



5<sup>th</sup> Scientific Meeting  
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SPORTS MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION



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CORDOBA | SPAIN

# MULTIMODAL CONTEXTUALIZED APPROACH TO DOGS WITH FIBROTIC MYOPATHY

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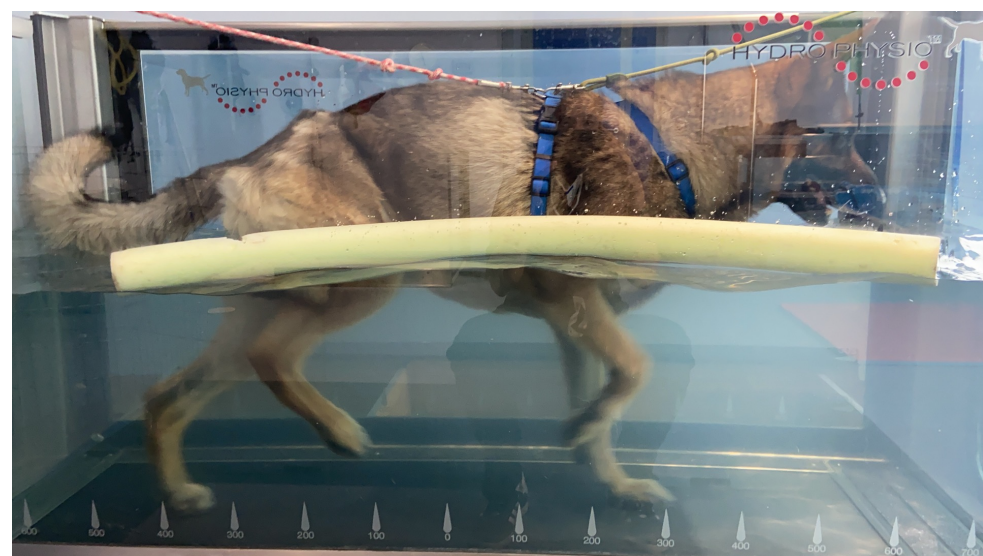
*Freelance Veterinarian, Venezia, Italy*





## Background

Non-invasive medical treatments and rehabilitation modalities of fibrotic myopathy in dogs involve a **multimodal approach** including instrumental physical therapy, manual techniques, hydrotherapy and therapeutic exercises.



## Is Gold Standard always a realistic option?

Skipper, A., Gray, C., Serlin, R., O'Neill, D., Elwood, C. and Davidson, J. (2021), '**Gold standard care**' is an **unhelpful term**. Veterinary Record, 189: 331-331. <https://doi.org/10.1002/vetr.1113>

Animal welfare → active consideration of the most appropriate management options for each case

Pet owner financial & logistics realities

Expectations

Validity of treatment pathways in different contexts confers flexibility

## WHAT IS CONTEXTUALIZED CARE?

CONTEXTUALIZED CARE acknowledges that different treatment pathways are able to offer equally acceptable patient journeys in different contexts...all with the aim of a good outcome

## Methods

Two working German Shepherd dogs and a German Shepherd crossbreed dog diagnosed with fibrotic myopathy have been considered.

A complete multimodal approach including laser therapy, therapeutic ultrasound, massage, stretching, myofascial release, functional exercise, dry needling and water treadmill hydrotherapy has been prescribed to all patients.



