**United States Animal Massage: Laws by State:**

**Before registering for a US class or if you are a US resident intending to take a class and use the skills for a business, we request that you read the individual state law pertaining to the state which you intend to work. You may reside in a state and choose to work in a neighboring state which allows you to practice within the parameters of that state law.**

**Once you read the particular law you will be asked to check a box when registering online, stating you have read the information before you are allowed to register for the class. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at:**[**office@equinology.com**](mailto:office@equinology.com)**.**

**While every effort has been made to make sure these are correct, these versions may not be the current law. Court decisions amend them, and a host of other factors come into play when interpreting them. If you read most any practice act, unless it specifically allows massage, most can be interpreted in either direction depending on who is arguing the case.**

***Again please understand that state laws constantly change and are often left up to interpretation of the current board. Equinology INC, IEBWA, Caninology, its owners and employees will not be held accountable for any information listed in this summary.   These summaries are merely here as a collection of information and summaries that we have run across in our searches. If you need a thorough review and analysis of your state's practice act wording and exemptions, we advise you to evaluate the full text of the statute and regulations which can be found on most state government sites, and consult a knowledgeable attorney.***

**You will find more details for each state after the short version listed below.**

**ALABAMA : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***Specific wording in the state board vet practice act***

**“Animal massage by a massage therapist under the direction of a licensed veterinarian”**

**ALASKA : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in state board vet practice act***

**ARIZONA : NOT ALLOWED; VET ONLY**

***Broad wording in the vet practice act***

**“Manipulation and “all other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine”**

**ARKANSAS : NOT ALLOWED; VET ONLY**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however interpretation was received from the vet board***

**CALIFORNIA : ALLOWED**

***No specific wording in state board vet practice act in regards to massage. Please see update on the 2010 bill AB1980***

**COLORADO : ALLOWED WITH CERTIFICATION FROM APPROVED SCHOOL**

***Specific wording in state board vet practice act to be effective January 2010***

**CONNECTICUT : ALLOWED**

***Specific Wording in the state board vet practice act***

**DELAWARE : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***Exemption wording in the vet practice act:***

**“Supports activities under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian”**

**FLORIDA : ALLOWED**

***Law passed in 2006 allowing massage***

**GEORGIA : ALLOWED**

***Specific wording in state vet practice act to allow animal massage***

**This article shall not be construed to prohibit:**

**(17) A person performing soft tissue animal massage or other forms of soft tissue animal manipulation…”**

**HAWAII : ALLOWED WITH VET SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in the state vet practice act however state board interpretation offered guidelines***

**IDAHO : ALLOWED**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act however state board interpretation offers guidelines:***

**Allied health professional participating in procedure within his/her scope of practice and under direct supervision of actively licensed veterinarian**

**ILLINOIS : PREVIOUSLY ALLOWED: CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED**

**Some specific wording is now offered in the state practice act. Wording includes this list as the practice of veterinary medicine:**

**Complementary, alternative, or integrative veterinary medical procedures including: Chiropractic, Physical therapy, Animal acupuncture, Animal acutherapy, Animal acupressure, Veterinary homeopathy, Animal psychology, Artificial insemination, Dental, Veterinary nutraceutical therapy, Veterinary phytotherapy**

**INDIANA : CHECK WITH STATE BOARD: CHANGED**

***Broad wording in state vet practice now includes:***

***“Complimentary or alternative therapy” as the practice of veterinary medicine***

**IOWA : NO RESPONSE FROM VET BOARD: ACUPRESSURE NOT ALLOWED**

***Broad wording in state vet practice now includes:***

**“animal physical therapy, veterinary acupuncture and acupressure, animal chiropractic, and all other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine” *as the practice of veterinary medicine***

**KANSAS : ALLOWED WITH VET SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act in regards to massage however this particular wording is included in the act:***

**“Independent contractor under direct or indirect supervision of veterinarian as specified by regulation”**

**KENTUCKY :   GRAY AREA**

***Broad wording in state vet practice now includes:***

**“All other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine”**

**LOUISIANA : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***Broad wording in state vet practice now includes:***

**“All other branches of veterinary medicine”**

**MAINE : NOT ALLOWED**

***Specific wording in state vet practice act includes:***

**“Physical or massage therapy”**

**MARYLAND : ALLOWED CASE PENDING**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act although there is a case pending initiated by the State Chiropractic board who governs human massage therapists.***

**MASSACHUSETTS :   NOT ALLOWED**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however the state boards’ interpretation disallowed***

**MICHIGAN : NO RESPONSE FROM VET BOARD**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act***

**MINNESOTA : ALLOWED**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act***

**MISSISSIPPI :   ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act however guidelines were provided by the state board***

**MISSOURI :   ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however the state boards’ interpretation disallowed***

**MONTANA : ALLOWED**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act***

**NEBRASKA : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act however guidelines were provided by the state board***

**NEVADA : NO RESPONSE FROM VET BOARD**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act in regards to massage however physical therapy is allowed by “certified(?)” physical therapist   under direct vet supervision.***

**NEW HAMPSHIRE : ALLOWED**

***Specific wording in state vet practice act allowing massage***

**NEW JERSEY: GRAY AREA**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act includes the following terms:***

**“Alternative or complementary veterinary medicine”**

**NEW MEXICO : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Chiropractic, physical therapy, acupuncture, acupressure and embryo transfer under the direct supervision of licensed veterinarian”**

**NEW YORK : NOT ALLOWED:   VET ONLY OR VET TECH WITH VET SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in the state practice act however it has been bought to our attention that according the state human massage board, animal massage is allowed to be performed only by vets or vet tech with supervision.***

**NORTH CAROLINA : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act however guidelines were provided by the state board***

**NORTH DAKOTA : ALLOWED**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act however guidelines were provided by the state board***

**OHIO : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act however guidelines were provided by the state board***

**OKLAHOMA : ALLOWED WITH VET REFFERAL**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Individuals certified in animal massage therapy who acquire liability insurance may engage in animal massage therapy after referral from a licensed veterinarian”**

**OREGON : ALLOWED WITH VET REFERRAL**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Allied health professionals upon referral from a licensed veterinarian”**

**PENNSYLVANIA : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Chiropractic, dental, dental hygiene and physical therapy procedures performed upon animals by licensed individuals in conjunction with the practice of veterinary medicine and under the direct supervision of a veterinarian”**

**PUERTO RICO : ALLOWED**

***Guidelines were provided by the state board***

**RHODE ISLAND : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however interpretation was received from the vet board***

**SOUTH CAROLINA : VET MAY DELEGATE**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Veterinarians may delegate the performance of procedures, therapeutic options and alternate therapies, under certain conditions, including acupuncture, manipulation and adjustment, magnetic field therapy, holistic medicine, homeopathy, herbology/naturopathy, massage, and physical therapy”**

**SOUTH DAKOTA : ALLOWED**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act***

**TEXAS : ALLOWED (MAY NEED VET SUPERVISION)**

***November 2008 broad wording in state vet practice act includes the following terms:***

**“…any other discipline or specialty of veterinary medicine , acupuncture , homeopathy”**

***Exemptions to the wording in the practice act include:***

**“Accepted livestock management practices approved by the Board,**

**Musculoskeletal manipulation and chiropractic may be practiced under the supervision of a veterinarian”**

**UTAH : ALLOWED WITH REFERRAL**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Certified massage therapist with veterinary referral”**

**VERMONT : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however, the state board interpretation offered guidelines***

**VIRGIN ISLANDS : ALLOWED**

**VIRGINIA : ALLOWED WITH VET DELEGATION**

***Specific wording in state vet practice act.***

**WASHINGTON : ALLOWED; NEW LAW IN LIMBO WITH FISCAL ASSIGNMENT**

***Specific wording in state vet practice act***

**Act will read as allowed by certified animal massage therapists once fees have been approved by legislature. Until then the old guidelines (see below) still apply**

**WEST VIRGINIA : NO RESPONSE FROM VET BOARD**

**WISCONSIN : ALLOWED WITH DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however, the state board interpretation offered guidelines***

**WYOMING : NO RESPONSE FROM VET BOARD**

***VERSIONS WITH COMPLETE TEXT:***

**ALABAMA : ALLOWED UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***Specific wording in the state board vet practice act:***

**“Animal massage by a massage therapist under the direction of a licensed veterinarian”**

Current Interpretation: According to the AVMA August 2008 state law, massage is allowed under direct supervision of a veterinarian. Specific wording included in the veterinary state practice act.

