

# ANIMAL PHYSICAL THERAPIST

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

### Hello to All

Whew! CSM 2010 was exhilarating, exhausting, and eye-opening—hopefully for more of our members than just our leadership. We held our first ever legislative lunch forum with a fantastic panel of experts and interactive audience of 37 ARSIG members and Orthopaedic Section leadership. I thank Carrie Adrian, Justin Elliott, Paul Welk, Leslie Adrian, Dr. Janet VanDyke, Tara Frederickson, Terri DiFlorian, Jay Irrgang, and Tom McPoil for their involvement in the evolution of this meeting. I would certainly say that it was a success and yet only a stepping stone for the SIG. Our plan is to take our recorded/transcribed notes and put together more definitive legislative language and a position of our SIG with regards to the practice of physical therapy for animals. I promise that there is certainly more to come.

We also had our business meeting, which was partially a continued discussion from our legislative forum. You will find the minutes attached here in our newsletter. I was enlightened by our educational programming this year by Dr. Jackie Woelz and Ann Howard who spoke about complicated and challenging clinical cases in canine and equine rehabilitation. (We had a pretty good turn out for that as well—upwards of 75 in attendance.) I hope that they both will continue to share their experiences in their practice with our membership. I was very impressed by both of their approaches to rehabilitation management of these interesting cases.

Meetings, meetings, meetings... We also had a great turn-out for our educational discussion. This was very informal and, I think, really helped us to figure out what WE physical therapists and assistants need in education and continuing education to provide safe, effective, and expert level treatment to our patients while maintaining the confidence of our veterinary medical colleagues. We will continue with the evolution of this educational plan as it will relate directly to legislative efforts and plans for further certification or specialization of our members. Please do not hesitate to contact Carrie or me if you are interested in helping us to take this from brainstorm to fruition.

On a personal note, by the time this newsletter is published, I will be a resident of Massachusetts, moving from Maryland where I first established my practice in physical therapy for animals 9 years ago. I will continue to be involved in the legislative and educational efforts that have been initiated in Maryland, though now from a little further away. I look forward to meeting many more of our ARSIG members in the New England region and helping my future clients and patients to Move Forward!

I'm very excited about continuing my involvement in the ARSIG as President and hope that in the next 3 years we can press on and forward with our goals in education, legislation, and clinical practice. We are developing a core group of mem-

bers who are bringing some amazing ideas to the table. I am very excited about this and encourage you to get involved in some way with the SIG.

Again, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

*Have a beautiful spring!*  
Amie L. Hesbach, MSPT, CCRP, CCRT  
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**PS: Don't forget about our listserv—  
aptsig@yahoogroups.com!**

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PTS/PTAS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY FOR ANIMALS

*By: Jennifer Brooks (jenequinept@charter.net) and  
Amie Hesbach (forpawsrehab@gmail.com)*

**Independent Study Courses in Canine and Equine  
Anatomy and Physiology**  
www.orthopt.org

**Canine Rehabilitation Institute Certificate Program in  
Canine Rehabilitation**  
Dr. Janet VanDyke  
www.caninerehabinstitute.com

**Equine Rehabilitation Institute Certificate Program in  
Equine Rehabilitation**  
Arlene White, PT  
www.equinerehabilitationinstitute.com/  
www.AnimalRehabInstitute.com

**Equinology**  
www.equinology.com/default.asp

**Northeast Seminars/University of Tennessee Certificate  
Program in Canine Rehabilitation (and Equine  
Rehabilitation)**  
http://www.vet.utk.edu/clinical/rehab/programs.php  
http://equinerehab.utk.edu/index\_certificate.php  
www.canineequinerehab.com/

**Full Spectrum Canine Therapy**  
Patricia Kortekaas, PT  
www.fullspectrumcaninetherapy.com

**Postural Rehabilitation**  
Always Helpful Veterinary Services  
Dr. Judith Shoemaker  
www.judithshoemaker.com

**ANIMAL REHABILITATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (ARSIG) BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**APTA CSM 2010 San Diego, California**  
**February 19, 2010**