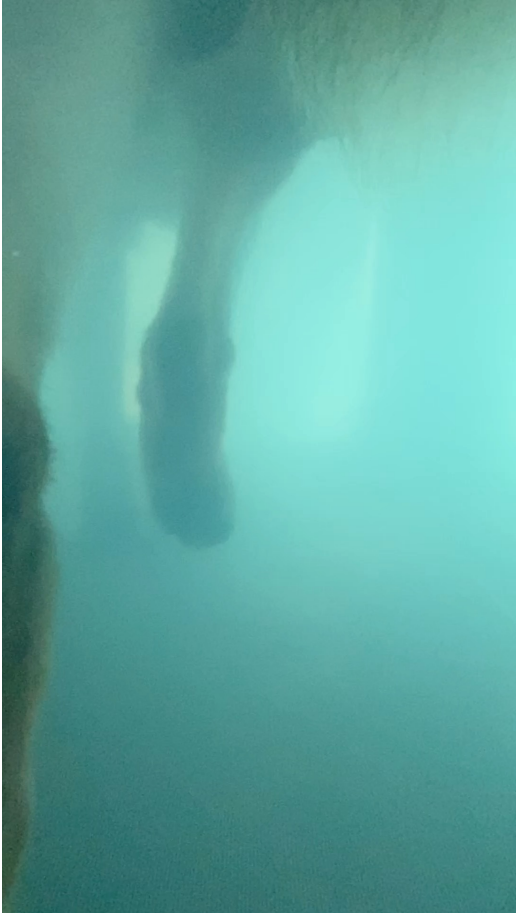
Initial phase involved weekly sessions,  
shifting to every 2-3 weeks and  
monthly maintenance treatments  
in the mid to long-term.

**...BUT!!!**

The actual treatment received by each dog has been adjusted and  
contextualized considering the individual situation.

Logistics and financial decisions of the owners influenced the  
therapeutic plan acceptance.

