

**ANIMAL PHYSICAL THERAPY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP, ORTHOPAEDIC SECTION, APTA
ELECTRONIC MAIL NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2007**

APT-SIG Chairperson's Welcome

The remainder of 2007 is shaping up to be an exciting one for the Animal Physical Therapy Special Interest Group. Members of the APT-SIG board have been invited to attend events at WCPT, the APTA Annual Conference, the APTA State Government Affairs Forum, the Orthopaedic Section Board of Directors Meeting, and the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Symposium, among others.

Additionally, there are projects in the works, including the Animal Physical Therapy Practice Analysis, the ever-evolving State Liaison Network (of which we now have 33 liaisons—and some states with more than one!), and the canine and equine comparative anatomy Independent Study Course.

We're on board with the Aquatics Section to cosponsor programming for CSM 2008. We will be presenting a series of lectures on comparative aquatic therapy techniques for rehabilitating the human, dog, and horse. Suggestions and ideas for CSM 2009 are more than welcome!

We're also soliciting volunteers for a new project. Following in the footsteps of the Performing Arts SIG, we'd like to be able to offer a Student Scholarship for CSM 2009. One requirement for this scholarship would be the accepted submission of an abstract pertaining to animal physical therapy. We would love for an APT-SIG member to take the lead on this project. Please contact me directly if you're interested!

Another possible project in the works is to establish a liaison network with other professional and interest-focused organizations. Both the Performing Arts and Occupational Health SIGs have established such networks. Possible organizations with which our SIG could liaise include the American Veterinary Medical Association, American College of Veterinary Surgeons, American Canine Sports Medicine Association, American Kennel Club (and affiliates), International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management, etc.

Don't forget, the APT-SIG Membership Certificate is available! E-mail Tara Fredrickson at the Orthopaedic Section office for details: tfred@orthopt.org.

Have a happy, safe, and healthy summer!
Amie Lamoreaux Hesbach, MSPT, CCRP
Chairperson, Animal Physical Therapy Special Interest Group

Congrats to the Colorado Crew!!!

The headline of the April 2007 DVM News reads, "Colorado bill would open practice of alternative modalities". This article was a discussion of the campaign of practitioners of "massage, acupuncture, and muscle work" to practice on animals without veterinary supervision or referral. The final paragraphs of the article lightly pat our Colorado APT-SIG liaison and committee on the back...

"Veterinarians and physical therapists have been able to reach general agreements over HB 1126, which (Senator Steve) Johnson (DVM) backed in February during a hearing with the state's Health and Human Services Committee. The bill, which has not yet been voted into law, would allow physical therapists to practice on animals without a veterinary license, but under the supervision of a licensed DVM.

“Here is a licensed profession that had extensive discussions with another licensed profession, so it has regulatory oversight, and there’s public and consumer protection...”

In addition to the tremendous number of hours volunteered by APT-SIG members, liaisons, and officers in working towards the goal of establishing regulations for the provision of animal physical therapy by licensed physical therapy professionals in Colorado, the APT-SIG has donated \$2,000 to support these ground-breaking efforts. The leadership of the APT-SIG and Orthopaedic Section believe that the State of Colorado might serve as a model for other states to follow to also achieve success in future legislative efforts for physical therapists to provide services on and for animals.

“Colorado House Bill 07-1126 will extend the physical therapist’s scope of practice from human beings to patients and clients. The bill requires that a physical therapist obtain a veterinary medical clearance prior to treating the animal, and specifies that the respective licensing boards for physical therapy and veterinary medicine collaborate in developing rules to implement the statute, with those rules covering such things as education and clinical experience requirements for physical therapists who wish to provide therapy to animals.”

Who Would Have Guessed? Ten Hot Jobs for 2007 by Candace Corner, CareerBuilder.com

As the world continues to advance and change technologically, we are living longer, retiring later and pursuing higher education at a higher rate than generations before us, and the employment market is changing right alongside us. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, technology is just one of the few factors in determining what's going to be the next great gig out there. Demographic shifts, legislative changes, business trends and consumer behavior also factor into what's going to be the next big thing and what's going to be history.

