

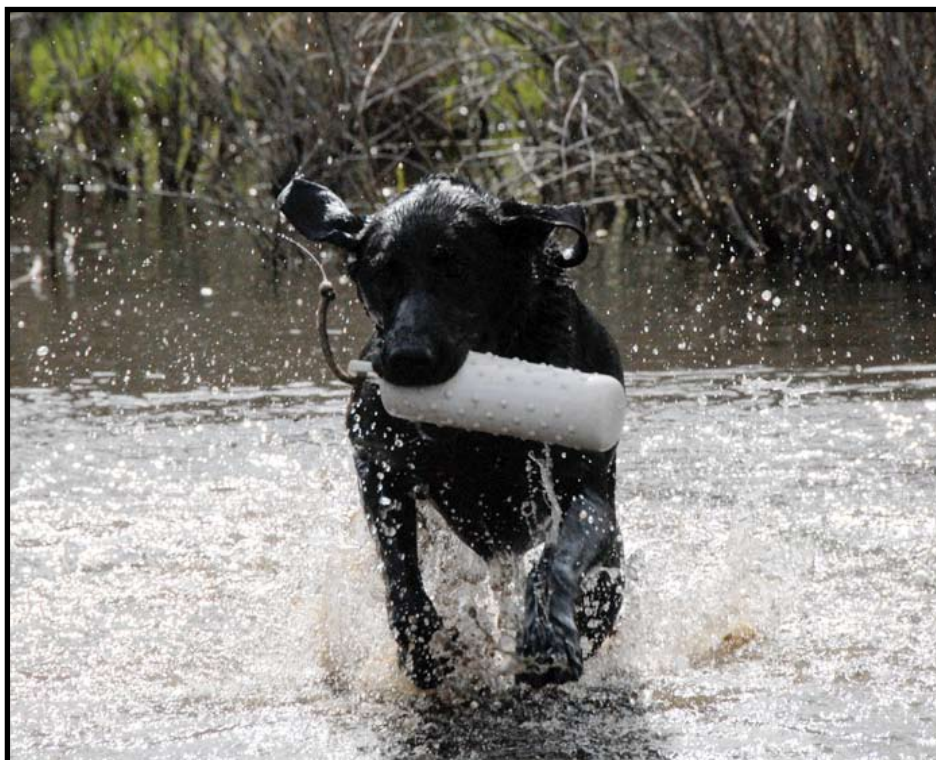


By **James S. Gaynor, DVM, MS**  
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# Regenerative Stem Cells: No Controversy, Great Pain Control

**D**irk, a 6-year-old, Labrador retriever male had been a champion hunting dog for the last four years. Recently, his stamina decreased, and it seemed that he just did not want to hunt a full day, let alone a full weekend. Dirk was taken to his veterinarian who diagnosed arthritis in both of his hips. The veterinarian prescribed a standard dose of anti-inflammatory therapy. Over the next 30 days, Dirk improved somewhat, with great promise for returning to hunting. He and his guardian returned to hunting, only to find that Dirk quit running and began lying down after several hours, just as he had before the anti-inflammatory therapy. Dirk seemed to have an interest in retrieving, but didn't seem to be active any longer.

Dirk's guardian searched the Internet for new ideas so that he could help his canine friend and hunting companion be comfortable and be able to do what he loved most. They discovered a new regenerative medical approach to arthritis, offered through Peak Performance Veterinary Group Center, to save her dog's life.



Dirk was treated with a form of regenerative medicine that used his own adult stem cells. On a Monday, Dirk underwent short general anesthesia to remove a small amount of fat from behind his shoulder blade. The fat was sent by overnight delivery to a processing laboratory in California. The laboratory extracted stem cells from the fat on Tuesday. On Wednesday at 8 a.m., Dirk was sedated to have his own stem cells injected into his hip joints.

Thirty days after the stem cells were injected, Dirk was reevaluated and, was near normal in both hips. While Dirk had been on a restricted exercise regimen, he was allowed to go back to normal activity, with some acclimation. Sixty days after the regenerative stem cell therapy, Dirk's guardian reported that Dirk was about 75 percent better, but still had not gone hunting. Dr. Jamie Gaynor, Dirk's regenerative medicine veterinarian at Peak Performance Veterinary Group, encouraged normal activity, including hunting. That was on Thursday. The following Monday, Dirk's guardian called and was ecstatic; they went hunting over the weekend. Dirk out-retrieved the 3-year-old dogs. Dirk was back and no at risk for early retirement from the activity he loved so much.

When most people hear stem cells, they think of embryonic stem cells and the surrounding moral controversy. Dirk's therapy utilized his own adult stem cells, thus helping him heal himself. This type of regenerative medicine has been used in over 300 dogs with arthritis and tendon and ligament injuries. Only veterinarians credentialed by the stem cell laboratory can perform this procedure. Dr. Gaynor is not only credentialed in this therapy, but helped pioneer its use in small animals, with several peer reviewed publications documenting its effects.

Peak Performance Veterinary Group, located within the Veterinary Specialty Center, offers the benefits of regenerative stem cell therapy to companion animals. Pet owners can find out more information regarding regenerative medicine, stem cell therapy, therapeutic laser, Pulsed Signal Therapy, and other advanced pain control options by calling Peak Performance Veterinary Group at 719-266-6400.

**Dr. James S. Gaynor**



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