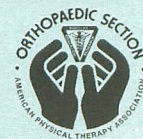


Animal Physical Therapist



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP Orthopaedic Section, APTA, Inc.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- The home study course **BASIC SCIENCE FOR ANIMAL PHYSICAL THERAPISTS** is still available. Contact 800-444-3982 or 608-788-3982 for more information.
- The Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) for 2001 is scheduled for February 15th - 18th in San Antonio, Texas. The Animal Physical Therapist SIG will present a 4-hour session on animal physical therapy.
- The 2nd International Symposium on Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy in Veterinary Medicine will be hosted by the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Graduate Program in Physical Therapy. It is scheduled for August 2002. To get on the mailing list either send an e-mail to: Conferences@utk.edu or call (865) 974-0280.

THE ANIMAL PHYSICAL THERAPIST (ANIMAL PT) SIG UPDATE:

1. Orthopaedic Section Member and Nonmember directories are available for \$2 through the Section Office 800-444-3982 Fax: 608-788-3965 or Email: ssnyder@centurytel.net.
2. State Liaisons: To date there are 33 states that have Animal Physical Therapist SIG Liaisons. Contact Siri Hamilton for further information at 865-974-2993 or e-mail: sirivtpt@utk.edu
3. In response to a request from Tom Howell, President of the Idaho Chapter, we want to clarify the Idaho's State Practice Act. Tom Howell, PT, contacted us regarding an error printed in the last issue of the Animal PT SIG Newsletter Volume 12;3:00 State Practice Act's terminology listed for Idaho should state that the PT Practice Act includes the words "human beings" in its terminology. The proposed practice act revision, that hopes to pass in 2001, calls to eliminate the words "human beings" and to replace with the word "individuals." The intent, however will not change. The Idaho Veterinary Practice Act was revised in 2000. Chapter 54-2104 states that "...however the chapter shall not be construed to prohibit: (q) An allied health professional actively licensed and in good standing in any state from participating in a medical procedure involving an animal provided that such participation is in his licensed field of medicine and under the indirect supervision of an actively licensed veterinarian."
4. The APTA has a web site that lists all of the State Practice Acts. Go to: www.apta.org/advocacy/state/state-practice.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Frequently Asked Question Number 2

1. I'm interested in doing animal therapy. What does animal therapy mean? What are the options for me to get involved as a physical therapist?

The term therapy can mean different things to different people. The term animal therapy can mean therapy provided for animals with pathology or it can mean animals used as part of the intervention for humans with pathology. In the former example, therapy can mean physical therapy, massage therapy separate from the rest of physical therapy, etc. If you are discussing animal physical therapy or physical therapy provided for animals, there are a number of issues to keep in mind related to state practice acts and what you are calling the service you provide. Since a number of physical therapy state practice acts state that the term physical therapy can be applied legally only to humans, we recommend that you call the service you provide physical rehabilitation for animals. Presently, the replacement of "patient or client" for "human" is being considered in a number of state practice acts; however, this wording does not exist in most physical therapy state practice acts at this time. Even if this wording were adopted, physical therapists should seek the knowledge base and skill needed to apply their expertise to any specific animal population. This knowledge base and skill includes the anatomy, biomechanics, and physiology of the specific animal, common injuries and pathologies, and relevant animal behavior, among other areas. While we believe that a physical therapist should be able to acknowledge their credentials as a physical therapist, we recommend that they not call or try to bill their services as physical therapy. We strongly believe that physical therapists, as having expertise in rehabilitation, collaborate with veterinarians, who have the expertise needed for treating the animal as a patient.

In the latter example, animals are used as a therapeutic intervention in treating children with movement disorders (for example, hippotherapy or therapeutic riding programs), law enforcement, assisting individuals with disabilities (service dogs, seeing-eye guide dogs), or at-risk youth/elderly in nursing homes, who have had limited contact with animals (for example, to teach responsibility, compassion for living creatures, provide companionship, and sensory stimulation). For these "working" animals, there are often specific criteria the animals must meet in order to be selected as an appropriate candidate for the job.

The focus for the Animal Physical Therapist Special Interest Group is the provision of examination, evaluation, and rehabilitation intervention and management of neuromusculoskeletal disorders in the animal. Current research by members of the special interest group focuses on the effects of physical rehabilitation intervention for the animal. The animal patients may be competitive athletes or may have suffered neuromusculoskeletal injuries. The goal is to return the animal to the highest functional level possible to meet the goals of the owner and the potential for the animal.

2. Where can I get more information about hippotherapy or pet-assisted therapy programs?

The Delta Society www.delta.org

National Association for Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) www.narha.org
1-800-369-7433

3. Are there any criteria for animals used in therapeutic programs?

Many well-intentioned horse owners donate retired horses to therapeutic riding programs. However, not all of these animals are well suited to therapeutic riding programs. The development and selection of an appropriate horse for therapeutic riding programs is addressed in an excellent book by Jan Spink, MS, titled *Standards and Competencies for the Therapy Horse*. For more information about the use of animals in therapeutic programs, contact the Delta Society, The Assistance Dog Institute, or the North American Hippotherapy Association 1-800-369-7433.

