we seem to think, on contrary, it is already reality. However, we have to make more effort to find it. International collaboration is important. Tools to quantify outcome are expensive and limited to university settings, however, in foreseeable future cheaper, ready-to-use-tools will become available. We have to realize that much of the evidence in the human field has its origin in animal studies! In the discussion Science versus Empiricism we concluded that we should collect human studies as evidence for animal studies, for example about specific tendon healing etc. The outcome of the research, done in Master programs, should be easily available for all of us. Therefore there is a need for an accessible international database. We need to create protocols and do it internationally. There is a need for evidence-based courses. However: we also have to be comfortable to work in the grey zone. There is a need for both clinical observation and research measures.
- In the discussion about Hydrotherapy both veterinarians and animal physiotherapists concluded that it goes without saying that animal physiotherapists can perform hydrotherapy. If hydrotherapy is done by veterinarians or veterinary technicians specific training is imperative and cooperation with (supervision of?!) an animal physiotherapist is desirable.
- When we talked about locomotion dysfunction in dogs, based on back disorders, we all seem to agree that if we miss the possible existence of that, and only treat the peripheral problem, the therapy will have less effect. Another point of view is that we need x-rays to determine whether manipulation techniques are safe to apply or not. We seem to be aware of the fact that manipulation techniques should not be used without proper training. There seems to be a need for this kind of training. However, getting access to the information on these courses seems to be difficult. It is important to teach the veterinarian profession what physiotherapy can do; when they can come in. Diagnose is not always possible; symptomatic therapy can sometimes bring up the origin of the problem???!!!
- When we discussed the role of veterinarians, animal physiotherapists and veterinary technicians in companion animal rehabilitation, the overall conclusion was that a collaborative approach is important. Both veterinarians and animal

physiotherapists need to continue to encourage collaboration. *Physios* should be the main providers of veterinary rehabilitation, but veterinary rehabilitation is a growing area that will go through some growing-pains as everyone develops a role. Both veterinarians and animal physiotherapists have to be aware of the negative fact that non-qualified people are administering rehab to patients.

- Education of the veterinary professions about veterinary rehabilitation is important.
- Other interesting discussions, worth to proceed were:
 - *the responsibility of the physiotherapist and/or the veterinarian; how far can you go in rehabilitation, when starts or ends the discussion about euthanasia?
 - *Sedation; it is decreasing supraspinal activity. This can range between slight relaxation up to being total unconscious.
 - *The effect of ESWT. The explanation is probably creation of microlesions which causes an acute inflammation and (normal) regeneration.
 - * the effect of electromagnetic field therapy. Because of the sedative effect, there is probably more release of endorphines. More research should be done.