Previous Interpretation: Must be first licensed as a human qualified massage therapist: 500 hours prior to 1998, 650 hours after December 31, 1997 but before January 1, 2002. In addition:(10) To permit animal massage by a massage therapist under the direction of prescription of a licensed veterinarian, the applicant must graduate from a nationally approved program and complete a minimum of 100 hours of postgraduate training and education in animal anatomy, pathology, and physiology for the type of animal on which the therapist will perform therapeutic massage.

***Current veterinary laws of practice:***

“a.To diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve, or prevent animal disease, deformity, defect, injury or other physical or mental condition; including the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthesia, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique on any animal including but not limited to acupuncture, dentistry, animal psychology, animal chiropractic, theriogenology, surgery, including cosmetic surgery, any manual, mechanical, biological, or chemical procedure for testing for pregnancy or for correcting sterility or infertility, or to render service or recommendations with regard to any of the above.”

**ALASKA : VET ONLY OR DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act***

***Response from Vet Board:***No specific laws or response from board at this time. Snail mail sent for follow up response July 2003.

Two bills have been attempted.   HB 372 was a pro choice that failed. SB 321 was similar to the AVMA Model, but failed.

An animal massage therapist did write to the board and was told only a vet or vet tech directly under the supervision may provide massage. ***However again, no specific wording is in the vet practice act.***

**ARIZONA : VET ONLY**

**The words; “Manipulation and “all other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine” are listed in the vet practice act.**

***Update on law:***From the Arizona Alliance for Animal Owners’ Rights: According to the Arizona Revised Statute covering the definition of veterinary medicine, any non-vet who administers any method, practice, or manipulation for any type of animal condition who is paid for this service is practicing veterinary medicine with-out a license.

A bill restoring owner’s rights lost by one vote recently. The state alliance is working on resubmitting another bill.

***Response from Vet Board:***No specific laws in the response from the vet board. Vet board stated they were unable to respond to our clarification request

No human massage laws.

***Current veterinary laws of practice*** :

“ . A person shall be regarded as practicing veterinary medicine, surgery and dentistry within the meaning of this chapter who, within this state:

 Prescribes or administers any drug, medicine, treatment, method or practice, performs any operation or manipulation, or applies any apparatus or appliance for the cure, amelioration, correction or modification of any animal condition, disease, deformity, defect, wound or injury for hire, fee, compensation or reward that is directly or indirectly promised, offered, expected, received or accepted.”

**ARKANSAS : VET ONLY**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however interpretation from the vet board:***

***Vet Board Response 2003:***The vet board still underlines the word “relief” as the practice of veterinary medicine.

***Vet Board Response 2001*** :

Massage therapy on non-human animals must be performed by a veterinarian licensed in the State of Arkansas.

The vet board feels that massage provides “relief”. Relief falls under the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine.

**CALIFORNIA : ALLOWED**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act in regards to massage. Please note the clarification on the 2010 bill AB 1980***

August 3, 2010

Debranne Pattillo, President and Founder

Equinology INC and Caninology

P.O. Box 1192

Gualala, CA.   95445

**RE:    RECENT CONCERNS RAISED REGARDING AB 1980-HAYASHI (VETERINARY MEDICINE)**

Ms. Pattillo,

Thank you for speaking with CVMA’s lobbyists this week regarding AB 1980 by Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi, which seeks to make a series of reforms to the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.   Several members of the animal massage community, and for that matter, the animal chiropractic community, have raised concerns with an amendment in the bill in Section 4826 of the Practice Act.   This letter seeks to provide you with some additional clarification for your membership and students.

AB 1980 is jointly sponsored by the California Veterinary Medical Board, the California Veterinary Medical Association, and the California Registered Veterinary Technician Association.   Section 4826 of the Business and Professions Code (Veterinary Practice Act) is being amended (in italics) thus:

4826.   A person practices veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry and the various branches thereof, when he or she does any one of the following….

(f)    Performs physical rehabilitation or musculoskeletal manipulation upon an animal, unless otherwise authorized by regulation of the board.

The intent behind adding “f” to Section 4826 of the Practice Act is to give the Veterinary Medical Board two authorities:   1) the ability to crack down on unlicensed activity by lay people purporting to be “animal physical therapists” and “animal chiropractors” and 2) the ability to write regulations regarding the animal physical therapists.   (The animal chiropractic regulations – Section 2038 of the California Code of Regulations – have been in effect for over a decade.)   Legislative Counsel specifically recommended that we include the phrase “unless otherwise authorized by regulation of the board,” or (f) would be restricted to only veterinarians who could perform these tasks.   Clearly, we did not intend to limit this provision to veterinarians only, and so we concurred with Legislative Counsel’s recommended language.

The bill is totally and completely silent with regard to animal massage therapists and it will not impact your ability to practice whatsoever.    Animal massage is specifically and intentionally not mentioned in these amendments.     Perhaps some of the confusion on the bill has come from the use of the phrase “musculoskeletal manipulation.”   This is a term that is contained in Section 2038 of the California Code of Regulations, relative to animal chiropractors, however, when we drafted this section years ago, we were told that the term “chiropractic” is a protected term by the industry and may not be used by any of the other healing arts professions.   Thus, the VMB adopted the term “musculoskeletal manipulation” instead.

Lastly, the addition of (f) to Section 4826 is, in no way, intended to impede the work of legitimate practitioners who perform work on animals.   Rather, it seeks to highlight those “bad actors” in the world of animal chiropractic or animal physical rehabilitation who have no training or certification, and who are not safely working on animals.

We appreciate your recent conversation with us and we hope that this letter further assists your efforts in alleviating some of the recent concerns raised by Equinology or Caninology members/students.   Please feel free to share this letter with those interested parties you find appropriate.

Sincerely,

Valerie Fenstermaker, CVMA Executive Director

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Valerie Fenstermaker I Executive Director

California Veterinary Medical Association

800.655.2862 x32 I Fax: 916.646.9176

www.cvma.net

There are no current regulations on animal massage. However, musculoskeletal manipulation in not allowed by layperson.

***Bill Introduced:***A bill regarding training and guidelines for equine body workers AB 2042 was introduced in 1999. It passed the first 3 hearings but was not presented for the final hearing.

**COLORADO : ALLOWED WITH CERTIFICATION FROM APPROVED SCHOOL**

***Specific wording in state vet practice act to be effective January 2010***

***August 2008:***Animal massage – any person may perform massage on an animal if the person does not prescribe drugs, perform surgery, or diagnose medical conditions and effective 1/1/2010, the person has earned a degree or certificate in animal massage from an approved school

***HB 07-1295 PASSED January 2008***

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING AN EXEMPTION FROM THE " COLORADO VETERINARY

102 PRACTICE ACT" FOR TRAINED ANIMAL MASSAGE

103 PRACTITIONERS.

**Bill Summary**

Exempts from the "Colorado Veterinary Practice Act" persons who perform massage on animals, so long as such persons:

(1) Have earned a degree or certificate in animal massage from a state-approved or accredited school; and

(2) Do not prescribe drugs, perform surgery, or diagnose

medical conditions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. 12-64-104 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is

amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH to read:

12-64-104. License requirements and exceptions - definitions.

(1) No person may practice veterinary medicine in this state who is not a licensed veterinarian. No person may practice artificial insemination or ova transplantation of cattle or other animal species in this state except in accordance with section 12-64-105 (9) (c). This article shall not be construed to prohibit:

(o) (I) ANY PERSON FROM PERFORMING MASSAGE ON AN ANIMAL

**IF:**

(A) THE PERSON DOES NOT PRESCRIBE DRUGS, PERFORM SURGERY,

OR DIAGNOSE MEDICAL CONDITIONS; AND

(B) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010, THE PERSON HAS EARNED A

DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE IN ANIMAL MASSAGE FROM A SCHOOL APPROVED BY THE PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOL DIVISION OF THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER ARTICLE 59 OF THIS TITLE, AN OUT-OF-STATE SCHOOL OFFERING AN ANIMAL MASSAGE PROGRAM WITH AN ACCREDITATION RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OR A SCHOOL THAT IS EXEMPT UNDER SECTION 12-59-104.

