

ANIMAL PHYSICAL THERAPIST

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

President's Message

Where did the summer go? It's been an eventful one on the animal rehabilitation/physical therapy front and I'm certain we'll have more "excitement" to come.

New Hampshire and Nebraska have passed legislation regarding physical therapy treatment of animals. Rules and regulations have yet to be outlined.

The Veterinary Board of New Jersey has suggested a rule change regarding the practice of complementary medicine on animals by unlicensed persons. The AR-SIG submitted comments to the Board regarding this rule change and is awaiting word on this proposed change.

I attended a preconference course on residencies and fellowships in physical therapy at the APTA Annual Conference. I'd love to hear feedback from our membership regarding the SIG's direction, but, this workshop, sponsored by the Orthopaedic Section, was eye-opening and exciting, to say the least. As many of you know, we've been working on a Practice Analysis for quite a while now. The results of this analysis will be an outline of a curriculum for a residency program in animal rehabilitation/physical therapy. There are many questions:

- Should the ARSIG sponsor the residency?
- Should the ARSIG outline criteria and offer the residency at a private clinical or educational facility?
- Can the ARSIG offer continuing education (by independent study, online study, or in-person/hands-on courses) to prepare physical therapists for the proposed residency?
- Can completion of these residencies eventually lead to specialist-designation for physical therapists in animal rehabilitation/physical therapy?

There are so many more questions than answers at this point! If there is anyone with experience in residency training/education who would like to take on this project or work with us on it, please contact me at your convenience. We hope to have an informal discussion at CSM 2010 regarding this possibility.

The next VetPT Symposium will be at Auburn University in August 2010. Watch for more details coming soon.

I'm very excited that we will be having a Legislative Luncheon at CSM 2010. Those of you who are/were/will be involved in animal rehabilitation in states in which legislation has/will/was established for physical therapists in animal rehabilitation should plan to attend. A goal is to outline a model practice act that is acceptable to the APTA and ARSIG. Justin Elliott of the APTA State Government Affairs Office will be participating in our discussion. I plan to send out a survey to members in the near future regarding our agenda/position on these hot topics but definitely want to get your input in person. This could be a groundbreaking meeting for physical therapists in animal rehabilitation. Be there or be square!!!

Thanks to Kirk Peck, our ARSIG liaison from Nebraska, who will be presenting at September's State Government Affairs Forum. Great to see animal rehabilitation/physical therapy back on the agenda at that meeting!

Have a great fall and see you in San Diego in February!

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