



# BRADFORD'S VETERINARY PHYSIOTHERAPY

## Chartered Physiotherapists

Bradford's Veterinary Physiotherapy was set up in May of this year by Tim Bradford and Rhiannon Griffiths both new to the area and based in Yarkhill, Herefordshire. We have both completed full human physiotherapy degrees at Leeds and Huddersfield Universities, and both qualified with honours in 1997 and 1999 respectively. After spending time as qualified 'chartered' physiotherapists in the NHS and private sector we both started our training to convert to fully qualified 'Veterinary Physiotherapists'. This involved undertaking a two year Masters Degree (MSc) at the Royal Veterinary College, London, a course set up exclusively for chartered human physiotherapists wishing to transfer their knowledge and skill base to the veterinary field.

### **What does a Physiotherapy assessment involve?**

- Expect initial assessment to take 1-1½ hours for a horse, ¾-1 hour for a dog
- Detailed history of your animal and the current problem
- Full observation of condition, conformation (including muscle and joint symmetry)
- Full movement analysis involving walk and trot (in hand), small circles, rein back, +/- lunge work, +/- ridden, (including different surfaces, gradients if required)
- Full palpation of all joints and soft tissues
- Explanation of all findings and proposed treatment options
- Full written report to your Veterinary Surgeon re: findings and proposed treatments

### **Conditions treated**

- Spinal Pain and Stiffness
- Muscle Imbalance
- Muscle Weakness
- Nerve Injury
- Tendon/Ligament Injury
- Wounds- Non Healing and Acute
- Orthopaedic Conditions/Lameness/Post-surgery
- Neurological Conditions/Post-surgery
- Compensatory Problems
- Saddle Related Problems
- Joint Stiffness
- Performance Problems –All Disciplines

**The aim of physiotherapy is to reduce pain and its stimuli through treatments which focus upon restoring normal movement. This in itself reduces the risk of soft tissue strains and injuries (lameness) in the future, ensures full joint range of motion and achieves appropriate muscle balance, coordination and proprioception for the animal depending upon required level of activity and use.**

### **Treatments**

- Soft Tissue/Joint Mobilisations
- Reflex Inhibition Technique
- Soft Tissue/Joint Manipulation
- Myofascial Release
- Trigger Point Release
- Acupressure
- Massage
- Stretches
- Neuromuscular Stimulation
- Facilitation of Normal Movement
- Exercise Therapy/Rehabilitation
- Electrotherapy
  - Laser
  - Ultrasound
  - H-Wave
- Gait/Movement Re-education

### **What does 'Chartered' mean?**

The term 'veterinary surgeon' is protected by law, so anyone calling themselves a vet must have gained their degree via a university course approved by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). The term 'physiotherapist' is not a protected term within the animal/veterinary field, so anyone who may have completed a related module as part of another course can call themselves a 'physiotherapist'. The word 'Chartered' is protected by law. Therefore you can guarantee that a 'Chartered Physiotherapist' will have attained the relevant qualifications and be registered as a 'Member of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy' (MCSP), thus ensuring that the therapist has full professional insurance to cover your animal. The term 'Veterinary Physiotherapist' can also only be used by a chartered physiotherapist who has successfully completed the relevant course run by The Royal Veterinary College, currently the only university to offer the qualification.

### **Team working**

Generally our approach starts by arranging a visit to see the animal in their own environment and subsequent treatment would continue on that basis or your animal can be seen in conjunction with the veterinary surgeon during a clinic if requested. We as physiotherapists are used to working as part of a team in human work and as such we aim to liaise closely with your veterinary surgeon, farrier, saddler, riding instructor, as

appropriate, plus yourself as an owner to ensure the best possible care and outcome for your animal.

### **How do I arrange physiotherapy for my animal?**

The 1966 Veterinary Surgeons Act states that it is illegal for anyone to diagnose or treat animals, except under the auspices of a veterinary surgeon.

Bradford's Veterinary Physiotherapy therefore makes contact to all veterinary surgeons to gain consent for treatment prior to assessing each new case. This opens up lines of communication so that all findings are shared ensuring the best possible care of your animal. You can therefore call us directly to arrange an appointment safe in the knowledge we will contact your veterinary surgeon on your behalf or ask your vet to refer your animal directly to us. See advert for all contact details.



#### **Rhiannon Griffiths**

Master of Science in Veterinary Physiotherapy, University of London, The Royal Veterinary College. (MSc Vet Phys)  
Member of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (MCSP)  
Health Professions Council Registered (HPC)  
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physiotherapy (BSc Hons)  
Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy (ACPAT) Category A



#### **Tim Bradford**

Master of Science in Veterinary Physiotherapy, University of London, The Royal Veterinary College. (MSc Vet Phys)  
Member of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (MCSP)  
Health Professions Council Registered (HPC)  
Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) in Physiotherapy (BHSc Hons)  
Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy (ACPAT) Category A

### **Useful Websites**

Bradford's Veterinary Physiotherapy website currently under construction

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy [www.csp.org.uk](http://www.csp.org.uk)

Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy [www.acpat.org](http://www.acpat.org)

The Royal Veterinary College, Hatfield, London [www.rvc.ac.uk/VETPHYSIO](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/VETPHYSIO)