(II) AS USED IN THIS PARAGRAPH (o):

(A) "MASSAGE" MEANS A METHOD OF TREATING THE BODY FOR

REMEDIAL OR HYGIENIC PURPOSES THROUGH TECHNIQUES THAT INCLUDE,

WITHOUT LIMITATION, RUBBING, STROKING, KNEADING, OR TAPPING WITH

THE T OR BOTH.HAND OR AN INSTRUMENTHESE TECHNIQUES MAY BE APPLIED WITH OR WITHOUT THE AID OF A MASSAGE DEVICE THAT MIMICS THE ACTIONS POSSIBLE USING HUMAN HANDS.

(B) "MASSAGE" DOES NOT INCLUDE CHIROPRACTIC OR

ACUPUNCTURE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 12-33-102, OR THOSE ACTS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY THAT FALL OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF MASSAGE.

 (2) The provisions of this act shall apply to treatment of animals occurring on or after the applicable effective date of this act.

**CONNECTICUT : ALLOWED**

***Specific wording in the state vet practice act***

***Myotherapy Bill in Legislature:***House Bill No. 6683. PASSED.

“This bill only applied to myofascial trigger point therapy on animals, and not any other type of massage. The bill allows for practice of this type of massage if the person had the stipulated education and experience prior to the bill going into effect.

***House Bill No. 6683***

***Public Act No. 03-277***

***AN ACT CONCERNING MYOFASCIAL TRIGGER POINT THERAPY ON ANIMALS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 20-197 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

No person shall practice veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry until he has obtained a license as provided in section 20-199. A person shall be construed to practice veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry, within the meaning of this chapter, who holds himself out as being able to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition, or who either offers or undertakes, by any means or methods, to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition. The euthanizing of animals in accordance with applicable state and federal drug laws by the Connecticut Humane Society , **[**and**]** the floating of teeth in horses by persons experienced in that practice **and the performance of myofascial trigger point therapy by persons experienced in that practice** shall not be deemed to be the practice of veterinary medicine. For the purposes of this section, "floating teeth" means using hand-held rasps to reduce or eliminate sharp or uneven edges on a horse's upper and lower molars to avoid injury to the tongue and cheeks and to improve chewing food, but does not include treating decay, tumors or extracting teeth. **For purposes of this section, "myofascial trigger point therapy" means the use of specific palpation, compression, stretching and corrective exercise for promoting optimum athleticism, and "persons experienced in that practice" means a person who, prior to the effective date of this section, has attended a minimum of two hundred hours of classroom, lecture and hands-on practice in myofascial trigger point therapy, including animal musculoskeletal anatomy and biomechanics, theory and application of animal myofascial trigger point techniques, factors that habituate a presenting condition and corrective exercise.**

Approved July 9, 2003

**DELAWARE : VET ONLY OR DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***Exemption wording in the vet practice act:***

**“Supports activities under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian”**

***Response from Human Massage Board:***E-mail message dated April 21, 2003 from Susan Miccio, Administrative Specialist, Delaware Division of Professional Regulation, Examining Board of Physical Therapists, Board of Massage and Bodywork, Board of Veterinary Medicine:

“Massage on animals falls under the jurisdiction of the Board of Veterinary Medicine in DE.   Vet practice act available on www.professionallicensing.state.de.us.   Click on Vet Med and then on

DelawareCode.   Massage is not mentioned.   Refer to definition of practice of veterinary medicine.   No plans to address massage for animals at this time.”

***Vet Board Response 2001:*** In a previous letter from the board, they wrote:

“To the extent that equine massage falls within the definition of “practice of veterinary medicine” in 24 Del. C. §3302 (6), a practitioner of equine massage must be a licensed veterinarian, as defined in 24 Del. C. §3302 (8), unless an exception listed in 24 Del. C. §3303 applies.”

§3303 License requirements and exceptions. (10), No person may practice veterinary medicine in the State who is not a licensed veterinarian or the holder of a valid temporary permit issued by the Board. This chapter shall not be construed to prohibit:

(10) Any person from performing support activities under the direct supervision, as determined by regulations adopted by the Board, of a Delaware-licensed veterinarian. The support activities shall not include diagnosing, prescribing, inducing anesthesia, performing surgery or other support activities as defined in regulations adopted by the Board.

§3302 (6) "Practice of veterinary medicine" shall mean:

a. To diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve or prevent animal disease, deformity, defect, injury or other physical or mental conditions, including the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique, for testing for pregnancy or for correcting sterility or infertility, or to render advice or recommendation with regard to any of the above;

**FLORIDA : ALLOWED**

***June 9, 2006 update:*New law passed and signed June 9, 2006: H641      Animal Service Providers; provides that ch. 474, F.S., re veterinary   medical practice, does not apply to part-time worker or independent   contractor who is hired by owner to provide certain services; provides   for retroactive effect.**

***Response from Vet Board:*No specific laws or response from board at this time. Snail mail sent for follow up response July 2003.**

***Vet Board View from their FVB Fall 2000 newsletter:***

“A licensed massage therapist is only authorized pursuant to the Section 480.033, F. S. to manipulate the superficial tissues of the human body under the authority of his/her license. A massage therapist cannot hold himself or herself out to the public as and animal massage therapist, and may not perform massage therapy on an animal independently, but may only do so under the direction and supervision of a licensed veterinarian.”

**GEORGIA : ALLOWED**

***Specific wording in state vet practice act to allow animal massage***

Excerpt from HB 347

43-50-32. 43-50-44.

This article shall not be construed to prohibit:

(17) A person performing soft tissue animal massage or other forms of soft tissue animal manipulation;

***Response from Vet Board:***In response to a snail mail sent for follow up response July 2003. Received July 22, 2003 from Anita O. Martin, executive Director of the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine.

“…the board does not issue legal advice or opinions, or offer legal interpretation of the Georgia Laws and Rules. You can find the official Laws and Rules on out web site…”

**HAWAII : VET OR SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in the state vet practice act however state board interpretation offers these guidelines:***

***Vet Board Response:***

“The veterinary medicine licensing regulations do not specifically address equine massage, The definition to the “Practice of Veterinary Medicine” means the diagnosis of treatment for the prevention, cure, or relief of, or giving of advice concerning, a disease, pain, injury, deformity, or other physical condition of an animal, or a characteristic of an animal for cosmetic or utility purposes. It includes medical, surgical and dental care of animals. This definition sufficiently broad to provide only licensed veterinarians the ability to practice on animals , including massage. However, the veterinary licensing regulation allows for those under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian to be able to provide limited services on animals including massage therapy.”

**IDAHO : ALLOWED**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act however state board interpretation offers guidelines:***

**Allied health professional participating in procedure within his/her scope of practice and under direct supervision of actively licensed veterinarian**

***Response from Vet Board:***In a letter from Sheila Jenson, MA for the Idaho State Board of Veterinary Medicine dated, July 28,2003:

“Massage is not a licensed profession in the state of Idaho; therefore, equine massage is allowed as long as the individual does not diagnose, prescribe, manipulate or adjust.”

**ILLINOIS : PREVIOUSLY ALLOWED: CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED**

**Some specific wording is now offered in the state practice act. Wording includes this list as the practice of veterinary medicine:**

**Complementary, alternative, or integrative veterinary medical procedures including:**

**Chiropractic**

**Physical therapy**

**Animal acupuncture**

**Animal acutherapy**

**Animal acupressure**

**Veterinary homeopathy**

**Animal psychology**

**Artificial insemination**

**Dental**

**Veterinary nutraceutical therapy**

**Veterinary phytotherapy**

As of January 1, 2004, with the legislative indoctrination of the Veterinary Medicine and Surgical Act of 2004, Senate Bill 386, all practitioners dealing with animals who are not licensed professional veterinarians must present their respective clients with a Disclosure Statement, prior to performing any practices.