- I. Call to Order at 7:00 a.m.
- II. Welcome. Amie and Carrie made the executive decision to continue with discussions from Thursday's legislative forum. The notes and transcripts from these discussions will be "electronically blasted" to the membership later this spring. The actual business meeting began at 7:40 a.m.
- III. Roll Call & Introduction of 2009 Officers & Committee Chairs
- A. Amie Lamoreaux Hesbach – President
  - B. Carrie Adamson Adrian – Vice-President
  - C. Donna Redman-Bentley – Research Committee Chairperson
  - D. Charles Evans – Practice Committee Chairperson/ State Liaison Coordinator (Unable to attend.)
  - E. Cheryl Riegger-Krugh – Nominating Committee Chairperson
  - F. Lisa Bedenbaugh – Newsletter Chairperson
  - G. Jay Irrgang – Orthopaedic Section (OS) Liaison/ APTSIG Advisor
- IV. Old Business
- A. Approval of CSM 2009 APTSIG Business Meeting Minutes
    - 1. MOTION made, seconded, and passed.
  - B. President's Report (Amie Hesbach)
    - 1. Practice Analysis: The practice analysis is in the statistical analysis stages. We are also doing a further literature review. We will begin the actual writing stage of the PA soon with advisement from the OHSIG and PASIG.
    - 2. Communication/Public Relations: Carrie was busy this year writing letters in response to proposed legislation and rule/regulation changes as well as in response to the AARV letter that was addressed to all veterinary school deans and veterinary medical associations.
      - a) New Jersey letter
      - b) Nebraska letter
      - c) Letters to:
        - (1) AARV
        - (2) DVM Boards
        - (3) PT Boards
        - (4) AVMA Chapters
        - (5) APTA Chapters
    - 3. Political Liaison Update: Amie addressed the following reports from liaisons.
      - a) American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians (AARV)
        - (1) Position Statement: This was discussed in detail at the legislative luncheon.
        - (2) Report per Dr. Julie Mayer: "We did

have a business meeting at the North American Veterinary Conference in January in Orlando, FL and had an all day track of lectures on rehab. Dr. Jamie Gaynor, Dr. Sherman Canapp, and I presented. Because we have been so busy with this first annual appearance we have not been able to focus on other things. We are in the final stages of forming an affiliate veterinary technician rehabilitation association. We are in the process of posting our Newsletter for members and tallying the results of our rehab practice management survey."

- a) International Association of Veterinary Rehabilitation & Physical Therapy (IAVRPT)
    - (1) The next Symposium will be August 4-7, 2010 Auburn, Alabama, USA. Information can be found through a link on the IAVRPT Web site at [www.iavrpt.org](http://www.iavrpt.org).
  - b) American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation (DACVSMR): This specialization looks as if it will be approved. The next step will be establishing internships/residencies for potential specialists. It has yet to be determined what role physical therapists will take with regards to this specialty.
  - c) WCPT
    - (1) Report per Steve Strunk: "The WCPT is very supportive of establishing a subgroup for animal physical therapy. Several other areas of physical therapist practice are also slated for application at World Conference in Amsterdam, 2011. There are 13 countries with animal PT groups in 4 WCPT regions. The WCPT is in the process of second editing of the constitution for animal PT subgroup, which will be disseminated to all international representatives for commentary."
- B. Vice President/Education Committee Report (Carrie Adrian)
- 1. Educational Opportunities: Carrie would like to further discuss educational needs of members.
  - 2. CSM 2011 programming ideas. Suggestions were made to have a veterinarian discuss zoonoses or do a clinical update as well as have a session on myofascial release/soft tissue management on horses/dogs. CSM topics will be submitted within the month.
  - 3. Clipboards: The canine clipboards are still for sale. Contact the Orthopaedic Section to purchase.
  - 4. FAQ/State Liaison resources. Information is online and continues to be accessible by members.

