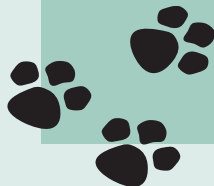


# Animal Physical Therapist

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

### Orthopaedic Section, APTA, Inc.



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Fax: 608-788-3965 or E-mail: tfred@orthopt.org. There currently are 544 members.

3. State Liaisons: To date there are 33 states that have Animal SIG Liaisons. Contact Charles Evans at chazzevans@netscape.net for more information.
4. The APTA has a web site that lists all of the State Practice Acts: [www.apta.org/advocacy/state/state-practice](http://www.apta.org/advocacy/state/state-practice).
5. If you would like to have your clinic listed on the Animal Physical Therapy SIG website, please contact Debbie Gross Saunders at [WizofPaws@aol.com](mailto:WizofPaws@aol.com).

#### 3rd INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON REHABILITATION AND PHYSICAL THERAPY IN VETERINARY MEDICINE AUGUST 7-11, 2004

The third iteration of this series of symposia was held in Research Triangle Park, NC and was sponsored by the North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine. Denis J. Marcellin-Little, DEDV, DACVS & ECVS, CCRP served as Conference Chair. Organizing Committee Members included David Levine, PT, PhD, OCS, CCRP; Richard Mansmann, VMD, PhD; Darryl Millis, DVM, MS, DACVS, CCRP; and, Christine King, BVSC, MACVSc. Dr. Marcellin-Little welcomed the participants and opening remarks were made by Dr. Oscar Fletcher, Dean, NC State University, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Over 317 participants attended the conference from the United States and other countries including: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Registrants came from the fields of veterinary medicine, physical and occupational therapy, massage and bodywork, and others with interest in rehabilitation of animals.

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Keynote Address was given by Robert Taylor, DVM, MS, Dip. ACVS, CCRP and was titled "20 Years of Rehabilitation – Where Are We Now?" Dr. Taylor indicated there is a growing need for research to foster evidence-based practice in order to improve credibility in animal rehabilitation. He mentioned that in his state of Colorado, anyone 18 years old or older could be employed by a veterinarian to provide rehabilitation services for animals. However, he has worked in collaboration with physical therapists for many years and defends this practice. He remarked that recent legislation in Nevada was encouraging for the advancement of professional rehabilitation services for animals. (This amendment to the veterinary medicine regulations, recognizing "animal physical therapy" provided by veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and physical therapists

#### 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 ANIMAL PHYSICAL THERAPIST SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (ANIMAL SIG) UPDATE

1. Proceedings of the 2nd International Symposium for Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy in Veterinary Medicine – August 2002, Knoxville, TN. Available now for \$20. They are a great resource. Contact David Levine at [david-levine@utc.edu](mailto:david-levine@utc.edu).
2. Orthopaedic Section member and nonmember directories are available through the Section Office 800-444-3982

can be viewed at: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Register/2004Register/R009-04I.pdf>).

## EXHIBITORS

Exhibitors included vendors of many types of rehabilitation equipment. Electro-therapeutic devices were on display including electrical stimulators, low level laser, ultrasound, pulsed electromagnetic field, shock wave, and others. Two manufacturers of under water treadmills and aquatic therapy systems had displays. Two manufacturers of carts and wheelchairs for dogs were present with many examples of their craftsmanship and success stories. There were vendors of hot and cold therapy and splinting and bracing appliances. Representatives from the veterinary pharmaceutical industry were present. Two USA certification programs had booths with information about their courses in canine and equine rehabilitation. There were book sales available. A brand new product was introduced to quantify lameness and effectiveness of therapeutic interventions that is a quadruped biofeedback system for detecting weight distribution and contact forces. Also present were companies specializing in herbal supplement and nutritional products to manage different disease conditions in animals.

## LECTURES AND LABS

Lecture presentations were divided into small animal and equine sessions. Although these were primarily about dogs and horses, there were also presentations on cats, birds, and even a kangaroo! Basic science, evaluation, and treatment techniques for rehabilitation of musculoskeletal and neurological disorders were given. Topics included functional and conformational assessment, gait analysis, management of acute and chronic pain conditions, therapeutic exercise, prosthetics/orthotics, manual therapy, acupuncture, and electro-therapeutic devices. Talks were presented on current state of the art in diagnostic equipment, therapeutic modalities, surgical techniques, and postoperative rehabilitation. Breakfast forums gave participants the opportunity to engage with selected speakers on focus topics.

Laboratory sessions on canine rehabilitation fundamentals were held at NC State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. Canine therapy labs were held at Arbor Creek Animal Wellness & Rehabilitation Clinic. And equine therapy labs were held at the Hunt Horse Complex. These offered a wide variety of assessment and treatment techniques.

## INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ANIMAL REHABILITATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

All were invited to attend an organizational meeting about the 'International Academy of Animal Rehabilitation.' Dr. Millis read a document regarding the formation and vision of this organization, which sounded like what was proposed at the 2nd Symposium in 2002. A copy of the 2002 draft is below.

