



HERO  
HELPING PETS

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## CONTACT

We want to help you save the day for your Hero. If you'd like more information about Hero Braces, please contact us:

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## ABOUT HERO

We believe real superpowers involve compassion and healing. The powers that animals share every day with their human companions, we are proud to share back.

When your pet suffers a CCL tear or other leg injury, it can have devastating effects on the entire family. We want you to know that we offer solutions that work.

If you favor a conservative, non-surgical approach for your pet due to age, weight, medical condition or household financial circumstances, a Hero Leg Brace is the perfect answer to help him get back to running and playing in no time!

Our team has years of experience working with vets and dog owners throughout the world. Together, we manufacture custom-made stifle, carpal and hock braces to help pets regain their best possible quality of life.

Hero was created as a shared desire by Ben Blecha, Certified Prosthetist-Orthotist, and Wayne Watkins, DVM, to help dogs regain their mobility. Our headquarters are in the rural Midwest, where we believe our strong work ethic and traditional values speak to our commitment to pets and the veterinary industry.



# BRACES

Our innovative braces employ “fail-safe” mechanics. They are designed to have the plastic where the corrective pushes are located. This design keeps the Velcro® from failing. Our designs are engineered with dogs in mind: how they will respond to our braces, how durable they are and ease of use.

## Hero Stifle Brace

Our unique design will support your dog’s knee so he can run like a superhero. Our Hero Braces help prevent the cranial drawer movement in order to slow arthritis formation in the joints. This promotes natural healing by allowing fibrose tissue to form more tightly to help limit the cranial drawer while still allowing good motion.



### Benefits:

- + Allows dog to climb stairs paw over paw and put weight on their leg
- + Allows treatment of injury without anesthesia or complications from surgery
- + Enhances proprioception or joint position sense
- + Reduces fatigue on non-injured limb
- + Provides mechanical protection against impact
- + Gives muscles time to react and control

## Hero Carpal Brace

Our Hero Carpal Braces are most often utilized for hyperextension and other wrist deformities. The unique strap “fail safe” mode is based on biomechanical principles. We offer our Carpal Braces in two types: Jointed for when there is still strength left in the limb and Non-Jointed for when there is little carpal strength left.



## Hero Hock Brace

Our Hero Hock Brace is most often used for Achilles tears, neuromuscular deficiencies and tarsal involvement. The Hock Brace uses biomechanical principles in order to best get your dog back to playing again.





## CASE STUDIES



Freedom

**DIAGNOSIS:** Left CCL Tear

**BREED:** Cocker Spaniel

**WEIGHT:** 30 lbs.

**AGE AT ONSET:** 9 years old

**HISTORY:** The owners have no report of how the injury happened as they found Freedom non-weight bearing when they came home from work. The CCL injury was diagnosed with a positive cranial drawer sign. Freedom also has a long history of glaucoma with a removal of an eye.

**TREATMENT:** Because of the health factors and age, the owners chose not to have surgery. A Hero Stifle Brace was fit four weeks post-injury. Ten months later the brace was lost and a second was made, because the owners saw the improvements in Freedom's activity level.

**RESULTS:** Two and a half years post-injury, Freedom is moderately active; any lack of activity is due to eyesight. The owner reports that the brace is no longer needed.

**DIAGNOSIS:** Bilateral Epicondyle Fractures

**BREED:** Chocolate Lab

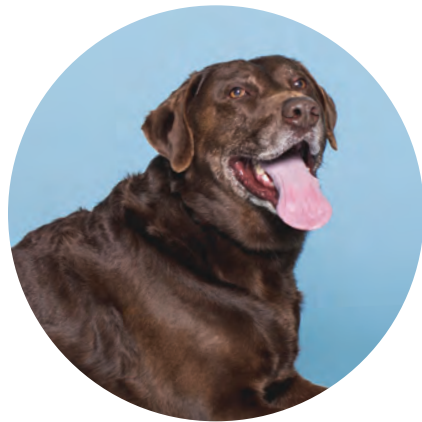
**WEIGHT:** 84 lbs.

**AGE AT ONSET:** 2 ½ years old

**HISTORY:** Rufus presented painful and lame. X-rays revealed bilateral epicondyle fractures. Four years later, lameness had returned, and x-rays revealed tibial-tarsus joint arthritis with left being worse and bilateral hip dysplasia.

**TREATMENT:** Initial treatment was Rimadyl twice a day for 14 days and Adequan injections once a week for five weeks. With this original treatment, Rufus's symptoms subsided. After the later lameness, a Hero Hock Brace was fit to limit the range of motion of the hock, limiting arthritis formation and helping control pain.

