

EFFECTIVE
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NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

172 NAC 182

TITLE 172 PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

CHAPTER 182 LICENSURE OF ANIMAL THERAPISTS

001. SCOPE AND AUTHORITY. These regulations govern the licensure of animal therapists under the Nebraska Revised Statutes (Neb. Rev. Stats.) §§ 38-3301 to 38-3334 of the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act, and the Uniform Credentialing Act. These regulations do not apply to:

- (A) Licensed veterinary technicians;
- (B) Unlicensed assistants working in veterinary medicine;
- (C) Any person who is solely engaged in equine, cat, and dog massage practice; or
- (D) Persons who hold a valid credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act and who consult with a licensed veterinarian or perform collaborative animal health care tasks on a patient under the care of such veterinarian if all such tasks are performed under the immediate supervision of such veterinarian.

002. DEFINITIONS. Definitions set out in the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act, the Uniform Credentialing Act, 172 Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC) 10, and the following apply to this chapter.

002.01 ADEQUATE RECORDS. Legible records in either written or electronic form which contain, at a minimum, the date, patient, client, diagnosis or service provided, products given, data from tests performed and documentation of any client or agent consent.

003. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS. To obtain a license, an individual must submit a complete application provided by the Department and provide documentation demonstrating that the applicant meets the licensing requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-3321, 172 NAC 10, and this chapter.

003.01 QUALIFICATIONS. To receive a credential to practice as an animal therapist, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

- (A) Hold and maintain an undisciplined license under the Uniform Credentialing Act for a health care profession other than veterinary medicine and surgery. Any person who wishes to practice or represent himself or herself as an animal therapist must be licensed as an animal therapist.
- (B) Successfully complete training, approved by the board, regarding the performance of the applicant's specified health care profession on animals and have training in the human profession consistent with the therapy to be provided on animals. Training can be obtained from more than one program.

003.02 DOCUMENTATION. The applicant must submit to the Department proof of completing a training program that includes the following:

- (A) The name of the training program completed;
- (B) The location of the training program completed; and
- (C) The date the training program was completed.

004. TRAINING STANDARDS. All animal therapists must have a qualifying license to pursue an animal therapist license and meet the training standards in this chapter.

004.01 STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO ALL PROFESSIONS. In addition to meeting the requirements for the specified health care profession and this chapter, to be acceptable for licensure, a training program must be approved by the Board, meet the requirements for the specific professions listed in this chapter, and meet the following criteria:

- (A) The topic or objectives must relate directly to the practice of animal therapy in the specified health care profession;
- (B) The presenter of the activity must be qualified by education, experience or training;
- (C) Activities must be open to all persons who hold a Nebraska license to practice the specified health care profession on humans;
- (D) If the course involves the use of distance learning formats, including, but not limited to, archived video or audio programs, webcasts, telephone broadcasts, or simultaneous broadcasts, those persons not physically attending must have substantially the same opportunity for interaction with those teaching the course as they would if physically present at the same location; and
- (E) Activities must include a competency assessment or evaluation which may consist of a test, case studies, or other type of competency assessment.

004.02 STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC PROFESSIONS. Applicants must meet the requirements for all professions and the following specific to their profession as listed in this chapter.

004.02(A) ACUPUNCTURE. An applicant must:

- (i) Have and maintain an undisciplined license as an acupuncturist, a chiropractor, a physician, an osteopathic physician, or a physician assistant under the Uniform Credentialing Act;
- (ii) Complete a training program that consists of:
 - (1) At least 200 hours of instruction and training in veterinary acupuncture in the following areas:
 - (a) Comparative functional anatomy and physiology;
 - (b) Handling and restraint;
 - (c) Zoonotic diseases; and
 - (d) Recordkeeping; and
 - (2) At least 50 hours of supervised clinical training; and
- (iii) An Animal Therapist in Acupuncture is only allowed to use the following modalities:
 - (1) Dry needling;
 - (2) Electrostimulation;
 - (3) Moxibustion; and
 - (4) Laser therapy to stimulate acupuncture points.

004.02(B) CHIROPRACTIC OR VETERINARY ORTHOPEDIC MANIPULATION (VOM)
A CHIROPRACTIC TECHNIQUE. An applicant must:

