

**ANIMAL PHYSICAL THERAPY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP,
ORTHOPAEDIC SECTION, APTA, INC.**
ELECTRONIC MAIL NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2007

APT-SIG President's Welcome

Greetings! In addition to our regular newsletter featured in the Orthopaedic Section's quarterly magazine, *Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice (OPTP)*, I wanted to be sure that the APT-SIG Board was sharing the latest information and news regarding animal physical therapy and rehabilitation with our membership in a timely way. You'll find some bits of information here that hopefully will encourage you to ask more questions and to get involved!

Amie Lamoreaux Hesbach, MSPT, CCRP
President, Animal Physical Therapy Special Interest Group

New Animal Physiotherapy Text from Blackwell

From Laurie Edge-Hughes, BScPT, CCRT, MAnSt (Animal Physio), Chairperson of the Canadian Horse and Animal Physical Therapist's Association (CHAP):

"I wanted to pass along a book alert. A new comprehensive text on animal physiotherapy is set to hit the market soon from Blackwell publishing. I coauthor a chapter in this book and I am sure that our Australian colleagues did a smashing job on the rest of it!"

Animal Physiotherapy: Assessment, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Animals
Edited by: Catherine McGowan (University of Queensland, Queensland, Australia), Lesley Goff and Narelle Stubbs (University of Queensland)

Description of the Text: "Animal Physiotherapy is an essential reference guide for physiotherapists looking to apply the proven benefits of physiotherapy to the treatment of companion and performance animals. Animal Physiotherapy is a growing profession of physiotherapists who have broadened their expertise from the well-established human sphere to animals. The positive perception of physiotherapy in the human sphere, together with an increased awareness of options and expertise available for animals has resulted in a strong demand for physiotherapy for animals.

For the physiotherapist this book provides essential applied background information on animal behavior, nutrition, biomechanics and exercise physiology. For veterinarians and others who work with animals, the book reviews the scientific principles behind the practice of physiotherapy, and what it can achieve.

- Includes reviews of different physiotherapy techniques, drawing on both human and animal literature;
- Discusses approaches in small animal medicine as well as for elite equine athletes;
- Includes applied evidence-based clinical reasoning model, providing case examples.”

It can be viewed and pre-ordered online at Blackwell at:

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/book.asp?ref=9781405131957&site=6>”

WCPT 2007 Animal Physical Therapy Networking Session

Steve Strunk, PT, immediate past Vice President of the APT-SIG, invites all APT-SIG members to a Networking Session on Animal Physical Therapy at WCPT 2007. The session is scheduled for Monday June 4, 2007 from 4:15-5:45pm in Meeting Room 7 of the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre (VCEC). WCPT has scheduled this networking session in response to the potential recognition of an international organization for animal physical therapy in the future. For further information, check out the WCPT web site at www.wcpt.org

Saunders Featured on Sirius Radio Show

Deborah Gross Saunders, MSPT, CCRP, OCS, immediate past President of the APT-SIG, was featured on "Ask Martha's Vet with Dr. Marty Goldstein" on Sirius Radio's Martha Stewart Living Channel on March 26. Debbie was featured on the show about "Helping and Healing Arthritic, Dysplastic and Injured Dogs".

MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS NOW ACCEPTING COURSES IN ANIMAL STUDIES FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

The Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (MBPTE) is now granting continuing education unit (CEU) credit in animal course work meeting their requirements for physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapist assistants (PTAs). This is a reversal of their previous stance. No animal studies were approved for CEU by the MBPTE prior to the advent of the on-site and distance learning courses offered by the Animal Physical Therapy Special Interest Group, Orthopaedic Section, American Physical Therapy Association, Inc. These programs had to be granted credit as they were offered under the APTA. When these courses expired, PTs and PTAs participating in animal studies outside the APTA did so without being credited for this work toward renewal of their licenses.

Those offering and participating in courses in animal rehabilitation studies may visit the MBPTE web site for CEU guidelines and application information: <http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bphte/ceuinfo/index.html>.

Licensed PTs and PTAs in Maryland are reminded to always check with the MBPTE to make sure courses they are attending have been, or will be accepted for CEUs.

DVM: The Newsmagazine of Veterinary Medicine: Legislative Watch

The March 2007 issue of *DVM* featured an article on proposed laws targeting veterinary medicine suggesting that “it’s anything but a clean bill of health.” The APT-SIG continues in its goal of collegial collaboration with the veterinary medical profession and hopes that we continue to be seen in a positive light rather than as a threat. Regardless, the following proposed regulations, which pertain to the practice of physical therapy as well, are cited in the article:

“California: Citation: California Veterinary Medical Board regulatory proposal. Summary: The California Veterinary Medical Association is drafting a proposal to define physical therapy practices on animals by non-veterinarians and the level of veterinary supervision required. Status: In development.

“Colorado: Citation: HB 1126, Concerning the Authority of Physical Therapists to Perform Physical Therapy on Animals. Summary: The bill allows licensed physical therapists to treat animals. It was amended to state that a veterinarian must certify that the animal has no other medial conditions and that physical therapy would not hurt the animal. The bill also provides for credentials and training. Status: Introduced January 16. The amended version passed the health and human services committee February 5.

“Oregon: Citation: SB 438, Criminal, Civil Damages for Acts Against Guide Dogs. Summary: Allows for the recovery of economic and non-economic damages for a person with physical impairment if their assistance animal is injured or disabled. IT exempts veterinary practices. Status: Introduced January 22 and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee on January 29. Public hearing held February 12.

“Pennsylvania: Citation: Certified Veterinary Technician Specailties-49 Pa. Code, Chapter 31. Summary: Proposes that only individuals certified by a veterinary technology academy recognized by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians may hold him/herself out as a specialist. Increases biennial renewal fees for veterinary technicians and veterinarians. Clarifies conduct that constitutes unprofessional conduct. Proposes changes to the sections pertaining to veterinary dentistry, veterinary records and standards for

and registration of veterinary facilities. Status: Proposed March 18, 2006, published August 1 in Governors Office Regulatory Agenda Notice and pending.”

There were also bills introduced in Alabama and Washington regarding the definition/scope of massage therapy on animals.

Missing: APT-SIG State Liaison
Reward if Found!
Contact Amie at rehab@forpawsrehab.com