Resilience in Motion: Comparative Rehabilitation & Manual Therapies for All Beings

Speakers, Lecture Titles, and Synopsis/Goals

2026 HOMECOMING CONFERENCE
Oct 23rd – 25th, 2026
National University of Health Sciences, Lombard, IL

2026 Healing Oasis Conference

Resilience in Motion: Comparative Rehabilitation & Manual Therapies for All Beings

Dates: Oct 23rd – 25th, 2026
Location: National University of Health Sciences, 200 E. Roosevelt Rd., Lombard, IL

Hotel of choice: Crowne Plaza Lombard-Downers Grove, 1250 Roosevelt Rd., Lombard, IL. (630-629-6000)

List of speakers:

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DEDICATION

This is our **26th year** providing conferences for our peers. As you might imagine, there would be no peers without teachers. This year, we would like to dedicate this conference to the unsung heroes, OUR HEALING OASIS WELLNESS CENTER FACULTY!

Before we conclude any postgraduate Modules or professional enhancement programs, we always take time to recognize the faculty, as without them, there would be no programs at all.

It has taken us many years to hand-pick licensed professionals that we feel represent and embody the vision and mission statement of the Healing Oasis. All of our faculty have the initiative to lead by example. Leaders are not born; they are made through their sacrifices, thirst for excellence, and resilience in getting back up after a faceplant.

It goes without saying that the faculty is much more than that; they are part of our FAMILY. Like any family, we sometimes disagree, but what we do not forget, nor compromise in any way, shape, or form, is our focus to graduate competent, knowledgeable professionals who will uphold the highest standards in our field. After all, they will be representing our school.

We don't compromise, and we sure as H.E. double hockey stick don't dumb it down.

To our previous and current faculty, JOB WELL DONE!

Semper **ORANGE**

List of current faculty members: [Faculty | Healing Oasis]

Sabrina Brounts, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVS, DECVS, DACVSMR (Equine)
Professor of Large Animal Surgery, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Vet. Med.

Titles:

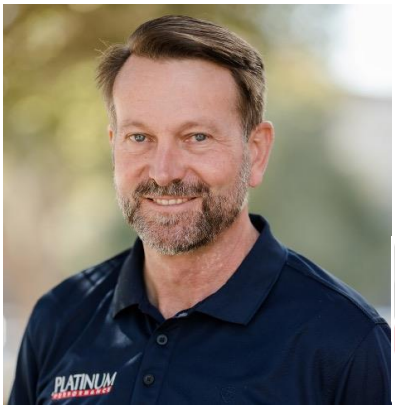
- **Beyond the Incision: Clinical Management and Physical Therapy Following Colic Surgery**

Synopsis/goals: Discharging a post-operative colic patient is only half the battle. While the surgery may be a success, the road from the recovery stall to full athletic function is paved with clinical hurdles—from incisional hernias and peritoneal adhesions to profound loss of abdominal core strength. In this session, we will move beyond basic stall rest and dive into evidence-based rehabilitation protocols. Learn how to manage nutritional recovery, implement targeted physiotherapy, and create structured return-to-work timelines that minimize complications and maximize long-term athletic success.

- **Elasticity Lost and Found: An Evidence-Based Approach to Equine Tendon and Ligament Rehabilitation**

Synopsis/goals: Successful tendon and ligament rehabilitation requires far more than passive stall rest; it requires the precise application of mechanical tension to remodel functional, elastic tissue. This session shifts the focus from diagnosis to active rehabilitation, providing a deep dive into the physical therapy protocols that drive tissue regeneration. We will explore how to design structured, progressive exercise programs—from foundational hand-walking to advanced ridden intervals—and how to manipulate variables like footing and incline. Furthermore, we will break down the practical application of physiotherapy modalities and how to use diagnostic tools during rehabilitation. Attendees will leave with a clinical toolkit of active exercises and physical therapies designed to restore tensile strength, improve proprioception, and safely return the equine athlete to performance.