Here are some of today's jobs that are on the cutting edge:

1. Radiation Therapist
2. Nurse Paralegal
3. Genetic Counselor
4. Legal Nurse Consultant
5. Art Therapist
6. Computer Forensic Expert
7. Medical Illustrator
8. *Veterinary Physical Therapist*

What they do: Focus on animal treatment and rehabilitation methods, including hydrotherapy, swimming, exercise and massage.

What you need: Certification training is offered to licensed veterinarians, veterinary technicians and physical therapists. Some certification programs require written exams, and follow-up case reports, independent studies and take-home exams are also available.

9. Animal Defense Lawyer
10. *Animal Assisted Therapist*

What they do: Study and identify behavioral patterns in animals and apply techniques to improve mental, social and physical issues within humans through animal/human companionship.

What you need: A bachelor's of science degree in psychology, social work, physical therapy, nursing or education. Additional training and certification in Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) is a big plus. AAT program concentrations can include elderly care, social work, education and other specialties.

Pertinent and Recently Published

Congratulations to Jackie Woelz, MS, PT of Davis Veterinary School for recent publication of "Treatment of traumatic cervical myelopathy with surgery, prolonged positive-pressure ventilation, and physical therapy in a dog. J American Veterinary Medical Association 2007,230:370-374.

Varcoe-Cocks K, Sagar KN, Jeccott, LB, McGowan CM. Pressure algometry to quantify muscle pain in racehorses with suspected sacroiliac dysfunction. Equine Vet J 2006,8(6):558-62.

Haussler KK, Erb HN. Pressure algometry for the detection of induced back pain in horses: a preliminary study. Equine Vet J 2006,38(1);76-81.

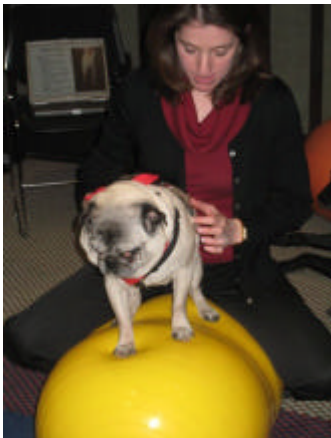
Kathimann I, Cizinauskas S, et al. Daily controlled physiotherapy increases survival time in dogs with suspected degenerative myelopathy. J Vet Intern Med 2006,20:927-932.

Monk ML, Preston CA, McGowan CM. Effects of early intensive postoperative physiotherapy on limb function after tibial plateau leveling osteotomy in dogs with deficiency of the cranial cruciate ligament. Am J Vet Res 2006,67(3):529-36.

A Valuable New Addition to your Library

McGowan C, Goff L, and Stubbs N. Animal Physiotherapy: Assessment, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of Animals. Blackwell Publishing. 2007.

Scenes from CSM 2007



CSM 2007 Update: Feedback from Caring Canines

Following are some comments received from the volunteers of Caring Canines who graciously assisted the APT-SIG with our hands-on demonstration and laboratory at CSM 2007. Thanks also to Gina Epifano who made such a day possible!

What fun this was today! Although as I mentioned, this was not what I had expected, I am so glad to have been a part of it and so was Bear. Thanks again for getting us all organized with this adventure - it was great.

Take care,
Sue

It was a BLAST!!! I was so impressed at how well such a large group of dogs could be cooped up together for such a long period of time in a relatively small space in the back of the meeting room and all get along so beautifully - they were all wonderfully behaved!

Jazz and I had a wonderful time—maybe my time was better than Jazz', but she was quite the trooper. So tired tonight; she's been napping since we got home.
Thanks again for this awesome opportunity.
Rosemary

Casey and I had fun, and I learned a lot about this exciting therapy field. I was so impressed with the program! Glad that we could participate. Thanks for getting us involved in this- it was well worth it.
Helen C.

