



# PLDA

## PERCUTANEOUS LASER DISC ABLATION



**DR. GAEMIA TRACY**  
IS USING THIS MINIMALLY INVASIVE  
PROPHYLACTIC PROCEDURE FOR  
THORACOLUMBAR DISC DISEASE.

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Percutaneous Laser Disc Ablation (PLDA) is a procedure for preventing thoracolumbar intervertebral disc herniation in dogs. This procedure is ideal for chondrodystrophic (dwarf) breeds like Dachshunds, Beagles, Bassett Hounds, French Bulldogs, and other small breeds predisposed to disc herniations. A study by Dugal et. al. at Oklahoma State University in 2016 showed that the procedure significantly reduced the chance of a future disc herniation from 25% down to 10%, with 92.7% of clients rating their satisfaction with the procedure a nine or ten out of ten.

### Leading The Future of Veterinary Medicine

Currently, only four hospitals in the United States offer this procedure and Dr. Gaemia Tracy of NorthStar VETS® is the only doctor on the east coast trained to perform PLDA.

### Eligibility

Dogs eligible for this procedure must be an at-risk breed, and pain-free for the last two weeks. The procedure can be done prophylactically, meaning that a prior diagnosis of back pain is not necessary.

### How it Works

Small spinal needles are inserted into the dog's disc space, where a fiber-optic laser as thin as a hair is inserted through the needle down into the nucleus of the disc. Energy through the laser liquifies the nucleus of the disc, reducing the chances of a future herniation. The procedure takes about an hour, and when it's done, there are no cuts or stitches in the dog's vertebrae, muscle or skin. That means that this minimally-invasive procedure significantly cuts down on recovery time. In fact, most dogs go home the next day for two weeks of rest and leash walks.

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