

## Canine Bacterial Dermatitis Tracy Farley, Vet Tech & Dog Owner

### History

A 2-year-old Black German Shepherd presented with severe bacterial dermatitis all 4 feet.

### Physical therapy evaluation

Feet were raw, red and swollen. Dog was unable to bear weight or walk on any surface without limping. Legs trembled with pain and dog chose to lay down as much as possible. Pain level was so severe, dog was not eating. Length of time infection had been present was unknown and dogs weight loose was at 15# per previous veterinary weight. Dog was rescued from this situation.

### Description of all of the physical therapy treatments

Foot soaks were recommended as were topical antibiotics but owner opted to try laser first for a more natural approach. The ACTIVet PRO was used.



**Day 1** (evening) – Unwind for 3 min at 1000 Hz. Feet were treated with the 5000 Hz for 1 min each top and pads of foot followed by the Blue at 100% power for 2 min each foot. Dog ate food 5 min after treatment.

**Day 2** – Dog was still painful but able to walk on soft surfaces slowly. Treatment was applied. 1000 Hz unwind protocol for 3 min, 1000 Hz on each foot for 2 min, Blue at 100% 2 min each foot. Dog seemed much more comfortable and walked without limp on soft surfaces, was able to stand for longer periods. A second treatment was applied in

the evening of Day 2 of 1000 Hz for 1 min each foot and 2 min Blue at 100% power on each foot. Dog was able to walk normally on grass and smooth surface with no visible limp on a walk that night. No more tremors.



**Day 3** – Dog walking well, no visible limping at a walk, no redness seen, very little swelling. Dog treated with 50 Hz on each foot for 1 Min, Blue each foot 2 min 100% power, unwind protocol at 1000 Hz for 2 min. By evening the dog was trotting with very little limp and able to walk normally on most surfaces.

**Day 4 and 5** – The same protocol as Day 3 was repeated two more days, dog showed visible improvement each day.

**Day 7** – Making a full recovery on limbs. Running and playing normally by day 7. No visible dermatitis seen. Owner repeats laser weekly for recovery of muscle tone and comfort of the dog using various settings. This is ongoing at this time.



### **Summary**

Improvement is seen daily. We are continuing to monitor. Low level laser is proving to be a great tool in the improvement of bacterial dermatitis.