Matt Durham, DVM, DACVSMR
Senior Technical Services Veterinarian, Platinum Performance

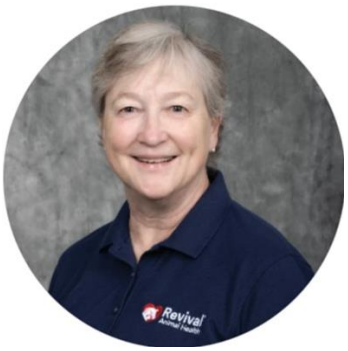


Titles:

- **Two Species, One Goal: Optimizing Nutrition for Peak Athletic Performance in Horses & Humans**

Synopsis or goals: This presentation will address differences in energy systems between horses and humans, as well as the many shared cellular pathways that are directly and indirectly involved in athletic performance. Nutritional needs, from both an energetic standpoint and a targeted cellular approach, will be discussed.

Marthina Greer, DVM, JD
Veterinary Village & Brownsville/Lomira Small Animal Clinics, WI



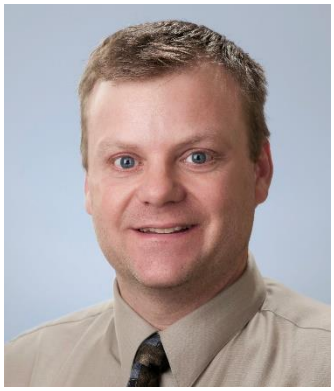
Titles: BETTER SEX THROUGH NEUROLOGY

Now that we have your attention! Dr. Greer will be discussing:

Synopsis/Goals:

- The drive to reproduce is widely considered one of the paramount drives of the animal kingdom, serving as the fundamental mechanism for ensuring a species' continuation, even in the face of death. The inability to mate or to deliver pups can make it challenging for the practitioner to determine the causes. Is it neurological, orthopedic, gonadal pain, or behavioral limitations?
- There is current information that breeders & veterinarians use to impact and improve the ability of the newborn pups to navigate their world by a series of structured yet simple exercises in handling pups. By sharing this important approach with your clients, you can have a lifetime impact on these pups.

Travis Henry, DVM, DAVDC (Canine & Equine)
Director of Midwest Veterinary Dental Services, Elkhorn WI



Titles:

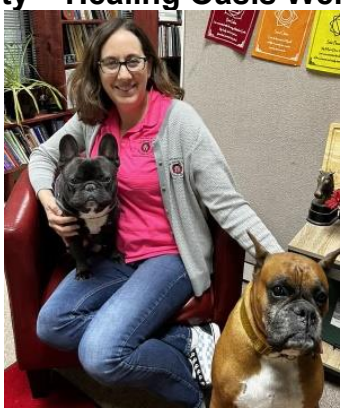
- **TMJ and Dental Pathologies affecting performance.**

Synopsis/goals: Presentation to cover the pertinent dental pathologies in the horse that lead to pain and inflammation. There will also be an explanation of the anatomy and imaging of the TMJ.

- **The Stomatognathic System, What they forgot to tell us.**

Synopsis/goals: The presentation will explain and help attendees gain an understanding of the mechanics of the masticatory system and the pertinent neuroanatomy of the teeth.

Amber Ihrke, DVM, CVSMT, DACVSMR
Veterinary Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation, Homer Glen, IL
Senior Faculty – Healing Oasis Wellness Center



Titles:

- **Injuries to the shoulder joint - a case-based lecture on diagnosis, therapeutic plan, and return to function.**

Synopsis/goals: Introduction to the injury, diagnostics (CT, MSK, Radiographs), and a treatment plan (regenerative medicine, manual therapy, exercise) for common shoulder joint injuries/diseases.

- **Injuries to the elbow & carpal joints - a case-based lecture on diagnosis, therapeutic plan, and return to function.**

Synopsis/goals: Introduction to the injury, diagnostics (CT, MSK, Radiographs), and a treatment plan (regenerative medicine, manual therapy, exercise) for common elbow joint injuries/diseases.