***Veterinary Laws of Practice Amended:***

[**House Amendment No. 3**](http://www.legis.state.il.us/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=09300SB0386ham003&GA=93&SessionId=3&DocTypeId=SB&DocNum=0386)

**Synopsis As Introduced**   
Amends the Regulatory Sunset Act. Extends the repeal of the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 1994 to January 1, 2014. Effective immediately.

**Bill SB0386**   
Replaces the exemption for an owner of a companion animal caring or treating his or her animal with an exemption for an owner of an animal, or an agent of the owner acting with the owner's approval, in caring for, training, or treating an animal belonging to the owner, so long as that individual or agent does not represent himself or herself as a veterinarian or use any title associated with the practice of veterinary medicine or surgery or diagnose, prescribe drugs, or perform surgery. Adds an exemption for an individual providing equine dentistry services requested by a veterinarian licensed to practice in this State, an owner, or an owner's agent.

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 1994. Changes the short title of the Act to the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004. Makes changes to provisions concerning definitions, exemptions from the application of the Act, unlawful practice, qualifications, applicants for licensure from non-approved veterinary schools, temporary permits, expiration and renewal of a license, and disciplinary actions. Changes references to veterinary technicians to certified veterinary technicians. Changes references to approved programs of veterinary medicine and surgery to accredited college of veterinary medicine. Adds failing to report a case of suspected aggravated cruelty, torture, or animal fighting to the grounds for discipline under the Act. Provides that nothing in the Act exempts a licensee from the mandatory reporting requirements regarding suspected acts of aggravated cruelty, torture, and animal fighting. Makes other changes. Amends various other Acts to change references to the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 1994 to the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004. Amends the Regulatory Sunset Act to provide for the repeal of the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004 on January 1, 2014. Effective December 31, 2003.

Exemptions to the Practice of Veterinary Medicine:

§115/4 (7): “Members or other licensed professions or any other individuals when called for consultation and assistance by a veterinarian licensed in the State of Illinois and who act under the supervision, direction and control of the veterinarian, as further defined by rule of the Department.”

**INDIANA : CHECK WITH STATE BOARD: CHANGED**

***Broad wording in state vet practice now includes:***

***“Complimentary or alternative therapy” as the practice of veterinary medicine***

***Vet Board Response:***In a letter dated March 27, 2000, Cindy Vaught wrote:

“…the statues or rules do not specifically pertain to the practice of equine massage.”

***Current veterinary laws of practice:***

   "Practice of veterinary medicine" means:

       (3) diagnosing a specific disease or injury, or identifying and describing a disease process of animals, or performing any procedure for the diagnosis of pregnancy, sterility, or infertility upon animals;

        (4) prescribing a drug, medicine, appliance or application, or treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure, or relief of bodily injury or disease of animals;

        (5) performing a surgical or dental operation upon an animal; or

        (6) administering a drug, medicine, appliance, application, or treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, or bodily injury or disease of animals, except where such drug, medicine, appliance, application, or treatment is administered at the direction and under the direct supervision of a veterinarian licensed under this chapter.

    " Veterinary medicine" includes veterinary surgery, obstetrics, dentistry, acupuncture, and all other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine.

**IOWA : NO RESPONSE FROM VET BOARD**

***Broad wording in state vet practice now includes:***

**“animal physical therapy, veterinary acupuncture and acupressure, animal chiropractic, and all other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine” *as the practice of veterinary medicine***

***Response from Vet Board:***No specific laws or response from board at this time. Snail mail sent for follow up response July 2003.

**KANSAS : ALLOWED WITH VET SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act in regards to massage however this particular wording is included in the act:***

**“Independent contractor under direct or indirect supervision of veterinarian as specified by regulation”**

***Response from Vet Board:***No specific laws or response from board at this time. Snail mail sent for follow up response July 2003.

**KENTUCKY :   GRAY AREA**

***Broad wording in state vet practice now includes:***

**“All other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine”**

***Vet Board Response:***From a letter dated March 13, 2000 written by Joel Neaveill, Deputy Director of the Agriculture department. He says he spoke with the vet board and this was the response.

“Under current law there is no specific regulation of equine massage…

…nothing in the Kentucky Revised Statute that specifically addressed the practice of equine massage. However, the practice could fall under the general provisions of regulations of general practice of Veterinarians.”

***Current Laws of Practice:***

(5) "Practice of veterinary medicine" means:

(a) To diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve, or prevent: animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical or mental conditions, including the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique, and the use of any manual or mechanical procedure for testing for pregnancy, or for correcting sterility or infertility, or to render advice or recommendation with regard to any of the above;

(b) To engage in veterinary surgery, obstetrics, embryo transfer, dentistry, acupuncture, manipulation, and all other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine and the prescribing, administering, or dispensing of drugs and medications for veterinary purposes, in accordance with the applicable federal statutes and regulations governing controlled prescription and legend drugs;

**LOUISIANA : VET ONLY OR DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***Broad wording in state vet practice now includes:***

**“All other branches of veterinary medicine”**

***Vet Board Response via their lawyer:***In a letter dated August 11, 2003 from Michael Tomino, Jr.:

“You may also inquire as to whether or not the provision of rehabilitation techniques in including sports massage, can lawfully be performed by an employee under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian pursuant to Rule 702. (A2)”

     Treatment is being performed on the order of prescription of the licensed, supervising veterinarian,

     except that no unlicensed person may perform….diagnosis….

Therefore…the provision of rehabilitation techniques, including sports massage, on an animal is clearly included within the scope of veterinary medicine which is regulated by the Board”….Such a violations would be investigated and prosecuted by the Board of the fullest extent of the law.”

***Response from the Massage Board:***E-mail dated: 04/21/03, M. Gunther, LBMT, wrote:

“In Louisiana a person must have a license for massage therapy in order to practice animal massage. There are no separate laws or sections within our law addressing this practice.”

***Current veterinary laws of practice:***

“Practice of veterinary medicine” means: to diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve, or prevent animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical or mental conditions; including the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic apparatus, application, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique, and the use of any manual or mechanical procedure for testing pregnancy or for correcting sterility, or infertility, or to render advice recommendation with regard to any of the above.

**MAINE : VET ONLY**

***Specific wording in state vet practice act includes:***

**“Physical or massage therapy”**

***Vet Board Response (April 24, 2003):***E-mail from Geraldine Betts: “Your message to Ms. Elaine Thibodeau inquiring about the practice of veterinary medicine was forwarded to me for reply.  Please be advised that the practice of veterinary medicine includes massage therapy - 32 MRSA §4853 (7).

***Current veterinary laws of practice:***

A. The diagnosis, treatment, correction, change, relief or prevention of animal disease, deformity, defect, injury or other physical or mental condition, including the prescription or administration of a drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic or other imaging, therapeutic or diagnostic technique or nutritional substance or technique on, for or to any animal, including, but not limited to, acupuncture, dentistry, homeopathic or chiropractic procedures, physical or massage therapy, surgery including cosmetic surgery, implanting of microchips or similar devices or any manual, mechanical, biological or chemical procedure used for pregnancy testing or correcting sterility or infertility;  [1997, c. 246, §4 (rpr).]

***Failed Bill:*HP1145** : An Act Regarding Equine Massage Therapy. Attempted in 1999.

***Prior Vet Board Response: (March 17, 2000):***E-mail from Anne Head:

“Currently there is no license category for an individual who is trained to perform equine massage. Proposed legislature to create such a license category was introduced in the Maine State Legislature in the 118th Legislature but was not passed. For your information, the Board of Veterinary Medicine opposed the legislature because equine massage is viewed by the board as a component of veterinary practice, and thus, can be practiced only by licensed veterinarians or by unlicensed individuals working under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.”

**MARYLAND : ALLOWED CASE PENDING**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act although there is a case pending initiated by the State Chiropractic board who governs human massage therapists.***

***Previous Response from Vet Board:***No specific laws or response from board at this time. Snail mail sent for follow up response July 2003.In a letter dated September 3, 2003: It stated the Board does not have a problem with the practice of horse massage. There are no revisions planned for the practice act.

