

STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS FORUM SPECIAL REPORT

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As many of you are aware, things are heating up legislatively with regards to the practice of physical therapy on animals in many states of the United States. Justin Elliott and the staff of the APTA Government Affairs Office have been more than helpful in assisting our APTSIG leadership and 34 state liaisons in communicating with our state chapters and physical therapy and veterinary boards over the past year. We're also actively working on a FAQ sheet and "action plan" for our liaisons—stay tuned!

As a result of our "appearance on the radar screen," the APTSIG was invited to present at the State Government Affairs Forum (SGAF), which was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 23-25, 2007. Interestingly, other issues discussed at SGAF included chiropractic, term and practice definition and protection, and referral for profit. All of these issues are parallel issues in the practice of physical therapy on animals.

The presentation made at SGAF, overall, was very well received. Of the persons in attendance, APTSIG members from Nebraska (Kirk Peck) and Nevada (Stacey Fisher) were able to contribute to the subsequent discussion, which continued to be very positive. Ira Gorman, a delegate from the Colorado chapter who has been active in the legislative process in that state, was also able to contribute regarding his state's experience thus far in the formation of rules and regulations regarding the practice of physical therapy on animals. Finally, Steve Levine, APTA Speaker of the House, commented regarding the efforts of the APTSIG in cooperation with the APTA and Orthopaedic Section.

Obviously, our APTSIG continues to grow and our position in the Section and Association continues to evolve. The practice of physical therapy on animals, as you're aware, is not without controversy even within our own profession. Our goal continues to be open communication and collaboration within and outside of our profession for safe, effective, and evidence-based practice of physical therapy, regardless of the species.

To update the membership regarding other APTSIG efforts, we continue to focus on implementing our Strategic Plan and progressing our Practice Analysis efforts. If you haven't already, you will soon see a practice survey from the APTSIG which is essential for the successful completion of our Practice Analysis. We continue to need liaisons and committee chairs for a variety of special projects as well as nominations for the positions of President/Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. Please contact our SIG leadership for further information regarding these positions.

Remember to save the date! The next International Symposium on Animal Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy

will be August 13-16, 2008 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. See www.iavrpt.com for further information!

And as always, thanks to the efforts of our liaisons and members for your continued involvement in the SIG.

ORTHOPAEDIC SECTION, FALL BOARD MEETING Pittsburgh, PA

October 11-13, 2007

Meeting Summary

The Orthopaedic Section met for 2 ½ days to review and revise their strategic plan. Topics pertinent to the Animal Special Interest Group are outlined below.

The first motion listed on the agenda pertained to the use of encumbered funds to cover CSM speakers. Since this motion has been fully funded by a sponsor, Ferno, fiscal implications are \$0 and this motion was rescinded.

Clipboards were the next topic affecting the Animal SIG. Joe Godges mentioned that all retail efforts of the Section in the recent past have failed to recoup the expenses and servicing retail items cause an increased burden on the staff. He suggested looking into offering the template of the examination content of these clipboards through a vendor that could serve as the retail outlet for our members. The APTA "store," the Resource Center, may also be a good option. An idea of a paper pad that could double as an evaluation form was also discussed. These may be used at our discretion for marketing exposure and endorsement or legislative incentives for veterinarians who volunteer their time on our behalf. It was also suggested that the Orthopaedic Section or APTA logo be used and the resource center be a contact for manufacturing and distribution.

Finally, a discussion ensued regarding the name of our Animal SIG. Advice concerning the name of the SIG will be sought from APTA. Currently, Animal PT is not a normal model of practice and this term will continue to evolve as we further define our practice analysis, scientific base, and curricula. The Orthopaedic Section and APTA are in full support of our efforts. It was stated by the Orthopaedic Section Board of Directors that we are on the right track and encouraged us to stick to the primary goals: focus on our strategic plan, define our practice analysis, build our scientific base by starting a journal for evidence-based animal physical therapy, and develop a model curriculum. Rather than focusing on continuing education to define the practice of animal rehabilitation, it was suggested that the SIG continue to focus on education options that may be incorporated into an animal science undergraduate or graduate program, collaborating with veterinarians.

*Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Adamson Adrian*