



# PET PAGES

Official Yellow Pages for Animal Lovers

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Pet Pages – For the South West Florida Edition

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## Lasers, Lasers, Lasers, oh my!

Laser surgery and treatment has been incorporated into veterinary medicine for many years. Westbay Animal Hospital was one of the first veterinary hospitals in Manatee County to use the CO2 surgical laser in their practice. Laser is an acronym for "light amplification by stimulated emission radiation". A surgical laser actually uses a beam of focused light energy at a specific wavelength. The beam of light is used as a cutting tool. For many surgical procedures, the CO2 laser is vastly superior to the conventional scalpel.

Advantages of the CO2 laser include decreased pain, bleeding, blood loss, and swelling. This results in much less postoperative discomfort and allows quicker healing. The laser lowers the risk of infection, as it sterilizes the surgical site as it is used. There is less contamination during cancer surgery as well, reducing the chances of spread of the cancer cells during the procedure. Many oral and skin masses can be removed without the need for sutures. In addition, eyelid and nasal surgery can often be done without the necessity of sutures.

Stenotic nares repair is a procedure tailor made for the CO2 laser. This is a procedure performed on "flat faced", or brachycephalic, dogs and cats. Common breeds affected are the French Bulldog, Pug, Pekinese, Shih Tzu, and Persian. During the procedure, the openings of the nose are made larger to allow

the pet to breathe more freely. Recovery is very quick with virtually no blood loss. Pets can immediately breathe better as they recover from surgery. This is done as an outpatient procedure, requiring no overnight stay.

Small skin masses are easily removed with the laser. Many can be done with only local anesthetic (novocaine) or with twilight anesthesia. In most circumstances no sutures are required.

Westbay Animal Hospital also utilizes a therapy laser, also known as a "cold" laser or a class IV laser. The therapy laser works by sending photons of light energy deep into the tissue. These photons are absorbed by the mitochondria within the cells. They are the energy producers of the cells. Increased cellular energy allows for rejuvenation of the cells and healthier cells. Many conditions respond well to therapy laser use, some of which are arthritis, infections, injuries, skin disease, and conditions causing inflammation. Treatment time varies based on the location and size of the area treated, but usually ranges from 5 to 20 minutes. Treatment is delivered through a noninvasive hand piece that is moved over the affected area. Relief can be immediate, and many pets seem to get a soothing sensation during treatment.

**For more information on the use of laser for your pet, please contact Westbay Animal Hospital at 941 792-3473 or [info@westbayanimalhospital.com](mailto:info@westbayanimalhospital.com)**

Approved By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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