***Current Response:***There is an ongoing case in MD after and EBW who is also state certified in human massage was issued a cease and desist. The C and D came from the MD Chiropractic Board who threatened to revoke her human license if she did not stop working on animals stating animal massage was the practice of veterinary medicine. The president of the MD Vet Board supported and backed up the MD Chiropractic Board view which was a reverse from the 2003 letter. However, the MD Vet Board is not backpedaling and saying they do not have a problem with massage for relaxation.

Court case is still pending.

**Definition of Veterinary Medicine:** “The science of diagnosing, treating, changing, alleviating, rectifying, curing, or preventing any animal disease, deformity, defect, injury or other physical or mental condition, including, but not limited to, the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic apparatus, application, anesthesia or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique on any animal, including, but not limited to, acupuncture, dentistry, animal psychology, animal chiropractic, theriogenology, surgery, both general and cosmetic surgery, any manual, mechanical, biological or chemical procedure for testing for pregnancy or for correcting sterility or infertility or to render service or recommendations with regard to any of the procedures in the paragraph.”

“Maryland Dept. of Agriculture oversees the practice of veterinary medicine. The Chiropractic Board of Examiners oversees the massage therapy program as it pertains to the human body.”

**MASSACHUSETTS :   VET ONLY**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however the state boards’ interpretation disallowed***

***Vet board response:***E-mail response from Jodi B. Bornstein, April 28, 2003:

“Currently, no one is able to practice animal massage unless they are licensed as a veterinarian. “

**MICHIGAN : NO RESPONSE FROM VET BOARD**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act***

***Response from Vet Board:***No specific laws or response from board at this time. Snail mail sent for follow up response July 2003.

**MINNESOTA : ALLOWED**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act***

***Response from Vet Board:***Received by e-mail attachment, July 30, 2003 from Dr. John King, Exec. Director

“As long as the individual is not diagnosing, prescribing or offering treatment plans and providing treatment not prescribed by a veterinarian that individual will not be in violation of the Minnesota Practice Act.”

**MISSISSIPPI :   VET ONLY OR DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***Broad   wording in state vet practice act however guidelines were provided by the state board (see below):***

**Complementary, alternative and integrative therapies including:  
Acupuncture  
Acutherapy  
Acupressure  
Homeopathy  
Osteopathy  
Chiropractic  
Physical therapy  
Nutraceutical therapy  
Phytotherapy**

***Response from Vet Board:***Becky Springer, spokes person for the MI vet board returned the request with SB2680 a chiropractic bill.   On November 24, 2003, Debranne Pattillo called and had a conversation with Dr. McCrory of the Vet Board who was filling in for Ms, Springer. Dr McCrory said there was no problem for EBWs to provide massage for horses but it had to be under direct supervision of a vet or vet only.

**MISSOURI :   VET ONLY OR DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however the state boards’ interpretation resulted in this response:***

***Vet Board Response:***This was sent from Missouri via e-mail April 21, 2003

“A person must either be under the direct supervision of a vet or licensed as  
a vet to provide animal massage.”

***Update via court ruling July 2008*** : Vet board can control who can float horse’s teeth.

**MONTANA : ALLOWED**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act***

***Response from Vet Board:***Snail response dated September 16, 2003:

“Massage for relaxation and general toning is not prohibited by the board. The board does not restrict animal massage to licensed veterinarians.”

There are no revisions planned for the practice act.

***Prior ruling which needs investigation:***“Equine Massage is considered non-veterinary medicine”

**NEBRASKA : VET ONLY OR DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act includes the following terms:***

**“All other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine”**

***Vet Board Response*** : From Vicki Bumgarnder, April 28, 2003

“Non-veterinarians may practice massage therapy on animals only under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.”

**NEVADA : NO RESPONSE FROM VET BOARD**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act in regards to massage however physical therapy is allowed by “certified(?)” physical therapist   under direct vet supervision.***

***Response from Vet Board:***No specific laws or response from board at this time. Snail mail sent for follow up response July 2003.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE : ALLOWED**

***Specific wording in state vet practice act allowing massage***

***Vet Board Response:***E-mail response from Ms. Patricia Duncklee dated May 8, 2003, she writes:

“Our administrative rule Vet 101.02 (b) states:

(b) The following shall be deemed by the board, pursuant to RSA 332-B:2, to be accepted livestock management practices and not the practice of veterinary medicine:

                 (1) Equine farrier services;

                 (2) Bovine hoof trimming;

                 (3) Equine massage; and

                 (4) Equine filing or "floating" of teeth.

Of course, diagnosing, prescribing, etc. (as in the board's practice

Act 332-B:1, III) is considered the practice of veterinary medicine.

**NEW JERSEY: GRAY AREA**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act includes the following terms:***

**“Alternative or complementary veterinary medicine”**

***June 2006 update:***Clarification on S310 allowing massage has been requested June 13. 2006. Update: bill is in limbo.

***Vet Board Response:***E-mail response from Rick Alampi, April 23, 2003:

***D. Pattillo asked:*** Are you planning any revisions for the laws of practice?

***R. Alampi answered:***A bill to revise NJ's veterinary practice act has passed the Assembly and will next be considered by the Senate. It focuses only on revised Licensing provisions for veterinarians. A more complete revision (introduced in 2001), which would have addressed various modalities such as chiropractic, acupuncture, physical therapy, etc, and legally permitted same following examination by a licensed veterinarian was strenuously opposed by some equine groups and was dropped after failure to find consensus.

***D. Pattillo asked:***Are there any current or pending legislature referring to equine (or any animal) massage?

***R. Alampi answered:*** Not to my knowledge.

***D. Pattillo asked:*** What is the board's view on equine massage as long as the individual does not diagnose, prescribe or adjust?

***R. Alampi answered:*** The licensing board typically doesn't issue blanket opinions on these types of questions, instead dealing with them on a case-by-case basis. You can contact them at:

Rick Alampi

NJVMA

**NEW MEXICO : VET ONLY OR DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Chiropractic, physical therapy, acupuncture, acupressure and embryo transfer under the direct supervision of licensed veterinarian”**

***Response from Vet Board via email January 05***

Direct supervision includes the following:

1) The licensed veterinarian must have established a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

2) the treatment must be performed on the order of a veterinarian.

3) the licensed veterinarian must be on the premises and readily available.

4) the licensed veterinarian must assume liability for the quality of any treatment performed.

5) the fee for services rendered shall be paid to the licensed veterinarian or licensed facility.

If you are considering offering equine bodywork you must establish a relationship with a veterinarian and practice under the rules for non-veterinarians.

**NEW YORK : VET ONLY OR VET TECH WITH VET SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in the state practice act however it has been bought to our attention that according the state human massage board, animal massage is allowed to be performed only by vets or vet tech with supervision.***

***Response from Vet Board:***No specific laws or response from board at this time. Snail mail sent for follow up response July 2003.

**NORTH CAROLINA : VET ONLY OR DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***Response from Vet Board:***In a letter dated November 20, 2003, Thomas Mickey, Executive Director for the state board wrote:

***D. Pattillo asked:***  Are you planning any revisions for the laws of practice?

***T. Mickey answered:***Not at this time.

***D. Pattillo asked:***Are there any current or pending legislature referring to equine (or any animal) massage?

***T. Mickey answered:*** No, the Carolina legislature is not currently in session.

***D. Pattillo asked:*** What is the board's view on equine massage as long as the individual does not diagnose, prescribe, manipulate or adjust?

***T. Mickey answered: answered:***

General Statute 90-181 state the “practice of veterinary medicine” means:

a.   To diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve, or prevent animal disease, deformities, defect. injury, or other physical or mental conditions; including the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or techniques on any animal.

b.   To represent, directly or indirectly, publicly or privately an ability and willingness to do any act described in sub-subdivision a. of the subdivision

c.   To use any title, words, abbreviation, or letter in a manner or under circumstances which induce the belief that the person using them is qualified to do any act described in sub-subdivision a. of the subdivision

***D. Pattillo asked:*** If the board only allows veterinarian to provide massage for an animal, how many veterinarian are actually qualified in your state to provide this complementary modality?

