



The Case for Professional Rehab: Supporting Your Horse's Healing Journey

With Manning Equine Veterinary Services

Discovering your horse has an injury can be equal parts stressful and heartbreaking. For many, the thought of dealing with stall rest, bandage changes, medications, and hand walking can feel daunting. It's also incredibly time consuming – trying to run to the barn before and after work every day to manage care is a lot to take on.

Fortunately, professional veterinary rehabilitation facilities—like the one at Manning Equine Veterinary Services—are here to help ease these concerns! Veterinary rehab facilities are designed to provide specialized care, therapeutic treatments, customized exercise programs, and a supportive environment to ensure your horse's physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

Top 5 benefits of rehabilitation facilities

1. *Veterinary supervision*

Rehabilitation at a veterinary facility allows for close monitoring of your horse's progress. While the veterinarian may not be seeing your horse daily, experienced staff and veterinary technicians are monitoring your horse and relaying regular updates to the attending veterinarian, and any concerns can be quickly communicated. These facilities also have access to a network of referral specialists if advanced consultation is needed.

In addition, these facilities typically have on-site access to diagnostic equipment, medications (for refills or medication adjustments), and a variety of sedation

options for horses that may become unsettled during stall rest or early hand walking and turnout phases.

2. *Experienced handlers*

Even the most well-behaved horses can become challenging during rehabilitation. Stall rest, limited turnout, and restricted exercise can lead to frustration and unpredictable behaviour.

Staff at veterinary rehabilitation facilities are trained and experienced in safely handling horses through all phases of recovery. With proper safety equipment, supervision, and teamwork, these professionals help ensure both

horses and humans stay safe during this sometimes-tricky process.

3. *Purpose-built facility design*

Veterinary rehabilitation facilities are designed with healing in mind. Sometimes something as simple as having the barn attached directly to the indoor arena can be a big deal!

These facilities often feature:

- U Designated hand walking areas with appropriate footing
- U Graduated turnout options such as round pens, small paddocks, and regular fields
- U Access to advanced rehabilitation tools like dry or water treadmills, vibration plates, and hot walkers

These resources can streamline your horse's progress and offer a level of care and equipment that may not be available at your home facility.

4. *Streamlined routine*

We all know horses love a good routine – and their friends. At your home facility, it can be difficult to manage a rehab horse's needs while others are following a regular turnout schedule. Veterinary rehabilitation facilities are used to managing horse schedules around ensuring that horses have company while they are in their stalls, being hand walked, or being turned out.

These facilities also typically operate on the same schedule every day, offering your horse a level of consistency that may not be provided at home simply because many home facilities can't operate around a single horses' rehab routine.

In many cases, the change of scenery and environmental “reset” a veterinary rehabilitation facility offers can help a horse adapt better to their new limitations than remaining in their usual setting.

Home Sweet Home!

The rehabilitation process is not a one-size-fits-all approach by any means. If you are fortunate to have a facility and support that allows you to rehabilitate your horse at home while working closely with your veterinarian, that can also be an excellent choice. Some horses will be more comfortable in their home environment, and less stress often supports faster healing.



5. *Peace of mind*

Having your horse at a veterinary rehabilitation facility can be a huge relief. For busy owners – or those whose horses dislike medications or treatments – having trained staff take over can reduce stress on both sides. It can also prevent your horse from associating you with unpleasant tasks like medications and bandage changes, which may be better for your bond (and everyone's sanity!) in the long run. And while staff at these facilities certainly care deeply about your horse, they can often handle challenging or emotional situations with a level of calm objectivity that may be hard to maintain when you are emotionally invested. Additionally, having your horse at a veterinary rehabilitation facility saves on vet callout fees for exams and treatments.

Overall, rehabilitation is a crucial phase of your horse's healing journey. Whether you choose to manage it at home or partner with a veterinary facility, the goal is the same: to support a safe, effective recovery. Even with the best team and equipment, horses will be horses, and the rehabilitation process is rarely linear. Your veterinarian can help you plan for the best chance of long-term success, and you'll have peace of mind knowing you've done everything you can to help your horse get there.



The team at Manning Equine Veterinary Services understands how important a comeback from an injury is for your equine partner and utilizes a combination of knowledge, skills, and cutting-edge technology to provide the best chance for a successful recovery. Be it recovering from a colic surgery, to many months rehabbing from soft tissue injuries, the clinic is set up to support your horse through all phases of the recovery process. www.manningequinevet.com 519-855-9983



Insurance coverage

While most equine major medical insurance policies will cover diagnostics and treatments (to a certain limit), it can vary as to whether rehabilitation board is covered. Be sure to reach out to your insurance company to understand what is included under your policy.