Report from the Animal PT SIG for the Fall Board of Directors Meeting, October 2000

Submitted by: Cheryl Riegger-Krugh ScD, PT
President, Animal Physical Therapist SIG
Orthopaedic Section, APTA

The main issues of interest for the SIG are outlined below.

Credentialing Process for the Animal PT SIG

A credentialing process is a significant interest and focus for the SIG. Physical therapists who want to provide rehabilitation care for animals are requesting this for preparation and documentation of expertise. Veterinarians, with whom these physical therapists are collaborating, and reimbursement agencies are requesting this as proof of documented clinical expertise.

Credentialing for this area of practice will be unique. It involves establishment of a knowledge base in anatomy and biomechanics applied to the animal of interest, animal behavior, understanding of a scientific rationale for different pathologies, etc. While the majority of practice at present is orthopaedic, practice exists for neurological pathology and medical conditions. The Orthopaedic Section encourages development of the scope of clinical practice as the first step in the credentialing process.

Programming at CSM

A 4-hour program has been planned for CSM. This program includes general animal information, equine anatomy and physiology, canine anatomy and biomechanics, and equine and canine case study reports. The case study format includes a scientific approach with the request of outcome measures for animal patients.

Clinical Practice Experiences for Physical Therapists

Several clinical education or residency experiences have taken place this year. One has included one week of clinical affiliation time provided within the framework of a hu-

man professional level master's degree in physical therapy. The release from 1 week of affiliation time with human patients was provided but the affiliation did not count toward the degree. Other pilot residencies have included designated on site collaboration of a graduate PT interested in working with a physical therapist who is treating animals. The requests for clinical affiliations and residencies far outweighs the ability to offer these experiences at present.

Research

For research involving rehabilitation for animals, the SIG is encouraging use of outcome measures in intervention, as well as use of language used in the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*.

The SIG also is encouraging use of meaningful outcomes, ie, outcomes that have meaning for the functional limitations and disabilities of the animal. At this time PTs are encouraged to document outcomes for case studies as well as for studies with larger numbers of animals.

State Liaisons

Presently, there are liaisons in 33 states. Siri Hamilton is the new State Liaison Coordinator. There has been a request to establish a committee composed of state liaison members for the purpose of coordinating and standardizing efforts toward legalization of physical therapy practice for animals. This will be investigated with the State Liaison Coordinator.

Resource Manual

Currently, a resource manual exists for physical therapists interested in providing rehabilitation care for animals. It is available directly from Lin McGonagle. Her contact information is included with the officers.

International Veterinary Physical Therapy Organization

Exploration of having an international organization is being coordinated by the SIG Vice President, David Levine. Six nations must have met specific criteria before organization. Presently, there are not 6 nations meeting the criteria.

Orthopaedic Section Membership

PTs interested in this field of practice are encouraged to join the APTA and the Orthopaedic Section. For the cost to purchase the official publication of the Orthopaedic Section called *Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice*, a PT who is a member of the APTA could join the Orthopaedic Section and therefore become a full member of the SIG at no extra cost.

Documentation of the Historical Development of Veterinary or Animal PT

Interviews with Ann Downer, PT and Jan Richardson, PT, PhD are planned to help in documenting the history.

Other accomplishments:

- Lin McGonagle, the past president of the SIG, has graduated from veterinary technician school. She will be able to advise the SIG as to how holding dual training and degrees might affect ability to practice.
- A new committee has been formed. The Malpractice Insurance Committee will be chaired by Lin McGonagle, MSPT, LVT.
- A Canine One course occurred in Knoxville, TN and Denver, CO. Canine Two and Equine One courses are being planned.

COMBINED SECTIONS MEETING -

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS FEBRUARY 15-18, 2000

The Animal PT SIG will be conducting a 4-hour informative program during the Combined Section Meeting.

Session 1 Comparative Anatomy and Physiology - Kristinn Heinrichs (20 min)

- Orientation Differences: What are the differences between studying human and veterinary anatomy and physiology?
- Anatomic reference and description (planes, terminology – eg, thoracic and pelvic).
- Bipedal vs. quadrupedal.
- Anatomic differences between human and canine and human and equine.
- Physiologic differences between human and canine and human and equine.

Objectives:

1. Participants will have an appreciation for the basic and general differences between human and veterinary comparative anatomy.
2. Participants will be able to develop an introductory framework for the specific comparative study of the animal (eg, human vs. canine or human vs. equine) to follow in the concurrent sessions.