***T. Mickey answered:***All

***D. Pattillo asked:*** If the board only allows veterinarians to provide massage for an animal, could you provide me a list of those qualified individuals so I can make then available to consumers request the service?

***T. Mickey answered:***All licensed veterinarians are qualified to practice veterinarian medicine under the laws of North Carolina.

**NORTH DAKOTA : ALLOWED**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act includes the following terms included as the practice of veterinary medicine:***

**“All other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine”**

***Response from Vet Board:***E-mail response from John R. Boyce, April 22, 2003:

“The practice act is amended by the legislature from time to time.  An amendment dealing with licensure of graduates of non-accredited veterinary colleges was approved by the legislature in this session (2003).  The next legislative session will begin in January 2005.

I am not aware of any plans to address animal massage therapy by the North Dakota legislature.

Massage therapy is one of those things that is hard to classify in the practice act.  North Dakota's definition of the practice of veterinary medicine, like that in most other states, is quite broad, and encompasses anything that includes diagnosis or treatment of physical conditions of animals (N.D. Century Code 43-29-01.1, paragraph 8 ).  The practice act includes an exemption for individuals who are employed by licensed veterinarians, acting under the veterinarian's direction and supervision (NDCC 43-29-13, paragraph 8).

My interpretation is that massage done only to maintain an animal's health and well being probably would not be covered by the veterinary medical practice act and, therefore, would not be considered the practice of veterinary medicine.   Massage done to correct, treat, or relieve a medical condition would be considered the practice of veterinary medicine, and could be done only by a licensed veterinarian or an employee of a licensed veterinarian.”

Practice of veterinary medicine means to: “Diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve, or prevent animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical or mental conditions. The term includes the prescription of administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique, the use of any manual or mechanical procedure for testing for pregnancy, or for correction sterility or infertility, or to render advice of recommendation with regard to any of the above.”

Exceptions:

§43-29-13 (8) “Any veterinary technician or other employee of a licensed veterinarian performing duties under the direction and supervision of the veterinarian responsible for the technician’s or other employee’s performance.”

**OHIO : VET ONLY OR DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act includes the following terms included as the practice of veterinary medicine:***

**“Complementary alternative and integrative therapies”**

***New State Law:***Effective Oct. 9, 2006, veterinarians in Ohio must provide direct supervision or be present when a pet receives complementary procedures like massage therapy or chiropractic care. The state practice act, which was modified in May, also stipulates which providers can be used as referrals, said Jack Advent, executive director of the Ohio VMA (OVMA), who said there has been no push back from complementary providers.

***Response from Vet Board:***In e-mail from Heather Hissom, Esq., Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board sent April 22, 2003 7:54 AM

“The Board is not currently planning any changes to the Practice Act and there are no matters pending regarding animal massage.   The Board's position on animal massage of any type is that as long as the person is not diagnosing, prescribing, adjusting or treating a medical condition, it is acceptable.”

**OKLAHOMA : ALLOWED WITH VET REFFERAL**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Individuals certified in animal massage therapy who acquire liability insurance may engage in animal massage therapy after referral from a licensed veterinarian”**

***Current Interpretation*** : Individuals certified in animal massage therapy who acquire liability insurance may engage in animal massage therapy after referral from a licensed veterinarian

***Response from Vet Board:***In e-mail from the Executive Director, Cathy Kirkpatrick dated April 22, 2003:

“We do not have any revisions concerning animal massage.   We do have a new statute that defines alternative therapies as the practice of Veterinary medicine.

We view massage as the practice of veterinary medicine. A person can be under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Our Act states that correcting, changing, relieving and animal chiropractic are the practice of veterinary medicine.”

**OREGON : ALLOWED WITH VET REFERRAL**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Allied health professionals upon referral from a licensed veterinarian”**

***Response from Vet Board:***From Director Lori Makinen, April 23, 2003:

“Yes, we are planning a major revision of our administrative rules, but nothing relating to alternative methods.   No, I am not aware of any pending legislation relating to equine or animal massage.   Yes, the statute re alternative methods is unchanged and we have no plans to change it in the 05-07 biennium.”

***Response from Vet Board:***In an e-mail dated November 5, 2001:

“Practitioners of alternative methods may practice on animal is they have a referral from a veterinarian who specifies the treatment or therapy and if they are in good standing with the licensing entity that regulates their practice.”

***Response from Human Massage Board:***In an e-mail from Shel Sherman, April 25, 2003:

“We were not aware of any animal massage laws in place or in the process of being added.   Massage for humans has just been refined and is effective as of January 2003.”

**PENNSYLVANIA : VET ONLY OR DIRECT VET SUPERVISION**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Chiropractic, dental, dental hygiene and physical therapy procedures performed upon animals by licensed individuals in conjunction with the practice of veterinary medicine and under the direct supervision of a veterinarian”**

***Response from Vet Board:***In a letter dated November 6 2003, Teresa Lazo-Miller, Counsel for the State Board of Veterinary Medicine writes:

“ Enclosed for your reference please find the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine in Pennsylvania. As is evident, the definition is very broad and includes any practice that treats or relieves or prevents a physical condition. In addition, the definition includes holding oneself out as being able to treat any animal pain or physical condition. The Board does not keep records on the type of practice engaged in by its licensees.”

***Current laws of practice amended December 2002:***"Practice of veterinary medicine" includes, but is not limited to, the practice by any person who (i) diagnoses [prescribes, or administers a drug, medicine, biological product, appliance, application, or treatment of whatever nature, for the prevention, cure or relief of a wound, fracture or bodily injury or disease of animals,] treats, corrects, changes, relieves or prevents animal disease, deformity, injury or other physical, mental or dental conditions by any method or mode, including the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique…”

**PUERTO RICO : GRAY AREA**

***Response from Vet Board:***In a letter Dated August 6, 2003 from Miguel A. Borri-Diaz, DVM Board President:

“ Massage, if considered therapeutic, has to be administered under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian Puerto Rico Legislature recently revised our veterinary medicine practice law. As previously stated, if massage is for a medical reason it has to be ordered and supervised by a licensed veterinarian.”

**RHODE ISLAND : VET ONLY OR DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however the state boards’ interpretation resulted in this response:***

***Response from Vet Board:***John Wojcik, May 03, 2003 5:56 AM

Question from D. Pattillo:   “Are you planning any revisions for the laws of practice?”

Answer from J. Wojcik: “Neither the Department of Health or the Board are proposing legislation to amend the Veterinary Practice Act in this legislative session.

Question from D. Pattillo : “Are there any current or pending legislature referring to equine (or any animal) massage?”   
Answer from J. Wajcik: “To my knowledge there are no bills in the legislature at this time in which equine or animal massage is addressed.”

Question from D. Pattillo: “What is the board's view on equine massage as long as the individual does not diagnose, prescribe or adjust (manipulate)? I have the last RI correspondence here, but it really leaves so much grey area.”

Answer from J. Wajcik: “The position of the Board has not changed from the last correspondence.   The definition of "the practice of veterinary medicine" still refers to anyone who diagnoses prognoses, treats manipulates any disease, pain, deformity of any animal .   The licensing Board continues to interpret this phrasing to include the practice of massage for medial purposes and would consider such practice to fall within the scope of veterinary medicine.   The position of the Board and the definition of "the

Practice of veterinary medicine" are not likely to change any time soon.

***Response from Vet Board 2000:***In an e-mail dated March 28, 2000, Russell Spaight wrote:

“There is no direct reference to equine massage in either document, however the licensing Board in its discussions has indicated it’s opinion that such procedures, if performed for the treatment of a specific disease of condition constitute the practice of Veterinary Medicine in accordance with the statue and must be performed by or under the direct supervision of a licensed Veterinarian, General massage would not fall into this definition.”

***Response from Vet Board 2001:***Unfortunately the above e-mail was misplaced only to be found later. This time the response was returned in the form of a written letter from Russell Spaights dated February 16, 2001.

“The Director of Health Dr. Patricia A. Dolan, has referred your e-mail correspondence of February 9, 2001 to me for response.

