POLICY OF THE VERMONT STATE VETERINARY BOARD

Originally Adopted July 23, 1992

Alternative Therapies

Re: Dentistry, Physical Therapy, Acupuncture, Chiropractic, etc. in Veterinary Medicine

Currently, in Vermont, there are no provisions to allow a person other than a licensed veterinarian to administer treatment or to authorize treatment to animals. The exception is a person treating his or her own animal. A veterinarian may be assisted in the practice of veterinary medicine by a person other than a licensed veterinarian if that person is acting under the veterinarian's direct supervision.

Therefore, an acupuncturist, physical therapist, physician, chiropractor, dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, herbalist, animal dental technician, or other practitioner of medical arts, who is not a veterinarian may assist a licensed veterinarian in treating animals by administering treatments upon them, but only when the treatment has been prescribed by the veterinarian and the treatment is provided under the veterinarian's on-premise supervision. This applies to therapies and procedures on large and small animals.

It would constitute unlicensed practice if the veterinarian failed to exercise his or her independent judgement in the diagnosis and prescribing of appropriate treatment for the animal and merely acted as a "conduit" for the unlicensed person to practice on animals.

A person, including an acupuncturist, herbalist, physical therapist, physician, chiropractor, dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, or animal dental technician, etc., who is not a veterinarian and who represents that he or she practices veterinary medicine independently of a veterinarian by treating animals, is in violation of the practice act and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Any veterinarian who aids and abets the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine may have action taken against his or her license for unprofessional conduct.

Policy adopted: July 23, 1992 meeting
Policy amended: May 13, 1993 meeting
Policy amended: July 15, 1993 meeting
Policy Readopted: