

1) Is the province receptive to practitioners in any of the modalities to be certified outside of being a veterinarian or Animal Health Technician (AHT) (i.e.: can Doctors of Chiropractic perform on animals, can a Naturopathic doctor conduct an acupuncture treatment, could a provincially certified massage practitioner practice on an animal, could a provincially licensed physio therapist develop a rehabilitation program for an animal using physio techniques)

In Section 2(1) of *The Veterinarians Act, 1987* “veterinary medicine” is defined as that branch of knowledge relating to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of and injuries to animals. Diagnosing, advising, prescribing a drug, application of a treatment or therapy are to be carried out by a veterinarian or at the direction of a veterinarian. In keeping with the definition provide in *The Act* The SVMA takes the position any activity/process that involves diagnosing a condition and subsequently recommending or delivering a treatment or therapy falls under *The Act*. Human chiropractors can not legally practice on animals – there is no provision for them to do so under the provincial legislation governing them; veterinarians trained in chiropractic techniques for animals can practice on animals and are regulated under *The Veterinarians Act*. The same is true for acupuncture, physiotherapy, massage therapy, rehabilitation medicine etc.. Central to this issue is the matter of public protection. Provincial legislation that provides oversight of various professions in Saskatchewan is in place to provide a mechanism to discipline members of these professions in the areas of professional misconduct and professional incompetence. These Acts also provide for standards set by the profession to be enforceable i.e. members must comply – if not they can be disciplined (in serious cases this could include suspension of their license)

2) What are some of the requirements of education (ie. required class room hours, hours of hands on, hours of practicum, or a combination of these) the Veterinarian Association (or individual veterinarian) would take into consideration while looking at a modality or practitioner?

There have been training programs set up across North America in a large number of modalities. Unfortunately there is little or no standardization of these programs. It will take time to evaluate these programs and reach an agreement within the veterinary community on how they can be approved or accredited. Until this process is complete individuals that have taken training should work with a veterinarian.

3) Provincial Veterinary thoughts on a professional association for complimentary practitioners. What would be considered an acceptable number on annual continuing education hours for a practitioner who is a member of a professional association.

The SVMA has not started a process to open the Veterinarians Act so as to include these alternate and complementary therapist in the scope of veterinary medicine. To do so would provide for a mechanism to regulate these individuals under the existing Act . It is important for these fields to standardize their training and certification process just

as it is important for them to seek some mechanism of regulation of individuals that have been certified.

4) Vet/practitioner relationship. Should animals require written clearance for body work? Verbal clearance? Direct veterinary supervision?

Under *The Act* only a veterinarian can diagnose and recommend treatment – therefore if the procedure is being done because the animal has been injured etc. a veterinarian must have made the diagnosis and be involved in prescribing the treatment regime. If the procedure is being applied to a healthy animal as part of a training regime etc. i.e. no diagnosis and no treatment it would not fall under the current Act. A veterinarian may be required to certify the horse is healthy.