General considerations for animal study of anatomy and physiology

Session 2A: Introduction to equine anatomy and physiology - Arlene White (concurrent session)(75min)

- Functional anatomy of the thoracic limbs
- Functional anatomy of the pelvic limbs
- Functional anatomy of the spine
- Introduction to unique aspects of equine physiology as it relates to functional anatomy
- Introduction to functional considerations (functional anatomy of the gaits)
- Comments regarding the importance of animal behavior

Objectives:

1. Participants will have an appreciation for the unique characteristics of equine anatomy and how these unique differences relate to the functional characteristics of the horse.
2. Participants will understand the basic principles of the differences between equine and human physiology.
3. Participants will understand the relationship of functional anatomy and physiology to a common pathology (lameness and its possible sources).
4. Participants will have an appreciation of the further study required for competence in the area of equine physical therapy.

Session 2B: Introduction to canine anatomy and biomechanics (concurrent session) (75 minutes Cheryl Riegger-Krugh)

- Functional anatomy of the forelimbs
- Functional anatomy of the hindlimbs
- Functional anatomy of the spine
- Introduction to functional considerations (eg, canine gait)
- Introductory comments on animal behavior (brief and only in context of examples with anatomy)

Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to describe characteristics of canine anatomy from human anatomy and how the differences relate to the function of dogs.
2. Participants will be able to describe some common pathology related to different roles for dogs.
3. Participants will understand and be able to explain why knowledge of canine anatomy is required for physical therapists who want to provide rehabilitation expertise for animals.

**Canine Rehabilitation case study presentations (60 min) -
Equine Rehabilitation case study presentations (60 min)**

A PT's Perspective

by Jerry Smith, PT, MS

I attended a recent state Physical Therapy Association meeting in Florida, which convinced me that physical therapists interested in animal physical therapy should renew and maintain their state memberships. If rehabilitation for animals is ever to become legal in the state of Florida, or any state other than New Mexico, where it is presently legal, it is going to take the voice of the masses to make it so. Less than 3% of the total membership in the Florida Physical Therapy Association were in attendance. This will not do the job! Presidents and Board Members do listen to opinions of their members, slowly perhaps and with much repetition, but they do listen. In August, I expressed my opinion at the state caucus meeting. My concerns for making the practice of physical therapy for animals legal in the state of Florida were expressed, as well as my concern to prevent physical therapists from being fined or having their licenses revoked if treating animals "illegally and thus unethically," as expressed by the Chairman of the Florida Ethics Committee.

Florida is in the process of modernizing its Physical Therapy Practice Act. This is a major political task and requires consideration of many ramifications and consequences. Once the Practice Act is *opened*, this will allow other medically associated professions to question the changes in an attempt to make sure their turf is not being threatened. In Florida, the use of the term "human being" is dominant in the definition of physical therapy. In addition, referral sources, such as physicians, etc... are stipulated. There are differences of opinion among members of the Board of Directors. Should the term "human beings" be omitted and veterinarians be added as a referral source?

Should the mention of all referral sources be omitted? Should mention of all referral sources be omitted as well as reference to "human beings?" This would probably be ideal. However, animal physical therapy is a fledgling profession and an extension of physical therapy practice, and would have difficulty being accepted by veterinarians without the approval of their supervision. Fifty years ago, a major task of the physical therapy profession was convincing physicians that physical therapy had a place in the treatment of their patients. Physical therapists are now at the threshold of proving to another profession that we can help in the care of their patients. The difference is we are being asked by veterinarians to do so. So let's do it! We need their supervision. We are dealing with a different genus and species other than *Homo sapiens*. We cannot treat a "hot horse" fresh off the track with a bowed tendon by ourselves. Behavioral problems make it necessary to have help, tranquilizers, restraints, etc. When treating a horse for other problems, using physical therapy modalities such as ultrasound and electrical stimulation it is necessary to discern what type restraint is necessary. The supervision of a veterinarian is absolutely essential. This kind of supervision is frequently required in the treatment of smaller animals. I cannot recall, throughout the many years of my practice, the necessity of restraining or tranquilizing a patient in order to administer physical therapy modalities. We are dealing with an entirely different species of animal that we are not exposed to during our training as physical therapists. As animal physical therapy progresses, I hope there will be elective courses included in the curriculum of physical therapy schools that will provide exposure to the uniqueness of using physical therapy modalities in the treatment of animals. I am requesting the Boards of Physical Therapy to give physical therapists a chance to show the veterinarians what physical therapy can do for the treatment of their patients and allow them to open the door for collaboration under their necessary supervision.

- If you are a Florida PT who would like to help influence the FPTA to edit their Practice Act to allow PTs to perform physical therapy on animals please write to show your support to:

Mr. Gary Walters, President
Florida Physical Therapy Association
1705 S. Gadsden Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Email: Mr.gwalters@worldnet.att.net