- C. Practice/State Liaison Committee Report (Charlie Evans)
1. Legislative Luncheon, Thursday, February 18, 2010.
  2. State Liaison Program brainstorms? Charlie was unable to attend CSM but there will be an effort to reorganize our state liaison program. If any member has ideas or suggestions, we'd love to hear them.
  3. Liaison/member resources on ARSIG webpage ([www.orthopt.org](http://www.orthopt.org)).
- D. Research Committee Report (Donna Redman-Bentley)
1. Nominations for committee chairperson? Kirk Peck and Jennifer Brooks have been nominated to the research committee. More to follow.
- E. Nominating Committee Report (Cheryl Riegger-Krugh):  
The results of the election in 2009 include:
1. President: Amie Lamoreaux Hesbach, MSPT, CCRP, CCRT
  2. Vice President/Education Chair: Caroline Adrian MS, PT
  3. The Nominating Committee consists of:
    - a) Chair: Cheryl Riegger-Krugh PT, MS, ScD
    - b) Member: Jennifer Hill MS, PT
- F. Orthopaedic Section Liaison Report (Jay Ir-gang). Jay was in attendance but did not have a report.

II. New Business. As there was not adequate time to discuss these topics, the information that has been collected will be posted to the SIG Web site and in future newsletters.

- A. Professional Liability Issues (Deanna Rodgers)
- B. Veterinary Insurance Reimbursement Issues (Charlie Evans)
- C. Resources for ACCE's (Cheryl Riegger-Krugh)
- D. Taskforce for the Definition of Standards of Education for Non-Physical Therapists (Cheryl Riegger-Krugh)
- E. Continuing Education/Residency/Fellowship discussion: All are invited to attend a discussion on Friday, February 19, 2010.
- F. Call for Nominations & Committee Chairs/Members
  1. Research Committee Chairperson. (as above)
- G. Other New Business

III. Open Forum

IV. Adjournment at 7:55 AM.

### PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE OPTIONS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS IN ANIMAL REHABILITATION

By: Deanna Rogers ([deanna.rogers@gmail.com](mailto:deanna.rogers@gmail.com)) and Amie Hesbach ([forpawsrehab@gmail.com](mailto:forpawsrehab@gmail.com))

The following is a list of insurers who have been contacted by the ARSIG regarding their provision of professional liability insurance (PLI) to physical therapists who perform physical therapy for animals. Please understand that this is a work in progress and that we will continue to update this list.

**Harleysville:** Email response pending.

**Hartford:** Email response pending.

**HPSO:** Limited to \$500 for damage to personal property IF animals are considered property in the state in which you practice AND the physical therapy practice act does not refer to humans/individuals.

**IAAMB:** "This insurance includes professional (malpractice) liability and general (premises or "slip & fall") liability coverage of \$5,000 per occurrence/\$2 million aggregate. Insurance premium includes taxes, license and fees."  
Pinnacle: No.

**Zurich:** Deanna plans to contact agents; the initial response was "no, only coverage for DVM/VMDs who are members of the AVMA".

### REVIEW OF PET INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

By: *Charlie Evans* ([cevans@intownvet.com](mailto:cevans@intownvet.com))

When looking for specific information about a 3rd party provider check on the specific policy and individual state statutes.

If looking for general information about a variety of plans go to: <http://www.petinsurancereview.com/dog.asp>

#### Hartville Group, Inc- 1-800-738-2677 – Rating 6.12

<http://www.hartvillegroup.com>

Structured as a holding company, the Hartville Group owns several subsidiaries dedicated to different aspects of pet health insurance. These subsidiaries include Petsmarketing Insurance.com Agency Inc., an insurance agency licensed to provide property and casualty insurance in 50 states in the United States and the District of Columbia; and Hartville Re, a reinsurance subsidiary domiciled in Georgetown, the Cayman Islands.

We are the ASPCA's only strategic partner for pet health insurance. The ASPCA, America's leading animal welfare organization, chose us as their partner because of our focus on pet health and our humane coverage philosophy.

No coverage for rehabilitative services

#### Embrace Pet Insurance – 1-800-511-9172 – Mayfield Village, OH – Rating 9.13

<http://www.embracepetinsurance.com>

An Ohio-based company offering customizable pet insurance in every state with flexible pricing options. Embrace added a wellness program in 2009 that has no deductible, copay, nor waiting period. For every policy sold, Embrace donates \$2 to a pet-related charity.

Provide coverage for rehabilitative services for any known accident or illness. Include holistic treatments.