One working dog initially received intensive treatment

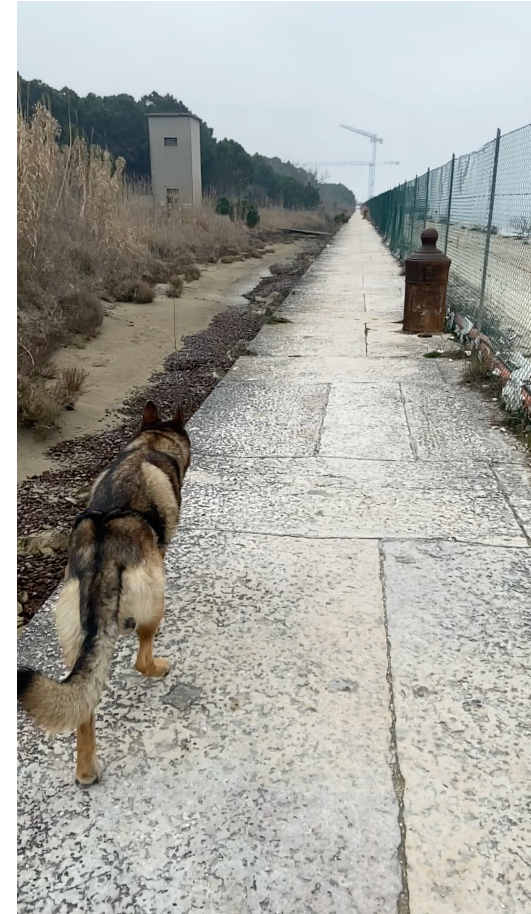




...and successfully returned to usual exercise



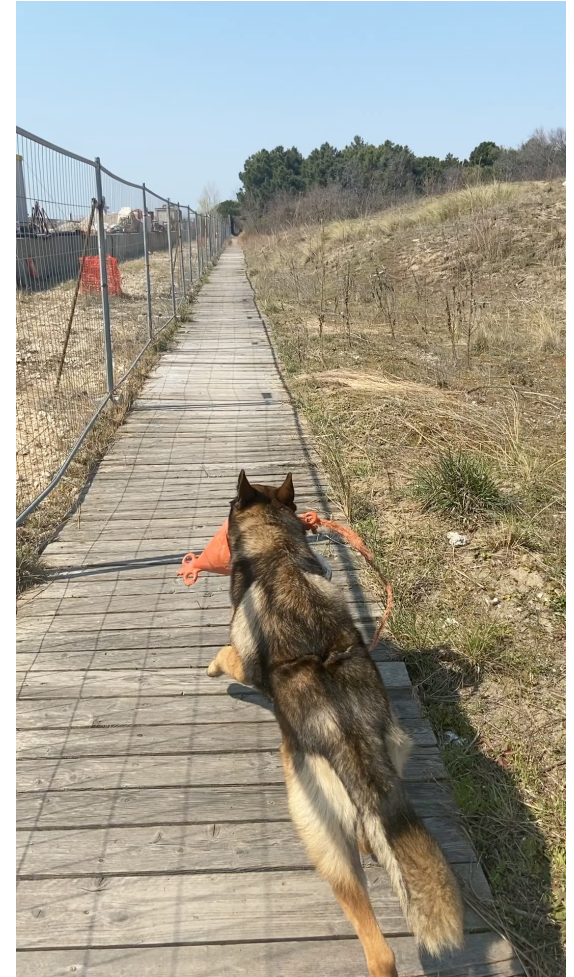
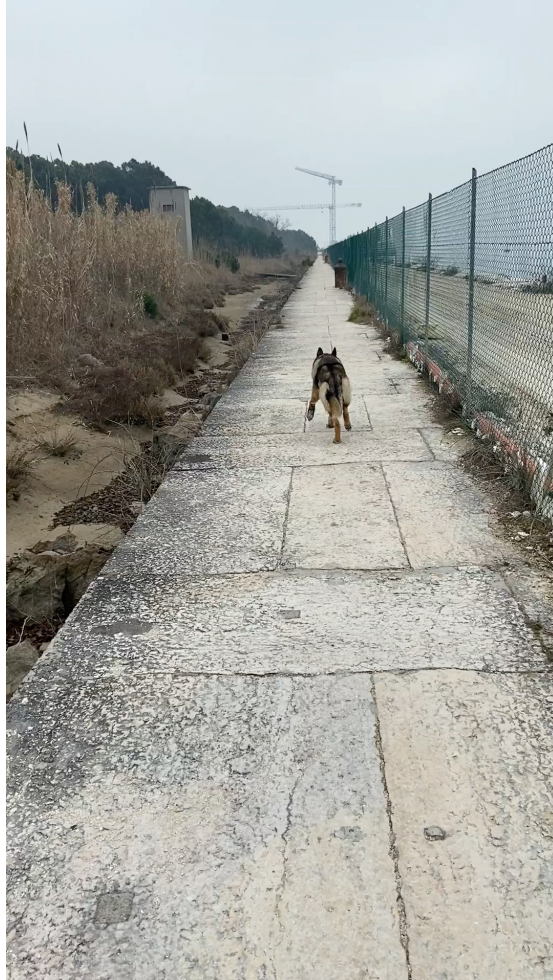
then complying with a maintenance program  
and a positive follow-up 48 months since diagnosis





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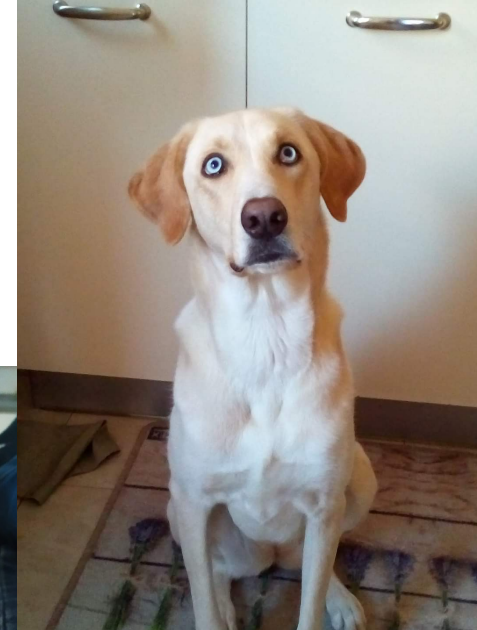
follow-up @5 years!!