While the practice of equine massage is not directly addressed in the Rhode Island Veterinary practice act, the definition of the practice of Veterinary Medicine contained therein refers to anyone who “diagnoses prognoses, treats…**manipulates** …any disease, pain, deformity…of any animal…   The licensing Board has interpreted this phrasing to include the practice of massage for medial purposed and would consider such practice to fall within the scope of Veterinary Medicine.”

**SOUTH CAROLINA : VET MAY DELEGATE**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Veterinarians may delegate the performance of procedures, therapeutic options and alternate therapies, under certain conditions, including acupuncture, manipulation and adjustment, magnetic field therapy, holistic medicine, homeopathy, herbology/naturopathy, massage, and physical therapy”**

***Response from Vet Board:***E-mail response from Alana Holmes, April 22, 2003 6:32 AM

Question from D. Pattillo :   “I am currently updating our files and was able to find your laws of practice on-line. I was wondering if you could help me with a few more items, please. I see you are planning revisions for the laws of practice? What is the current status of the draft?”   
Answer from A. Holmes : “pending in the legislature”

Question from D. Pattillo : “What is the board's view on equine massage (or any animal for that matter) as long as the individual does not diagnose, prescribe or adjust And if under the supervision of a veterinarian?”   
Answer from A. Holmes :   “the board has added language for this in the proposed statutes.”

Question from D. Pattillo : “If the board only allows veterinarians to provide massage for an animal, how many veterinarians are actually qualified in your state to provide this complementary modality?”   
Answer from A. Holmes :   “vets are licensed to treat animals with any modality just as medical doctors may treat humans with any modality.”

Question from D. Pattillo : “Could you provide me a list of those qualified individuals so I can make them available to consumers requesting the service?”   
Answer from A. Holmes :   “We do not keep that type of information.”

**SOUTH DAKOTA : ALLOWED**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act***

***Response from Vet Board:***E-mail response from Dr.Holland, April 22, 2003  
“no new laws considered as of now, no pending legislation. The Board's policy is that equine massage is not the practice of Veterinary medicine unless advertised or purported to be therapy or treatment.   “

**TENNESSEE : ALLOWED**

***Broad wording in state vet practice act includes the following terms included as the practice of veterinary medicine:***

**“All other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine”**

***Response from Vet Board:***E-mail response from Lisa Lampley, Director Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, April 22, 2003

  “The State of Tennessee does not have any animal massage laws in place at this time.”

**TEXAS : ALLOWED**

***November 2008 broad wording in state vet practice act includes the following terms:***

**“…any other discipline or specialty of veterinary medicine , acupuncture , homeopathy”**

***Exemptions to the wording in the practice act include:***

**“Accepted livestock management practices approved by the Board,**

**Musculoskeletal manipulation and chiropractic may be practiced under the supervision of a veterinarian, Animal owner or agent”**

***June 2006 update:***Due to conflicting reports the vet board was contacted again. This statement was issued from Lee Matthews: Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006

“Our previous response stating the status of animal massage remains as stated. The law has not changed.”

***Response from Vet Board:***E-mail response from Lee Mathews, General Council: April 22, 2003 12:24 PM

“At this time, we do not know of any major revisions to our rules or laws, especially as they relate to equine practice …As we view it, massage is acceptable as long as it does not involve diagnosing or treating.  There is a fine line here, but some massage can be interpreted as treatment, and that would be the practice of veterinary medicine which is prohibited to massage practitioners except under the supervision of a veterinarian.  See our rule 573.12 concerning musculoskeletal manipulation.  Our website is[www.texasonline.state.tx.us/tbvme](http://www.texasonline.state.tx.us/tbvme).”

§573.12 ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES-CHIROPRACTIC AND OTHER FORMS OF MUSCULOSKELETAL MANIPULATION (a) Definition: For the purpose of this rule, animal chiropractic and other forms of musculoskeletal manipulation (MSM) are systems of therapeutic application of mechanical forces applied manually through the hands or any mechanical device to diagnose, treat, and/or alleviate impaired or altered function of related components of the musculoskeletal system of non human animals, Chiropractic and other forms of MSM in non human animals are considered to be alternate therapies in the practice of veterinary medicine.

Chiropractic and other forms of MSM may only be performed by the following:

(1) A licensed veterinarian Chiropractic and (MSM) may be performed by a licensed veterinarian under the following conditions: A-C: protocol

(2) A licensee’s employee or an independent contractor, An employee or an independent contractor may perform these procedures on an animal under the direct or general supervision of the licensee if the conditions “A-C” have been met.

(3) An individual to whom the exceptions of Section 3 of the Act apply.

**UTAH : ALLOWED WITH REFERRAL**

***S pecific wording in the state practice act:***

**“Certified massage therapist with veterinary referral”**

***August 2008 Interpretation* :** Allowed by certified massage therapist with  written veterinary referral

***From Current Vet Practice Act:***

§ 58-28-307. Exemptions from chapter

In addition to the exemptions from licensure in Section 58-1-307 this chapter does not apply to:

(1) any person who practices veterinary medicine, surgery, or dentistry upon any animal owned by him, and the employee of that person when the practice is upon an animal owned by his employer, and incidental to his employment, except:

 (c) upon written referral by a licensed veterinarian, the practice of animal massage therapy by a massage therapist licensed under Chapter 47b, Massage Therapy Practice Act, who has completed at least 60 hours of animal massage therapy training, including quadruped anatomy and hands-on training, approved by the division

Laws 2006, c. 109, § 11, eff. May 1, 2006.

***Response from Vet Board:*** 04/21/03 from Daniel T. Jones Bureau Manager for the Utah Vet Licensing Board. “We are not planning on any changes to our Practice Act. The legislature passed the law on Animal Message last year and you can review it on our Web site at www.dopl.utah.gov.   Go to law and rule then to Vet.   You can find in under the law 58-28-8   (12).   The person providing the massage must have certain hours of Training and a referral from a licensed Vet.”

**Animal Massage - Qualification Requirements**

(1) Completed an animal massage course of at least 60 clock hours from a recognized animal massage school.

(2) (a) 24 clock hours of quadruped anatomy, and

      (b) 16 clock hours of classroom study, and

      (c) 20 clock hours of supervised animal massage hands on lab.

        (i) under the direction of a licensed veterinarian

        (ii) under the direction of a licensed massage therapist that has fulfilled

             the requirements of section

R156-47b-401-1

(2) An apprentice under a supervisor that has fulfilled the requirements of section R156-47b-401-1

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[SB0132.ZIP](http://www.le.state.ut.us/~2001/bills/sbillint/SB0132.zip)

**VERMONT : VET ONLY OR DIRECT SUPERVISION**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however, state board interpretation offers these guidelines:***

***Response from Vet Board:***This response was received July 21 via mail.

A mass copy response (amended at the board’s July 15, 1993 meeting) was sent in response to the letter I sent. A copy is on file under the individual state papers:

“Currently in Vermont, there are no provisions to allow a person other than a licensed veterinarian to administer treatment or to authorize treatment to animals. The exception is a person treating his or her own animal. A veterinarian may be assisted in the practice of veterinary medicine by a person other than a licensed veterinarian if that person is acting under the veterinarian’s direct supervision.”

To summarize, only a veterinarian or a person under direct supervision (meaning on the premises) may provide any type of care such as physical therapy, dentistry, herbal, or chiropractics with the exception of an owner working on their own animal. In addition, they issue this statement to other veterinarians:

“ Any veterinarian who aids and abets the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine may have action taken against her or her license for unprofessional conduct”

**VIRGIN ISLANDS : ALLOWED**

***Response from Vet Board:***No specific laws or response from board at this time. Snail mail sent for follow up response July 2003.

**Virginia : VET ONLY OR VET DELEGATION**

***Specific wording in state vet practice act.***

***2009 Change in practice act:***  Animal massage or physical therapy may be delegated by a veterinarian to persons qualified by training and experience by an order from the veterinarian.

***Previous 2003 response from Vet Board:***In a letter dated August 20, 2003 from Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D. for the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine wrote:

“Unlicensed persons may provide treatment to animals under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinary medicine (sic) if it does not involve federally controlled substances.”