- **Hands-On Healing: The Role of Cupping in Veterinary Medicine**

Synopsis/goals: Introduction to the physiological process of manual therapy via cupping. This lecture includes a description of the properties of tissue healing, the physiological process of manual therapy via cupping, and the manual loading of tissue. Indications and techniques of dry cupping will be discussed.

Jessica Linder, DVM, DACVIM-Neurology (Small Animals)
Clinical Assistant Professor, Neurology; Purdue Univ. College of Veterinary Medicine

Titles:

- **Inflammatory Neurologic Disease in Dogs and What We Can Learn from Other Species**

Synopsis/goals: During this lecture, we will discuss autoimmune neurologic disease in dogs and what we are learning about the similarities of these diseases to neurologic inflammatory diseases in other species.

- **Walk This Way… Or Not: Neuromuscular Diseases in Veterinary Patients**

Synopsis/goals: During this lecture, we will review the most common neuromuscular diseases affecting our veterinary patients, how to differentiate and diagnose them, and how to treat them.

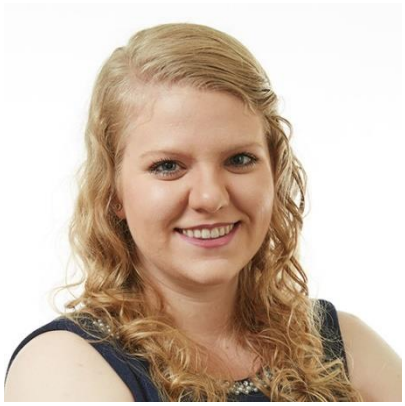
Rosemary LoGiudice, DVM, CVA, CVSMT, DACVSMR (Canine)
Animal Rehabilitation Therapy and Sports Medicine, Yorkville, IL
Senior Faculty – Healing Oasis Wellness Center

Titles:

- **Colors and Numbers: A Look at the Use of Thermography & Stance Analyzer in Practice**

Synopsis or goals: We will discuss how Thermography and the appropriate use of a Stance Analyzer, while not diagnostic tools themselves, can provide helpful information when evaluating a patient and help validate Animal Chiropractic or VSMT.

Brittany Ludwig, DVM, CVSMT, CVMRT – ACVSMR Resident (Canine)
Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation of Homer Glen, IL



Titles:

- **Kinesiology Taping: What, Why, and How? – A Clinical Base Presentation**

Synopsis: Kinesiology taping is a cost-effective, simple tool that is well-tolerated by veterinary patients. There are many patterns for various uses, including pain and edema reduction and alterations to proprioception and gait. In this lecture, we will discuss the properties of kinesiology tape, when it is indicated, what patterns exist, and how to apply them.

Goals:

- Understand the properties of kinesiology tape
- Identify kinesiology taping patterns and determine when each is indicated
- Learn how to apply kinesiology tape depending on the indication

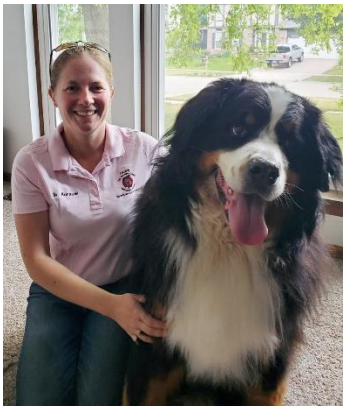
- **Kinesiology Taping: Current Research and Application**

Synopsis: Kinesiology taping is readily available to use, but what does the research tell us about the effectiveness of the different applications? In this lecture, we will discuss the current uses of kinesiology tape across multiple species and what research is lacking to assist in making evidence-based decisions about kinesiology taping in clinical practice.

