

# CCMT Faculty

[Dr. Debbie Gross \(Torraca\), DPT, MSPT, OCS, Diplomate ABPTS \(Orthopedics\), CCRP](#)  
[Dr. David Levine, P.T., Ph.D., D.P.T., Diplomate ABPTS \(Orthopedics\), CCRP, Cert. D.N.](#)  
[Dr. Matt Brunke, DVM, CCRP, CVPP, CVA](#)

## **Dr. Debbie Gross (Torraca)**

**DPT, MSPT, OCS, Diplomate ABPTS (Orthopedics), CCRP**



Debbie has practiced manual therapy since 1990. She has studied the approaches of Geoffrey Maitland, James Christ, Freddie Kalltenborn, and Brian Mulligan in her human practice and studies. In 1999, Debbie spoke at the First Mulligan Symposium on her work with Mulligan's principles applied to humans. She was the only one of the renowned speakers to talk about animals. Since then, she has worked closely with Brian over the years on a continued development of his functional principles with the dog. That have co taught together and Brian has written the forward on a joint mobilization text she is co-editing and writing with Dr. Matt Brunke. She is in the process of conducting research on the efficacy of various joint mobilization techniques. In addition, Debbie has a hands on approach in an active clinic.

Debbie graduated from Boston University with her physical therapy degree in 1990 and continued with her postgraduate orthopedic physical therapy degree at Quinnipiac College where she graduated with distinction in 1999. In addition, she is a board certified specialist in orthopedics by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. She received her doctorate in physical therapy in 2008 from the University of Tennessee.

She has been practicing in the field of small animal rehabilitation for over seventeen years and has published in both the veterinarian field and the canine athletic field. She is the owner of a successful physical rehabilitation practice in Connecticut, Wizard of Paws Physical Rehabilitation for Animals, LLC. She has currently produced numerous DVDs aimed at the performance dogs and has authored many publications in the canine sports medicine field. She enjoys speaking nationally and internationally.

## **Dr. David Levine**

**P.T., Ph.D., D.P.T., Diplomate ABPTS (Orthopedics), CCRP, Cert. D.N.**



David has taught manual therapy in entry-level physical therapy programs since 1990. He has also taught numerous manual therapy seminars to practicing PTs, primarily utilizing a Maitland based approach. He has trained in Cyriax, Mckenzie, Mulligan, and Maitland approaches to manual therapy. He has also published research on joint mobilization in both humans and dogs. His latest research in this area (2017) has utilized MRI to assess intervertebral motion in the human cervical spine during graded mobilizations.

David is the Cline Chair of Excellence and UC Foundation Professor of Physical Therapy at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, adjunct associate professor at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary medicine, and adjunct professor at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He has published in numerous peer-reviewed veterinary journals and is co-editor of the books Canine Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy (2004, 2013) and Essential Facts of Physiotherapy in Dogs and Cats (2004).

**Dr. Matt Brunke**  
**DVM, CCRP, CVPP, CVA**



Dr. Matt Brunke has learned manual therapy through the application of anatomy and clinical experience. He has incorporated massage into his rehab practice since being certified in 2008. He has trained under Dr. Gross (Torraca) and Dr. Levine for joint mobilizations, and has continued to blend these skills into his patient care.

Dr. Brunke was born and raised in Queens, NY. He attained his BS in Animal Science from Cornell University. After attending Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts he did his clinical rotations at Purdue University and began practicing in upstate NY in 2004. He was the first veterinarian in the Capital District to be certified in canine rehab (CCRP through the University of Tennessee) and oversaw a rehab practice from 2007-2012. He was part of the founding team of North Country Veterinary Referral Center, where he designed and was director of the rehab and sports medicine department.

Dr. Brunke believes in a big picture and practical approach to his patients. He has a special interest in palliative care and canine athletes. He teaches nationally and internationally on numerous rehabilitation topics. When not at work he can be found outside training for triathlons and marathons. He finished Ironman Lake Placid in 2015 and is back in training again. Penny his 3 year old pit bull is his running buddy and training partner. Adelaide is his 2 year-old Newfoundland.

Matt is board-eligible for the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation; and will be sitting for boards in January 2018. Currently, he is a Fellow in Sports Medicine and Rehab at Veterinary Orthopedic & Sports Medicine (VOSM) Group in Annapolis Junction, MD. At VOSM he receives new consults, performing workups (radiographs, diagnostic musculoskeletal ultrasound) and therapies including joint injections, platelet rich plasma (PRP) and stem cell therapy.