

animalrehabilitation

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

HELLO AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope that the holiday season has been a happy and healthy one! It's hard to believe that 2008 is upon us so quickly as 2007 has been a whirlwind of activity for the SIG and the animal rehabilitation community worldwide.

Internationally, we continue to see positive forward momentum with building interest in the field of animal rehabilitation. WCPT, held in June 2007 in Vancouver, allowed for the organization of an international committee to recognize the practice of physical therapy for animals. The goal is for recognition of this area of practice at WCPT in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 2010. We also look forward to participating in the 5th International Symposium on Veterinary Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy in Minneapolis, Minnesota August 13-17, 2008. We hope to see you there!

There are now more choices regarding educational programs and scientific publications regarding the practice of physical therapy on animals. *Animal Physiotherapy: Assessment, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of Animals*, edited by Catherine McGowan, Lesley Goff, and Narelle Stubbs, was published by Blackwell in 2007. It is a fantastic and thorough text focusing on canine and equine physical therapy theory, evidence, and techniques, in the perspective of the physical therapist. There is also an upcoming issue of *Clinical Techniques in Small Animal Practice* with a rehabilitation focus and contributions from physical therapy professionals. This issue is currently in final edits and will be released very soon.

The SIG leadership especially is grateful to our very active State Liaison Network and the cooperation of Justin Elliott and Angela Chasteen of the APTA Government Affairs Office. Our liaisons have made significant strides in Colorado and have opened doors for communication in New Hampshire, Nebraska, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, to name a few. Keep up the good grassroots work!!! (By the way, we're always in need of willing and enthusiastic AR-SIG state liaisons...)

You will soon see, if you haven't already, the first Animal Rehabilitation Special Interest Group Practice Analysis Survey. Your participation in this survey will help us to define the practice, education, and legislation of the practice of physical therapy for animals in the field of animal rehabilitation. We look forward to reporting on and publishing the outcomes of this survey in 2009.

And can you believe it-- we're going to have to update our Strategic Plan very soon! Our initial effort at a Strategic Plan was a 3-year plan set in 2006. I'm certain we've made some progress, and yet there's always more to accomplish than what our tiny group can. To participate in the Planning process and/or as a Committee member or chairperson, please contact Amie, Carrie, or Lin.

Finally, we very much look forward to another groundbreaking CSM! We hope to see you there. This year we'll be cosponsoring our educational programming with the Aquatic Therapy Section, highlighting aquatic therapy of human, equine, and

canine physical therapy patients. We hope to have an amazing turnout again, similar to last year's rousing success, in welcoming Beth Baudendistel-McMahon, Physical Therapy with HEART, San Antonio, Texas; Steve Adair, MS, DVM, DACVS, Associate Professor of Equine Surgery, University of Tennessee; and Caroline Adamson Adrian, MS, PT, CCRP, VCA Alameda East Veterinary Hospital, Denver, Colorado and PhD Student, Colorado State University. Our business meeting is on Friday February 8, 2008 at SEVEN IN THE MORNING (!!!) with our educational programming, sponsored by Ferno, to follow.

Those of you who are observant have noticed another SIG name change! Not the Animal SIG or the Animal Physical Therapist SIG or even the Animal Physical Therapy SIG, we're now the Animal Rehabilitation SIG! Regardless of what we call it, we've got the same mission, vision, goals, and incredible membership! Thanks to all for your support and efforts in assisting the SIG with meeting these goals over the past years!

Best wishes for a fantastic 2008!
Amie Lamoreaux Hesbach, MSPT, CCRP, CCRT
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PS: We're periodically sending out pertinent information by blast email. If you haven't received these emails, please check on our log of blasts on the Orthopaedic Section website at www.orthopt.org. If you'd like to receive these blasts, be sure to allow the APTA and OS to use/release your email address. We want to be able to continue to communicate with you and to hear feedback regarding your goals for the SIG!