### *International Veterinary Physical Rehabilitation Society*

*The purpose of this society shall be to promote the interdisciplinary collaboration of professions to facilitate the exchange of information, and to promote the study and use of physical agents for the benefit and appropriate treatment of animals to improve their quality of life.*

*This society shall encourage the exchange of information, scientific discovery, and evidence-based use of physical medicine*

*and modalities, including responses of tissues to disuse and remobilization, cryotherapy, thermotherapy, ultrasound, electrical stimulation, therapeutic exercise, aquatic rehabilitation, massage, and manual therapy techniques.*

*The study and exchange of information regarding other physical modalities, such as chiropractic and acupuncture, will be encouraged where they pertain to the above mentioned physical modalities, but will not be a primary focus of this organization because organizations pertaining to these disciplines currently exist.*

*Membership in this society shall be comprised of individuals holding a professional license pertaining to veterinary medicine, physical therapy/physiotherapy, or a professional licensed in a discipline related to physical rehabilitation of animals.*

Items relating to a model for this organization, vision, structure, communications, journal publication, membership, funding, meetings, research, and other topics were discussed. Keeping the Academy open to those from various fields was a general theme.

Future meetings were proposed to be held yearly, and then this was changed to every 2 years. A major concern was that the symposiums were becoming too "US-centric." It was tentatively decided that in every other 2 year cycle a symposium would be held in a country other than the United States. The next meeting will be held in the Netherlands in 2006 with Anke Vaessen as chair. Countries with representatives with interest in hosting a conference included Australia, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and others. A veterinary technician from the USA remarked that financially foreign travel would be difficult to justify on a technician's salary. And that this would be unfair as veterinary technicians would be the ones doing the rehabilitation.

Catherine McGowan, BVSc, MACVSc, PhD of Australia gave a presentation regarding an educational model for animal physiotherapy. Dr. McGowan is the coordinator of a Master's degree program at the University of Queensland. She noted how advancements in veterinary medicine left a gap for physiotherapists. This created problems as physiotherapy was not inclusive of animals other than humans and was also not included in veterinary medicine. Their solution was to form a veterinary medicine and physiotherapy team with a cross-disciplinary program between the veterinary and physiotherapy schools. She stated that the two professions work extremely well together. She further noted that this program is open only to physiotherapists and that veterinary technicians do not provide physiotherapy services. The program has an academic advisory board including the President of the Australian Physiotherapy Association and a representative from the Australian Veterinary Association.

Tracy Crook, Veterinary Physiotherapist, from the Royal Veterinary College in England described their program. This Master's degree course is only available to chartered physiotherapists with more than one year of experience. She stated that they are committed to annual meetings and evidence-based practice. It was noted that of 56 research and clinical papers presented at the symposium, 10 came from the Queensland and Royal Veterinary College programs.

Evidence-based practice was emphasized throughout and Dr. Marcellin-Little stated that research is the critical foundation of the field. He further indicated however, that con-

ferences and journals should have more to offer than research in order to reach a wider audience. Dr. Millis suggested a 2-tiered system, one for newcomers and the other for more experienced clinicians.

Other international organizations were proposed at the symposium, including one sponsored in France on veterinary osteopathy. There is certainly more to come on these developments.

#### **VETERINARIAN MEETING**

A group of veterinarians with an interest in rehabilitation held a meeting to form an organization of their own. Some of the goals of this group were reported. They are seeking to engage in dialog with the APTA by establishing an interest group in the AVMA that is parallel to the Animal Physical Therapist Special Interest Group. They would like to eventually lobby the AVMA to make rehabilitation a boarded specialty in veterinary medicine.

#### **DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT**

After an early evening of socializing, a scrumptious dinner buffet was provided in the Imperial Ballroom. Mike Cross entertained the participants with an eclectic show drawing on his more than 30 years in the music industry. He

played both traditional and self-composed folk, blues, country, pop, blue grass, rap, and other tunes on guitar and fiddle. In between songs he told jokes and stories from the sublimine to the most zany and silly things ever spoken. His one-man band jam session with impressions of Eddie Van Halen on guitar solo and Ginger Baker on drum solo was truly unforgettable. He had the crowd rolling with laughter and received a standing ovation. For an encore he played a rousing rendition of the old fiddle tune "Same Old Man Working at the Mill."

#### **CLOSING**

At the closing of the symposium participants were invited to the NC State University, College of Veterinary Medicine campus. Those who took this offer were treated to a private tour given by Dr. Mansmann. He explained that this was the youngest veterinary college in the nation with its first graduating class in 1984. Evidence of growth was revealed in the construction of new facilities for teaching and research. Dr. Mansmann described all the exciting plans for expansion of this fine campus. In closing he told the group that it is never too late to go back to school.

*Submitted by Steven J. Strunk, PT*