

## LANAnC62

# Provide and evaluate the physical therapy of animals



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### Overview

This standard covers the provision and evaluation of physical therapies to animals.

The Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) limits the activities that may be carried out by those who are not qualified veterinary surgeons. All activities should be carried out within the constraints of the Veterinary Surgeons Act and the Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 1962.

Users of the standard will need to be appropriately trained and ensure that practice applies scientifically robust information, humane standards and policies, and that they work within the limits of their authority, expertise, training, competence and experience.

This standard is suitable for those providing physical therapy services to animals owned by others on referral from a veterinary surgeon.

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 work in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966), the Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 1962 and the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- P2 maintain your own professional conduct and ethics and work within the requirements of the relevant professional organisation
- P3 assess practices in a scientifically robust manner to determine their suitability, efficacy and welfare implications
- P4 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and associated codes of practice at all times
- P5 assess how the needs of animals may be provided while under your duty of care
- P6 assess the potential risks to health and safety when providing physical therapy to animals
- P7 ensure appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security are maintained
- P8 assess the animal's suitability for the physical therapy treatment plan in terms of its health and behaviour, in advance and on the day of treatment
- P9 acclimatise the animal to the therapy environment, equipment and treatment method
- P10 implement a method of humane handling and control that is appropriate for the animal concerned and its treatment requirements in order to minimise the risks to the animal, yourself and others
- P11 adapt the handling and control of the animal in response to its reactions and behaviour
- P12 complete pre-treatment preparation as relevant to the therapy, this may include showering, removing animal clothing/rugs, clipping
- P13 administer treatment to meet the needs of the animal, its condition and requirements
- P14 monitor and record the animal's response and progress throughout the treatment plan
- P15 monitor the animal for signs of pain, distress or alarm and respond accordingly
- P16 recognise where the animal's progress may be influenced by activity in the immediate environment
- P17 recognise when behaviour of the animal may indicate that you should not continue with the activity
- P18 recognise situations that require referral back to the referring veterinary surgeon
- P19 complete post-treatment procedures and ensure that the animal is in a

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suitable condition to return to its owner

- P20 evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment plan and review the plan accordingly
- P21 ensure that the animal's response and progress to the treatment plan is communicated to the owner and referring veterinary surgeon
- P22 offer **advice to the owner** on the care of animals following treatment and any actions that should be carried out
- P23 plan, record and evaluate Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 the requirements of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) and the Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 1962 in relation to your role and the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- K2 your professional responsibilities and the importance of Continuing Professional Development to maintain professional competence
- K3 how to assess practices in a scientifically robust manner to determine their suitability, efficacy and welfare implications
- K4 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice
- K5 the importance of maintaining appropriate levels of bio-security and how this can be achieved
- K6 how the needs of animals under your duty of care may be assessed and addressed
- K7 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
- K8 the anatomy and physiology of the species you are working with
- K9 the physiological effects of the physical therapy
- K10 the physical effects of the physical therapy
- K11 the possible effects of the physical therapy on the animal's behaviour
- K12 the importance of acclimatising animals to the treatment environment, equipment and method, and the techniques that can be used to achieve this.
- K13 precautions to be taken to prevent injury, stress or the worsening of existing conditions to the animal
- K14 the importance of recognising behaviour which indicates it would not be appropriate to continue with the activity
- K15 factors that may cause distress, pain or alarm in animals and how to recognise and assess the signs and the potential response of the animal
- K16 how to recognise emergency situations and the action to be taken to deal with them
- K17 the principles of animal first aid and the protocols that apply to the provision of first aid and emergency treatment to animals in your centre
- K18 how to identify damage or faults to facilities, supplies, equipment or resources used for various animal therapy treatments and the action to

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be taken once they have been identified

- K19 how to recognise your own abilities and limitations with regard to the handling and control of animals and how these might be improved
- K20 how your actions, the actions of people or other animals may affect the behaviour, welfare and progress during physical therapy
- K21 how to implement and evaluate a treatment plan for an animal, taking into account specific medical or post-surgical conditions
- K22 why it is important to keep the client informed of the actions being taken
- K23 how to advise clients on appropriate actions following treatment and the importance of observing the animal's behaviour
- K24 appropriate records to be kept, the importance of confidentiality and the requirements of the Data Protection Act (1998)
- K25 your legal and professional liability when working as an animal health and welfare paraprofessional and the importance of appropriate insurance cover

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#### Scope/range

#### Advice to the owner could include :

- 1 treatment or therapy equipment and methods available
- 2 overview of range of programmes and equipment, suitability, selection criteria and associated benefits
- 3 preparations prior to treatment/therapy
- 4 care after the treatment/therapy
- 5 client obligations in relation to animal welfare legislation.

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#### Glossary

#### **Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966):**

It is illegal under the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) for non-veterinary surgeons to practise veterinary surgery.

The Act defines Veterinary Surgery as:

- the diagnosis of diseases in, and injuries to, animals including tests performed on animals for diagnostic purposes;
- the giving of advice based upon such diagnosis;
- the medical or surgical treatment of animals; and
- the performance of surgical operations on animals.

**The Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 1962** allows for the treatment of animals by physiotherapy, provided that the animal has first been seen by a veterinary surgeon who has diagnosed the condition and decided that it should be treated by physiotherapy under his/her direction.

"Physiotherapy" is interpreted as including all kinds of manipulative therapy. It therefore includes osteopathy and chiropractic but would not, for example, include acupuncture or aromatherapy.

#### **Current animal welfare legislation:**

- England and Wales, Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Scotland, Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006
- Northern Ireland, Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

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