Goals:

- Understand what the current literature demonstrates about kinesiology taping
- Determine evidence-based uses of kinesiology taping in veterinary medicine
- Identify where research is lacking, and provide recommendations for future studies/goals:

Coralie Morauw, DVM, CVSMT
Associate Veterinarian, Chicago Equine Medical Center
Faculty - Healing Oasis Wellness Center



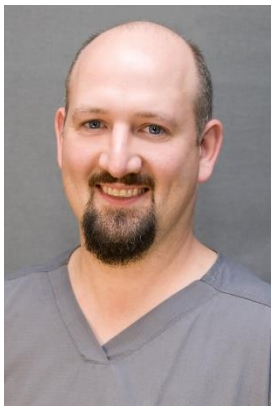
Title

- **Hold Your Horses: What Really Changes When We Ride?**

Synopsis/Goals: Ridden performance is largely influenced by the interaction between human and equine biomechanics. The lecture reviews key aspects of rider biomechanics and relates these to effective load distribution for riding. Normal equine biomechanics are then outlined, focusing on variations between cervical, thoracic, lumbar, and pelvic contributions to locomotion and baseline balance without a rider.

Then, examination of alterations induced by the rider, including changes in weight distribution and movement patterns, for both symmetrical and asymmetrical riders across various work scenarios. The effects of acute versus chronic loading, particularly in horses with underlying pathology, will also be discussed. Practical considerations, including tack fit and rider position, are presented to support more optimal and sustainable ridden biomechanics.

John Nielsen, CVT, VTS-ECC & Phys. Therapy
Owner of K9 Elite Edge Performance, Menomonie, WI



Titles:

- **Scapular Strength and Deceleration Control: Conditioning the Canine Shoulder Using Human Performance Models**

Synopsis/goals: In human athletics, shoulder conditioning is not optional. Overhead athletes train scapular stability, eccentric control, and force absorption with ruthless specificity. In canine sports medicine, we often treat shoulder injuries after they develop, yet proactive conditioning of the scapular stabilizers and decelerators can reduce overload during jumping, tight turns, and rapid-acceleration sports.
This lecture focuses on fitness and conditioning strategies for the canine shoulder complex, drawing on human strength and conditioning principles such as eccentric loading, force-absorption training, plyometric progression, and neuromuscular control drills.

- **The Engine Room: Comparative Core and Hip Conditioning for Speed, Power, and Injury Resistance**

Synopsis/goals: In human performance science, the lumbopelvic-hip complex is considered the engine that transfers force from the ground to the limb. Sprinters, rotational athletes, and field-sport competitors rely on carefully periodized core and hip-strength programs to generate power and reduce injury risk.
Canine athletes are no different. Iliopsoas strains, recurrent hamstring group issues, and lumbosacral pain often stem from deficits in strength, endurance, and motor control of the proximal stabilizing system.
This lecture examines how human strength-and-conditioning models for core and hip development can be adapted for canine athletes. Emphasis will be placed on measurable conditioning variables: load, volume, rest intervals, neuromuscular timing, and fatigue management.

Angela Polmateer, OTR, CHT
Lead Therapist, Franciscan Health, Lafayette YMCA, IN

Titles:

- **Brachial plexus injuries in human and veterinary patients - what do we know and how do they compare?**

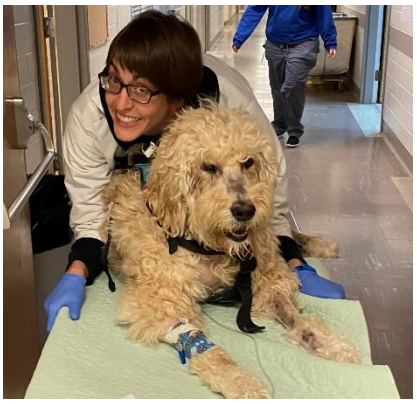
Synopsis/goals: In this hour-long talk, we will explore the most common forms of brachial plexus injuries observed in people and small animals, focusing on types of injury, diagnosis, and pathophysiology of disease

- **Brachial plexus injuries in humans and veterinary patients - how do we go about treating and rehabilitating these patients?**

Synopsis/goals: In this hour we will discuss different treatment options with a focus on rehabilitation.

**Ms. Polmateer will be team-teaching these lectures with Dr. Stephanie Thomovskly, Clinical Professor, Veterinary Neurology, Purdue Univ. College of Vet. Medicine.