#### Petfirst Healthcare – 1-866-937-7387 – Jeffersonville, IN – Rating 8.56

<http://www.petfirsthealthcare.com>

PetFirst Healthcare, an innovative leader in pet insur-

ance, offers easy to understand lifelong coverage for dogs and cats. PetFirst's comprehensive coverage is unique in the industry providing simplified coverage with no per diagnosis limits and premiums unaffected by age, breed or location. The Family Plan from PetFirst allows owners to insure multiple pets under one policy for a fraction of the cost. PetFirst provides reliable customer service and prompt claims reimbursement to complement their healthcare offering.

If the diagnosis is covered in your policy, then rehabilitative services will be included in the coverage.

**Petplan USA – 1-866-467-3875 – Philadelphia, PA – Rating 9.19**

<http://www.gopetplan.com>

Petplan is the world's leading pet insurance provider, available in every state and the District of Columbia. Petplan policies include full coverage for all hereditary conditions with no dollar or time limits per condition. Nine out of 10 veterinarians recommend their policies.

If the diagnosis is covered in your policy then rehabilitative services will be included in the coverage.

**Trupanion Pet Insurance – 1-800-569-7913 – Lynnwood, WA – 8.57**

<http://www.trupanionpetinsurance.com>

Canadian pet insurance company Vetinsurance has launched a new US brand under the name Trupanion. Currently doing business in 30+ states, with plans to expand to all 50 states.

Trupanion insures dogs and cats between 8 weeks and 14 years.

No coverage for rehabilitation services

**Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI) – 1-888-899-4874 – Brea, CA – Rating 5.06**

<http://www.petinsurance.com>

Founded in 1980, VPI is the oldest and largest health insurance plan for pets in the US. VPI plans cover dogs, cats, birds and exotic pets for medical problems and conditions relating to accidents, illnesses and injuries. Optional vaccination and routine care coverage is also available.

Reimburse owner 90% of all costs incurred. Owner pays hospital, send bill to VPI

**Pet Partners Inc (AKC Pet HealthCare Plan) – 1-866-725-2747 – Raleigh, NC – Rating 4.85**

<http://www.akcpethealthcare.com/BHIA/>

Offers insurance plans through the AKC brand.

If the diagnosis is covered in your policy then rehabilitative services will be included in the coverage.

**Pets Best Insurance – 1-888-899-0402 – Boise, ID – Rating 7.52**

<http://www.petsbest.com>

Currently offers plans in 46 states. Founded by veterinarian Jack Stephens, founder of VPI.

If the diagnosis is covered in your policy then rehabilitative services will be included in the coverage.

**Pethealth Inc (PetCare Brand) – 1-866-275-7387 – Oakville, ON – 4.08**

<http://www.petcareinsurance.com>

Pethealth offers pet insurance in both the US and Canada, currently offering its PetCare Pet Insurance Programs in 10 provinces, all US states (except Alaska) and Washington, D.C. In addition to the PetCare Pet Insurance Programs, Pethealth offers its pet insurance programs under a variety of names, including QuickCare, ShelterCare, 24 Pet Watch and Union Plus Pet Insurance. Recently joined with PETCO to offer insurance under the brand Petcare Pals.

If the condition is covered they will reimburse for those treatments recommended by the veterinarian. Includes massage and aquatic therapy

**Purina Care (Pet Health Insurance) – 877-878-7462 – San Antonio, TX – Rating - 8.77**

<http://www.purinacare.com>

PurinaCare offers 2 plans, one with preventive care and one without. Currently doing business in 47 states and DC. PurinaCare is one of only two companies to have received the AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) Seal of Acceptance. They are underwritten by Central States Indemnity of Omaha, a Berkshire Hathaway Company.

Cover 80% of cost for all treatments recommended by the referring veterinarian.

**Pet Assure – 1-888-789-7387 – Lakewood, NJ - Rating – 7**

<http://www.petassure.com>

An alternative to insurance, Pet Assure members obtain discounts from a network of thousands of veterinarians and pet suppliers. Members must go to participating veterinarian to get the savings.

**Banfield Wellness Plans – 1-800-838-6738 – Portland, OR – Rating – None**

<http://www.banfield.net>

Banfield is not an insurance company, but a membership plan that offers wellness benefits. Members must go to Banfield pet hospitals, which are located within PetSmart stores throughout the United States.

There are several different plans available for dogs and cats, including one that includes a spay or neuter service. There is a one-time sign-up fee and monthly payments that start at \$12.95.