

CHIROPRACTIC CARE OF ANIMALS



Standard of Practice S-009
Quality Assurance Committee
Approved by Council: April 25, 1998
Amended: February 19, 2008, December 4, 2015

Note to Readers: In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that affects chiropractic practice, the legislation governs.

INTENT

To advise members on when and how they can conduct chiropractic care of animals, and to remind them that the primary responsibility for the health care of animals is with veterinarians.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote professionalism, safety and effectiveness in the chiropractic care of animals.
- To inform members of CCO of their obligations relating to the chiropractic care of animals.
- To ensure appropriate coordination and consultation between chiropractors and veterinarians in the chiropractic care of animals.
- To educate the public as to the appropriate nature of the chiropractic care of animals.

DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD

A member is advised that:

- The primary responsibility for the health care of animals is with registrants of the CVO, who are responsible for appropriate history taking, comprehensive examination, including clinical pathology, and imaging, and the overall care/management of animals.
- Consent to the chiropractic care of animals must be fully informed and voluntarily given by the owner of the animal, and members are required to comply with all standards of practice and applicable legislation relating to chiropractic.

In providing chiropractic care to an animal, a member shall:

- demonstrate successful completion of a program in animal chiropractic of a minimum of 200 hours of formal training that includes, but is not limited to, studies in the following subject areas: anatomy, neurology, biomechanics, animal adjustment technique, diagnosis, pathology, chiropractic philosophy, and ethics and legalities;

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- ensure the record of care includes the name of the treating registrant of CVO and the relevant portions of the veterinary record;
- provide, upon request and only with the consent from the owner of the animal or otherwise in accordance with the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004*, a copy of relevant portions of the record to the treating registrant of CVO within a reasonable time of providing chiropractic care to an animal;
- maintain separate appointment books, separate health and financial records and, where animals are provided with chiropractic care in the same office as humans, maintain a separate portion of the office devoted to animal chiropractic¹; and
- ensure that the owner of the animal(s) is fully informed about the member's insurance coverage².

Exemption

A member will be exempted from the first bulleted item above if she/she:

- is enrolled and participating in an approved program in animal chiropractic, leading to the successful completion of a program in animal chiropractic of a minimum of 200 hours of formal training that includes, but is not limited to, studies in the following subject areas, anatomy, neurology, biomechanics, animal adjustment technique, diagnosis, pathology, chiropractic philosophy, and ethics and legalities;
- completes the approved program in animal chiropractic within two years of their enrolment;
- provides chiropractic care to animals within the parameters of their course of study; and
- informs the owner of the animal(s) that they have enrolled and are participating in but have not yet graduated from an approved program in animal chiropractic.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The governing legislation as it relates to human health care is the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, as amended (*RHPA*) and the *Chiropractic Act, 1991*. The governing legislation as it relates to animal health care is the *Veterinarians Act, 1990*. Specific relevant provisions are outlined below. The *RHPA* and the *Chiropractic Act* are administered by CCO and the *Veterinarians Act* is administered by CVO.

¹ Maintenance of separate office space is a minimum requirement for health and sanitation reasons, particularly in light of the various communicable diseases common to human and animals.

² This requires the member to advise the owner of the animal if the member's policy of insurance or membership in a protective association does not provide coverage for the chiropractic care of animals. The owner should be informed about the member's insurance coverage as part of the general requirement that there be "informed" consent.

Sections of the *RHPA*

Objects and Duty of the CCO – Section 3 of the Regulated Health Professions (Code), Schedule 2 to *RHPA* (Code):

(1) [CCO] has the following objects:

- To develop, establish and maintain programs and standards of practice to assure the quality of the practice of the profession.
- To develop, establish and maintain standards of knowledge, skill and programs to promote continuing competence among the members.

(2) In carrying out its objects, the [CCO] has a duty to serve and protect the public interest.”

Sections of the *Chiropractic Act*

Section 3: Chiropractic Scope of Practice

“The practice of chiropractic is the assessment of conditions related to the spine, nervous system and joints and the diagnosis, prevention and treatment, primarily by adjustment, of,

- dysfunctions or disorders arising from the structures or functions of the spine and the effects of those dysfunctions or disorders on the nervous system; and
- dysfunctions or disorders arising from the structures or functions of the joints.”

Section 9: Restricted Titles for Chiropractic

“(1) No person other than a member shall use the title ‘chiropractor’, a variation or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language.

(2) No person other than a member shall hold himself or herself out as a person who is qualified to practise in Ontario as a chiropractor or in a specialty of chiropractic.

(3) In this section, ‘abbreviation’ includes an abbreviation of a variation.”

Sections of Regulation 852/93 under the *Chiropractic Act*

Section 1 (2): Definition of Professional Misconduct for Chiropractors (Standards of Practice)

“The following are acts of professional misconduct for the purposes of clause 51 (1) (c) of the Health Professions Procedural Code: Contravening a standard of practice of the profession or failing to maintain the standard of practice expected of members of the profession.”

Sections of the *Veterinarians Act*

Subsection 1 (1): Definition of Veterinary Medicine

“The ‘practice of veterinary medicine’ includes the practice of dentistry, obstetrics (including ova and embryo transfer) and surgery in relation to an animal other than a human being.”

Section 3: Objects of CVO

- “(1) The principal object of the [CVO] is to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine and to govern its members in accordance with this Act, the regulations and the by-laws so as to serve and protect the public interest.
- (2) For the purpose of carrying out its principal object, the [CVO] has the following additional objects:
- establish, maintain and develop standards of knowledge and skill among its members; and
 - establish, maintain and develop standards of qualification and standards of practice for the practice of veterinary medicine.”

Subsection 11 (1): Licence Required to Practice Veterinary Medicine

“No person shall engage in the practice of veterinary medicine or hold himself/herself out as engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine unless the person is the holder of a license.”

Sections of Regulation 1093 (General – Part II Practice Standards) under the *Veterinarians Act*

Section 17: Definition of Professional Misconduct for Veterinarians (Standards of Practice)

“For the purposes of the Act, professional misconduct includes the following: Failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession.”