MLS® Lasertherapy 2-3 times / month  
AGP 1/month





The crossbred patient's owner only committed to MLS® lasertherapy and myofascial release every fortnight, in addition to home exercise



showing  
progressive  
improvement  
in 2 months





and a positive  
follow-up  
24 months  
since  
diagnosis





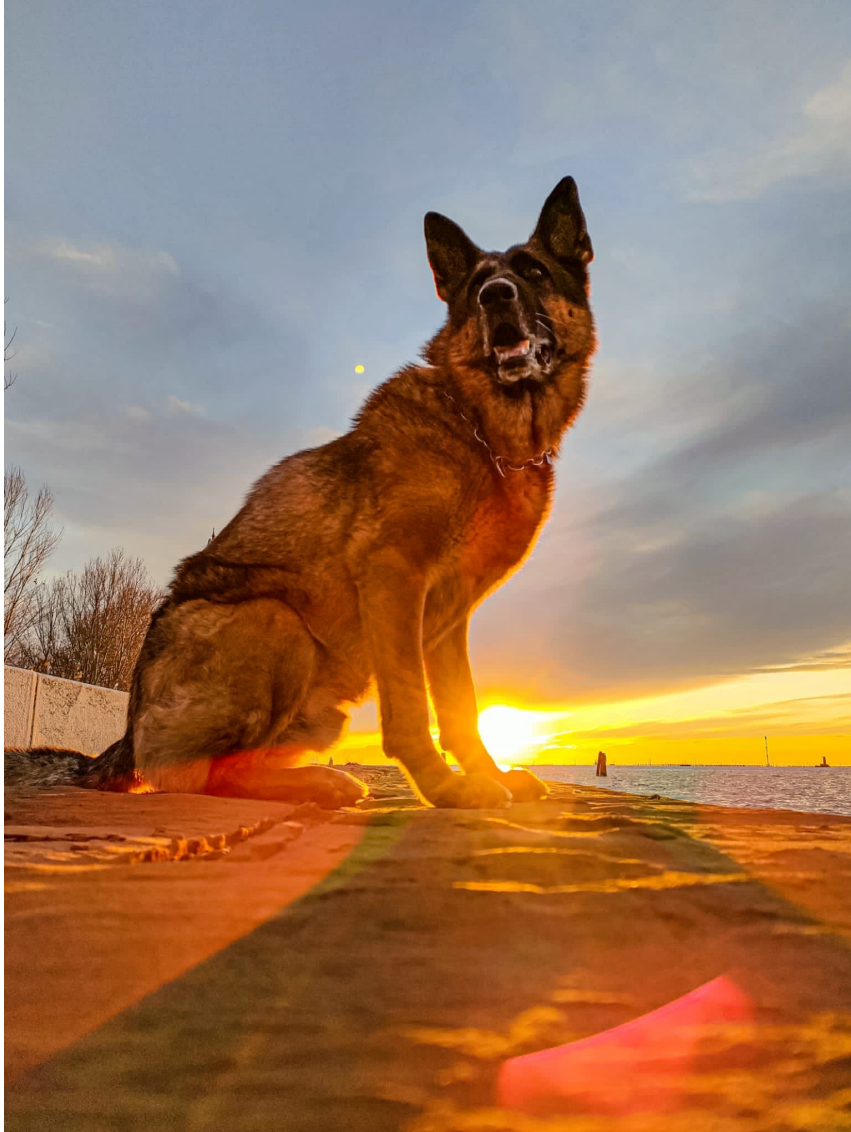
The other working dog only received local MLS® lasertherapy treatment on the diagnosed lesion due to both owners' lack of commitment and patient's behavioral issues





nevertheless showing  
improvement  
of the palpatory  
examination  
of the affected muscle  
groups  
after 4 treatment  
sessions.





## Conclusions

Contextualisation and adaptation of a multimodal treatment plan up to different levels of owners' and patients' compliance, can lead to satisfying outcomes in management of fibrotic myopathy.



Thanks  
Dr. Bubini!! 😊