It was a great event and I was so happy to see so many participants asking questions and learning about how to perform PT on dogs. They were a really sharp group of participants and the instructors were great. Jack especially liked the goodie bag they packed for him; what a nice touch! Please thank the coordinators for such a thoughtful gesture! Thank you for coordinating this event and allowing us to participate; it was a great day! I think all the dogs will be sleeping well tonight, especially with bellies full of treats all afternoon.
Cindy Ray

AMEN . . .everyone played nice!! Thank you Dorsey for keeping us all on track. Zinnia and I enjoyed our venture into the city with all of you.
Gail

Super afternoon! The dogs were great and they impressed our hosts with their manners and skills. I can't begin to count how many people Joseph and I met this afternoon. My stack of visiting cards and reserve bundle were all used save three. Our teams demonstrated the true make up of CC therapy dogs.
Peter

Sam and I had a wonderful time today. He was asleep before we left the parking garage! I want to be the first to volunteer for next year!!!! Today was a pleasure.
Thanks,
Cindy Brown

Hi -- you would have had a tough time getting a picture of Trooper on the escalator! I got on the first one we encountered thinking T was trotting along next to me - next thing my arm was practically yanked out of its socket and when I looked back, there was Trooper at the foot of the escalator, all four paws dug in, and an expression that clearly said NO WAY, JOSE, AM I GETTING ON THAT THING! Luckily Helen was right there with Casey, so I was able to throw the leash to her and then scramble against the tide to get back down to Trooper.
Obviously escalators are an acquired taste that we'll have to work on. Trooper has barely moved a muscle since we got home - he's enjoying a much deserved rest as I'm sure all his teammates are this evening. It was great working with you all and, Dorsey, thanks so much for organizing this.
Kate

Zoey actually didn't mind being home alone tonight when I went to work, since he was comatose from the moment we hit the car....takes a lot out of a dog to play on the stability ball and discover you have no core muscles....poor Zoey...
:) JEN

Thanks Dorsey and anyone else who helped to set the event up. What a fantastic event. I can't say Serena was any more tired than usual. She still playing with the other dogs at night and is acting like a noodle today. She did enjoy herself immensely. What a great event for them and for us. Thanks!

Amy

Nebraska Wakes Up To Animal Therapy: Proposed Legislation From The Board Of Veterinary Medicine And Surgery

Submitted by: Kirk Peck PT, PhD, CSCS, Chair, NE State Legislative Affairs, NE Liaison, APTA Animal PT SIG

In the realm of increasing interests in the growth of animal rehabilitation as a specialty focus in physical therapy, an interesting development has occurred in the state of Nebraska. The Veterinary Board of Medicine and Surgery has recently proposed a statutory initiative to create an entity entitled, "Registered Animal Therapist". The "RAT" as some might call it is a registry process to be housed in the Veterinary Practice Act, and thus also controlled through the Veterinary Board of Rules and Regulations. What makes this proposal unique is that the Vet Board is looking to collaborate with potentially *any* health care professional listed in the NE Uniform Licensing Law who completes additional training requirements. By meeting the yet to be determined requirements, a licensed professional could apply for registration to perform therapy on animals, but *only* within their respective scope of practice. In other words, a PT could only perform therapy within their scope of current practice and likewise for a Chiropractor, Massage Therapist, or others.

The Vet Board drafted this piece of legislation in response to health care consumers (in this case animal owners) who are specifically asking for specialty services – services that many Vets are realizing may best be offered through collaborative relations with other health care professionals. In addition, members of the Vet Board have indicated a desire to be proactive by creating a legal option to refer their clients for services provided by many sources of expertise, and not just physical therapy. In essence, this closes the door to individual negotiations between the Vet Board and other health professions since the "registry" would be available to anyone appropriately licensed in Nebraska.