Stephanie Thomovsky, DVM, MS, DACVIM-Neurology
Clinical Professor, Veterinary Neurology, Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine



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**Dr. Thomosky will be team-teaching these lectures with Ms. Angela Polmateer, OTR, CHT, from Franciscan Health, Lafayette, IN

Julia Tomlinson, BVSc, MS, PhD, DACVS, DACVSMR (Canine), CVSMT
Twin Cities Animal Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine, MN

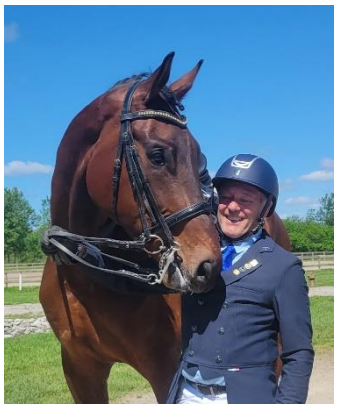
- **Canine spinal motion for bipeds: differences with canine patients.**

Synopsis/goals: This lecture will cover overall motion (torsion, lateral bending, flexion, and extension) and its effects on the bone structure, ligamentous & muscular support of the spine. Recommendations for improving spinal stability in quadrupeds will be discussed based on research, targeting the specific muscles actually involved in stability

- **Not just trigger points - update on the myofascial system in the dog.**

Synopsis/goals: This lecture will familiarize attendees with the fascial lines in the dog, including a newly found one, and discuss myofascial research into function and therapies in all species.

Rob van Wessum, DVM, MS, DACVSMR (Equine)
Equine All-Sports Medicine Center, Mason, MI



Titles:

- **When unimaginable pathology and rehabilitation meet the fan**

Synopsis/goals: A couple of cases with back problems that did show treatable pathology at first, but did not improve on the standard treatment and rehab protocol. When more diagnostics were performed, a clear indication for more extensive but unimaginable pathology within the spinal canal was found, and finally confirmed at necropsy.

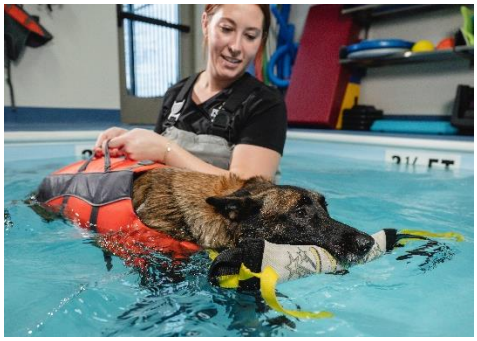
- **Kissing spines or Kidding spines?**

Synopsis/goals: Step-by-step guide to how I examine and treat kissing spines, a much more complex problem than is often realized. When the bridge between the front and hind ends starts to cave in. Consequences for diagnostics, treatment, and rehabilitation.

- **The use of Power Doppler in equine musculoskeletal ultrasound**

Synopsis/goals: How to improve the understanding of active processes with active inflammation and differentiate with more consolidated changes with less inflammation. How to use this tool to fine-tune treatment and rehabilitation.

Rachel Yoquelet, BS, RVT, VTS (ECC), CVMRT
Purdue University – College of Veterinary Medicine -Veterinary
Physical Rehabilitation Department



Title:

- **Making the Golden Years Count - Physical Rehabilitation for the Geriatric Patient**

Synopsis/goals: In this 1-hour lecture, we will discuss the importance of exercise and movement for older people and what physical and cognitive benefits can be seen from early and proactive measures. We will cover a few studies that demonstrate the benefits of exercise in older people and how they apply to physical rehabilitation in our geriatric canine patients. We will touch on exercises and pain management modalities that are geared towards the senior canine patient.

Pedro Luis Rivera, DVM, FACFN, DACVSMR, FCoAC

Titles:

- **Pinch hitter – What we do best, PLAN B**

Synopsis/Goals: Plan on WORLD DOMINATION

AAVSB-RACE Continuing Education and CE Broker