§54.1-3800 Practice of Veterinary Medicine.

**Virginia : VET ONLY OR VET DELEGATION**

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**WASHINGTON : ALLOWED; CHANGING; NEW LAW IN LIMBO WITH FISCAL ASSIGNMENT**

***Specific wording in state vet practice act***

**Act will read as allowed by certified animal massage therapists once fees have been approved by legislature. Until then the old guidelines (see below) still apply**

Washington state law previously only allowed certified and licensed human massage therapist with a specific allowed number of hours to practice massage on animals (information requirements for licensed human massage therapists below). A recent bill which passed in April 17, 2007  allows individuals with a required minimum of 300 hours specifically designed for large animals or a required minimum of 300 hours specifically designed for small animal to practice in the state if licensed. ***However,***the state has not implemented fiscal responsibility so they are operating with the previous law until remedied.

An application with the Washington State Secretary of State is required for individuals wishing to practice as an animal massage therapist. The current application on theWashington site still reflects the old requirements (https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/hpqa1/hps3/Massage\_Therapy/forms.htm). A request has been made to the appropriate contact in regards to a revised application for this new law that is effective July 2007.

The current law stands until fiscal responsibility has been assigned.

The 2007 legislature passed a law to create a program to certify animal massage practitioners. This requires the Department of Health to adopt rules to regulate this new profession. The law calls for program fees be approved by the Legislature.

**Until fees have been approved by the Legislature, you may practice animal massage if:**

You are a licensed veterinarian.

You are a licensed veterinary technician employed by a licensed veterinarian.

You are a veterinary assistant employed by a licensed veterinarian.

You are a licensed human massage practitioner, have completed the additional animal massage training and have obtained the animal massage endorsement.

Details of the bills SB 5403 and HB 1158 can be found by visiting the Washington Legislative site: http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo

Previous Animal Massage law: May apply for animal endorsement after 100 hours of animal massage training. Must be human qualified first

**RCW 18.108.230**  **Animal massage practitioner -- Endorsement -- Training requirements -- Rules.**

(1) A massage practitioner licensed under this chapter may apply for an endorsement as a small or large animal massage practitioner upon completion of one hundred hours of training in either large or small animal massage. Training must include animal massage techniques, kinesiology, anatomy, physiology, first aid care, and proper handling techniques.

     (2) An applicant who applies for an endorsement within the first year following July 22, 2001, may submit documentation of a minimum of fifty hours of training with up to fifty hours of practical experience or continuing education, or a combination thereof, to fulfill the requirements of this section.

     (3) Massage therapy of animals does not include diagnosis, prognosis, or all treatment of diseases, deformities, defects, wounds, or injuries of animals. For the purposes of this section, massage for therapeutic purposes may be performed solely for purposes of patient well-being.

     (4) A person licensed and endorsed under this section may hold themselves out as an animal massage practitioner.

     (5) The board may adopt rules to implement this section upon consultation with the Washington state veterinary board of governors and licensed massage practitioners with training in animal massage.

[2001 c 297 § 3.]

**NOTES:**

**Findings -- Intent -- 2001 c 297:** See note following RCW [18.108.010](http://search.leg.wa.gov/wslrcw/RCW%20%2018%20%20TITLE/RCW%20%2018%20.108%20%20CHAPTER/RCW%20%2018%20.108%20.010.htm).

**HUMAN MASSAGE REQUIREMENTS**

*Minimum program requirements*

130 hours of anatomy and physiology, at least 40 of these to be kinesiology.

50 hours of pathology, including indications and contraindications.

265 hours of theory and practice of massage, to include techniques, remedial movements, body mechanics of the practitioner, and the impact of techniques on pathologies. A maximum of 50 of these hours may include time spent in a student clinic. Hydrotherapy is to be included when consistent with the particular area of practice.

55 hours of clinical/business practices, minimally to include hygiene, record keeping, medical terminology, professional ethics, business management, human behavior, client interaction and state and local laws.

Certification in American Red Cross first aid and American Heart Association Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Four contact hours of training in HIV-AIDS in the following six topics: Etiology and epidemiology; Transmission and infection control; Testing and counseling; Clinical manifestations and treatment; Legal and technical issues; and Psychosocial issues. Training can be obtained from local community hospitals and colleges.

**WEST VIRGINIA : NO RESPONSE FROM VET BOARD**

***No specific wording in the vet state practice act***

***Response from Veterinary Board:***Request for information sent via snail mail July 2003.

***Response from Human Massage Board:***From: Julie Parke, Adm. Sect.

WVMTLB April 28, 2003 9:58 AM

“We are not aware of any laws or rules in the State of WV regarding animal massage.   Our board does not govern animal massage.   The best advice would be to contact the Veterinary Board.”

**WISCONSIN : DIRECT V ET SUPERVISON**

***No specific wording in state vet practice act however, state board interpretation offers these guidelines:***

***Response from Veterinary Board:***In a letter dated November 17, 2003 from Wayne Austin; counsel to the Veterinary Board he wrote:

“In Wisconsin animal massage would be considered the practice of veterinary medicine if provided for the purpose of treating animal disease or pathological condition. This does not mean, however that an unlicensed person may not provide massage services to animals. Under the board’s administrative rules, a veterinarian may delegate such services to an unlicensed person under the direct on-premises supervision of the veterinarian, The board has recently discussed the possibility of liberalizing its position o the ability of unlicensed persons to provide complementary services, but it appears that a statutory change would be necessary, and no such change is currently contemplated.”

***Response from Human Massage Board:*** Dorl: [web@drl.state.wi.us](http://www.equinology.com/ym/Compose?To=web@drl.state.wi.us): April 21, 2003 “ There are no statutes or regulations in place regulating massage of animals. If the purpose of the massage is to treat an animal disease or pathological condition, however, it would be considered the practice of veterinary medicine.”

***Veterinary Examining Board: Volume 14, No. 1 May, 2001:***

**Alternative Veterinary Therapists:**Alternative therapies, as applied to the practice of veterinary medicine, can include acupuncture, chiropractic, massage/physical therapy, magnetic therapy, laser therapy, holistic and homeopathy. These treatment modalities can be performed on humans by certified/licensed individuals that have training in these areas. They do not have to be medical doctors. This has led to some confusion when applying the same treatment principles in veterinary medicine. In veterinary medicine, there are no similar training programs that would result, for example, in a degree of animal chiropractor. Instead, these treatment modalities are considered specialties within the veterinary profession.

In the United States, each state has a practice act that spells out what each licensed profession can and cannot do. The Wisconsin Administrative Code concerning the practice of veterinary medicine states that the following acts are limited to those holding a veterinary license:

a. Diagnosis and prognosis of animal diseases and conditions.  
b. Prescribing of drugs, medicines, treatments and appliances.  
c. Performing surgery.

This means that only a licensed veterinarian can perform alternative therapies within the law, in Wisconsin. For instance, a chiropractor that is licensed in Wisconsin cannot treat animals under the law, only humans. This is true even if a veterinarian refers an animal to the alternative therapy practitioner. Unless the licensed professional is a veterinarian, these licenses or certifications do not allow them to treat animals.

However, the Wisconsin Administrative Code (VE 7.02(6)(a) allows the veterinarian to delegate to an unlicensed assistant, the provision of veterinary medical services under the direct supervision of a veterinarian when the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided.

This allows the veterinarian access to individuals with training in an alternative therapy, who are not veterinarians, as long as the services are performed with a veterinarian personally on the premises where it is being performed . However, it is important to remember that the veterinarian is held responsible for any problems or complaints that may arise as a result of the procedure. Therefore, it is important to become knowledgeable about the techniques used.

***This was found at:***

<http://www.drl.state.wi.us/Regulation/licensee_services/veterinary_examining_board/vet501.htm>

**WYOMING : NO RESPONSE FROM VET BOARD**

***No specific wording in the state vet practice act***

***Response from Veterinary board:*None at this time of report July 2003. Request sent via snail mail.**

No Human Massage laws or regulation noted as of April 2003

<http://www.equinology.com/Info/USA_AnimalLaws.asp>