**RESULTS:** Three months post-brace fitting Rufus is very active and shows no signs of lameness.



Rufus



Annie

**DIAGNOSIS:** Bilateral CCL Ruptures

**BREED:** Airedale Terrier

**WEIGHT:** 102 lbs.

**AGE AT ONSET:** 6 ½ years old

**HISTORY:** Annie's right stifle was injured playing fetch, and her left stifle was injured six days after her surgery on the first side. The owners are not clear how she was injured as she was found at the bottom of their stairs in pain. With both injuries, she was visibly lame and in pain. Diagnoses were made by positive cranial drawer signs.

**TREATMENT:** The right injury (1st) was treated three weeks post injury with a Patsaama Stifle surgery. The left injury (2nd) was treated with a Hero Stifle Brace 10 days post-injury. Pharmaceutical treatment included Adequan injections once a week for five weeks, Tramadol and Rimadyl. The owners were instructed on home physical therapy including ladder and side-to-side exercises, as tolerated, with increases as Annie accepted. Two months post-brace fitting, the brace was remade due to weight changes. She was also put on a metabolic diet to further help with weight loss.

**RESULTS:** Five months post-injury, Annie is very active and playful with no signs of lameness. She no longer uses the brace on a day-to-day basis, only for very high activity times.

**“We were very excited she could go from non-ambulatory to playing in five months.”**

**- Anna Bade, LVT**

## COST & BENEFITS

### Surgery: \$2,500 - \$10,000

#### PROS

Some vets feel strongly that this is the best option. Surgery may offer positive results for your dog. It all depends on matching your pet's activity level, size, age and degree of instability with the correct surgical technique. There are a dozen surgeries for the CCL alone.

#### CONS

Dog may not be an anesthesia candidate due to weight, age or other health issues. There is a risk of losing leg function entirely. There is a chance of wound complications. There is a chance of amputation due to healing complications, although risk is minor. Arthritis still forms. It can be cost prohibitive.

### Conservative Management: Free/Low Cost

#### PROS

It is budget-friendly. Non-invasive, you do not have to worry about anesthesia or wound complications.

#### CONS

It can be very stressful to the owner and the dog, as round-the-clock crating is unpleasant. Long term arthritis formation is often treated with medications. There is a risk of breakdown of the joints in the non-injured limbs due to a shift in weight-bearing.

✦ ✦  
✦ It's tough to save the day if you do not know all of your options. Hero wants you to make an informed decision on what is the right treatment for your dog's knee or leg injury.



### Hero Brace: \$849\*

Hero Braces are a great stand alone option. They can also be a companion piece for surgery or conservative management. Here's what is included:

#### CASTING KIT

The cost of our Hero Braces include a casting kit, which is used to make a custom brace for your dog. This helps ensure the best possible fit for your pet.

#### BRACE

Our Hero Braces are biomechanically engineered medical devices that are specifically made for your dog. They are made from durable polypropylene plastic, neoprene padding and Velcro® materials.

#### GUARANTEES

The joints on our braces are guaranteed for life. The plastic lasts two to five years, long after most dogs recover from their injuries. The fabric straps can be replaced for a minimal charge.

#### PERFECT FIT

We will provide three adjustments to the device to ensure proper fit at no charge.

#### CUSTOMER SERVICE

We work with your veterinarian to provide a rehabilitation regimen for your pet. We also have medical experts available to answer any questions.



**HERO!**

\*Professional pricing is available. Contact us for the discount code.



# HERO

HELPING PETS



## RAVE REVIEWS

### Caroline Adrian, PT, PhD and CCRP

Director of Rehabilitation Services for all VCA Hospitals

“Hero has, in my opinion, designed the most biomechanically accurate braces for carpal, tarsal and stifle issues. Casting is easy, with the dog in side-lying, and the process from start to finish takes me no more than 20-30 minutes in the clinic. From talking with the client, to evaluating the dog, to casting and mailing the brace, the process is quick and simple.

Ben and his staff are extremely responsive to any questions or concerns that I might have with a patient and offer outstanding clinician support. The videos and learning tools online are most beneficial and easy to follow. The brace itself is easy for clients to use, with minimal complications (due to their accurate design) and/or adjustments needed.

Clients are very satisfied with the product and see positive results immediately in their dog after the first fitting!”

### Sarah Bradley, DVM

Veterinarian at All About Pets, Citrus Heights, Ca.

“This brace is exactly what I was looking for. It’s custom fit for him [Jack, Sarah’s dog] and he is able to wear it all day without a problem. Now that I know that the brace is effective and wonderful, I now have another option to offer my clients!”



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