- (i) Complete a training program that consists of:
 - (1) At least 210 hours of instruction or course work pertaining to animals in the following areas:
 - (a) Anatomy, including sacropelvic, thoracolumbar, cervical, and extremity;
 - (b) Anatomy laboratory;
 - (c) Behavior;
 - (d) Biomechanics and gait;
 - (e) Chiropractic educational basics;
 - (f) Chiropractic adjusting technique, including lecture and laboratory:
 - (i) Cervical;
 - (ii) Thoracic;
 - (iii) Lumbosacral;
 - (iv) Pelvic; and
 - (v) Extremity;
 - (g) Case management and case studies;
 - (h) Chiropractic philosophy;
 - (i) Differential diagnosis of neuromusculoskeletal conditions;
 - (j) Ethics and legalities;
 - (k) Knowledge of breed anomalies;
 - (l) Motion palpation;
 - (m) Neurology, neuroanatomy, and neurological conditions;
 - (n) Pathology;
 - (o) Physiology;
 - (p) Radiology;
 - (q) Research in current chiropractic and veterinary topics;
 - (r) Restraint;
 - (s) Rehabilitation, current topics, evaluation, and assessment;
 - (t) Normal foot anatomy and normal foot care;
 - (u) Saddle fit and evaluation, lecture, and laboratory;
 - (v) Veterinary educational basics;
 - (w) Vertebral subluxation complex; and
 - (x) Zoonotic diseases; and
 - (2) At least 50 hours of supervised clinical training.

004.02(C) MASSAGE THERAPY. An applicant must:

- (i) Complete a training program that consists of:
 - (1) At least 100 hours of instruction or course work pertaining to animals in the following areas:
 - (a) Anatomy and physiology;
 - (b) Pharmacology;
 - (c) Study of gait and movement;
 - (d) Massage therapy techniques;
 - (e) Handling skills;
 - (f) Restraint; and
 - (g) Behavior; and

- (2) At least 50 hours of in-class massage therapy clinics supervised by licensed veterinarians or licensed animal massage therapists.

004.02(D) PHYSICAL THERAPY OR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY. An applicant must:

- (i) Have and maintain an undisciplined license as either a physical therapist or an occupational therapist under the Uniform Credentialing Act;
- (ii) Complete a training program that consists of:
 - (1) At least 100 hours of instruction or course work pertaining to animals in the following areas:
 - (a) Assessment and planning of treatment;
 - (b) Behavior;
 - (c) Biomechanics;
 - (d) Common orthopedic and neurological conditions;
 - (e) Comparative anatomy and physiology;
 - (f) Restraint;
 - (g) Handling skills;
 - (h) Neurology; and
 - (i) Therapeutic modalities and exercises;
 - (2) At least 40 hours of supervised clinical training or internship; and
 - (3) A competency assessment or evaluation which may consist of a test, case studies, or other type of competency assessment.
- (iii) The training program must be affiliated with an American Veterinary Medical Association accredited school or college of veterinary medicine or the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

005. RENEWAL, WAIVER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION, AND INACTIVE STATUS. The applicant must meet the requirements set out in 172 NAC 10 and these regulations. All animal therapist licenses expire on April 1 of each even-numbered year.

006. CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS. On or before April 1 of each even-numbered year all licensees must complete the appropriate number of continuing education hours, and maintain their human equivalent license according their profession. Each licensee is responsible for maintaining certificates or records of continuing education. Only continuing competency activities which pertain to animals within the licensee's scope of practice are acceptable. The following continuing competency activities are limited to no more than 2 hours of each activity during each 2-year renewal period, and all other continuing competency activities have no limitation:

- (A) Clinical observation with a Veterinarian or Licensed Animal Therapist;
- (B) Home study hours with a testing mechanism;
- (C) Journal articles with a testing mechanism;
- (D) Publishing research in animal therapy; and
- (E) Teaching animal therapy.

006.01 PROFESSIONS REQUIRING TEN HOURS OF CONTINUOUS COMPETENCY HOURS. As a condition of license renewal, the following professions must complete at least ten (10) hours of acceptable continuing competency activities.

- (A) Acupuncture;
- (B) Chiropractic; and

(C) Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation – a Chiropractic technique.

006.02 PROFESSION REQUIRING SIX HOURS OF CONTINUOUS COMPETENCY HOURS. As a condition of license renewal, the following professions must complete at least six (6) hours of acceptable continuing competency activities.

- (A) Massage Therapy;
- (B) Physical Therapy; and
- (C) Occupational Therapy.

007. PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS. A licensed animal therapist may perform health care therapy in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-3333 and the following:

- (A) The health care therapy must be consistent with and limited to the veterinary medical diagnosis and evaluation that is included in the letter of referral;
- (B) The licensed animal therapist keeps and maintains adequate records of treatment or service for three (3) years after the licensed animal therapist's most recent contact with the client or patient.

008. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT. Unprofessional conduct is set out in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-179, 172 NAC 10, and includes, additionally, refusal to cooperate or failure to furnish requested information during any investigation by the Department.

009. REINSTATEMENT. The applicant must meet the requirements set out in 172 NAC 10.

010. FEES. Fees referred to in these regulations are set out in 172 NAC 2, and these regulations.

010.01 INITIAL FEE. Initial Licensure Fee for Animal Therapist. By an applicant for a license as an animal therapist, the fee of \$142.

010.02 RENEWAL FEE. Renewal Fee for Animal Therapist. By an applicant for renewal on a biennial basis of a license as an animal therapist, the fee of \$142.