Since May of 2007 two Veterinary Board meetings have been held with invitations sent to interested stakeholders to discuss the proposed registry. The last meeting was June 5th and concluded with the following points of interest:

1. The Vet Board clarified that their proposal is "forward thinking" in that instead of trying to individually negotiate with every profession desiring to provide some element of animal therapy, they would prefer to have only one proposal to deal with all professions at once; i.e. initiate legislation only once to allow collaboration with other professionals. Along this line, the Vet Board intentionally did not define the terms "therapy" or "therapies" in the proposal. As such, this would allow access to not only experts in rehab, but other individuals as well.
2. Anyone practicing as a "Registered Animal Therapist" would technically be practicing veterinary medicine. Therefore, the Board wanted to maintain control over the services being provided to animals when such services were rendered by non-veterinarians.
3. The Board indicated that under the current proposal, any licensed professional who met the requirements to become a registered animal therapist would not be considered a health care

practitioner providing services to animals working under their current license. In other words, they would be providing care to animals as a “Registered Animal Therapist” which would fall under the auspice of the Vet Board only, and not the Boards of respective professions. This would absolve the other professional Boards (i.e. PT Board, Chiro Board etc) from having to deal with potential issues related to treatment on animals. However, a PT for example, could still disclose their credentials as a PT, but would simply not call what they are doing with animals as physical therapy. Instead they would simply state they are a registered animal therapist which gives them the legal right to work with animals, but their professional training (and license as a PT) is what gives them the right to be on the registry in the first place.

Currently, no “standards” of training to work with animals for non-Vets or non-Vet Techs exist, therefore the Vet Board would prefer to be the regulatory body governing any care provided on animals. In their perception this structure would decrease the burden on other licensure Boards to handle issues of concern regarding animal care by non-Vet related practitioners.

4. With regard to professional liability, the Vet Board believes this falls in the hands of other professions working on animals, and is their issue to address. The Board did not feel they should carry the liability for animal care provided by other practitioners even though a mandate is included in the proposal requiring registered health professionals to provide written reports back to the referring veterinarian.
5. Regarding the issue of “additional training”, the Vet Board openly recognized the certification program in Tennessee as being one possibility they have considered, but I informed them that the program is limited to Vets, Vet Techs, PTs, and PTAs. This would automatically exclude all other licensed health care providers in NE wishing to become “registered”. The Vet Board recognized this as being a potential concern, but no further dialogue ensued.
6. I was personally asked by one member of the Vet Board several questions regarding our profession’s utilization of PTAs. I reported that by law PTAs work under the supervision of a licensed PT, and that regardless of practice, this is the preferred model. A scenario was raised as to what our profession might think of a PTA working independently as a Registered Animal Therapist ... I replied that this situation would not be ideal since the intent of the current draft legislation is to create a “Registry” where the skill-set being employed (by referral) falls back on to the scope of practice of the individual providing care. PTAs do not have a scope of practice in NE, and their authority to practice human care is only if they are doing so under the supervision of a licensed PT. Therefore, to avoid potential confusion for the Vet Board to regulate such practice, it would be in the best interest for both professions if the PT/PTA relationship were retained as outlined for human care.

The open meeting regarding animal therapy concluded with no definitive decisions to change the current Vet Board proposal. The Board indicated that they would take all suggestions by other professions under advisement and continue dialogue among themselves in consideration for future action. It was also brought to the attention of Board members that introducing a bill to change the Vet Practice Act during the 2008 session might be difficult in light of other legislative priorities.

At this point, there are many paths the Vet Board may travel: 1) They may drop the proposal altogether, 2) They may continue with the proposal and see what happens during public hearings in January, or 3) They may reconsider the gravity of what they are proposing – many unresolved issues from a PT standpoint. Only time will tell, but unless further action is taken to legalize the use of

physical therapists and other health professions for animal rehab, Nebraska pet owners will continue to rely on the wonderful powers of mother nature and veterinary care for the recovery of injured clients.

Finally, it should be mentioned that other stakeholders currently expressing an interest in animal therapy in Nebraska include chiropractors, massage therapists, and animal behavioralists. Based on current discussions with the Vet Board, it appears that physical therapists will need to create their own niche in the market of animal rehab if they wish to further develop this unique service to society.

Just Announced!

VetPT 2008: August 13-16, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

More details to follow...