



Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors

Board Policy: Chiropractic Care of Animals

*Approved by
the Board of
the NSCC*

*Effective
October 17, 2015*

Revised

*Pages
4*

Note to Readers: In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that affects chiropractic practice, the legislation governs.

Intent

To advise members on when and how they may conduct chiropractic care of animals, and to remind them that the primary responsibility for the health care of animals is with veterinarians.

Objectives

- To promote professionalism, safety and effectiveness in the chiropractic care of animals.
- To inform registrants of NSCC of their obligations relating to the chiropractic care of animals.
- To ensure appropriate coordination and consultation between chiropractors and veterinarians in the chiropractic care of animals.
- To educate the public as to the appropriate nature of the chiropractic care of animals.



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Policy Description

NSCC registrants are advised that:

- The primary responsibility for the health care of animals is with registrants of the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association (NSVMA), who are responsible for appropriate history taking, comprehensive examination, including clinical pathology, and other imaging, and the overall treatment/management of animals.
- Consent to the chiropractic care of animals must be fully informed and voluntarily given by the owner of the animal, and registrants are required to comply with all standards of practice and applicable legislation relating to chiropractic.

In providing chiropractic care to an animal, NSCC registrants must:

- Be a registered member of the NSCC in good standing;
- Have appropriate training and certification in animal chiropractic, which includes successful completion of a certificate program in animal chiropractic (for example, the certificate program offered by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, or its equivalent);
- Have proof of a written referral from a member of the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association to assess and treat the animal;
- Ensure the record of care includes the name of the treating registrant of NSVMA and the relevant portions of the veterinary record;
- Provide, upon request, a copy of relevant portions of the record to the treating registrant of NSVMA within a reasonable time of providing chiropractic care to an animal;



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- Maintain separate appointment books, separate health and financial records and, where animals are provided with chiropractic care in the same office as humans, maintain a separate portion of the office devoted to animal chiropracticⁱ;
- Ensure that the owner of the animal(s) is fully informed about the member's insurance coverageⁱⁱ;
- Include clear details on where the treatment will take place and any restrictions, health codes etc. that need to be adhered to;
- Clear details on the CE requirements (currently 30 CE hours every 3 years as required by the AVCA (American Veterinary Chiropractic Association and the IVCA (International Veterinary Chiropractic Association)).

Exemption

Notwithstanding the above, NSCC members may be permitted to treat animals if they:

- are enrolled and participating in an approved program in animal chiropractic, leading to the successful completion of a certificate program in animal chiropractic (for example, the certificate program offered by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or its equivalent);
- complete the approved program in animal chiropractic within two years of their enrolment;
- provide chiropractic care to animals within the parameters of their course of study;
- provide chiropractic care to animals under direct supervision of a veterinarian or chiropractor who has successfully completed a certificate program in animal chiropractic (for example, the certificate program offered by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, or its equivalent) and is in good standing and;
- inform the owner of the animal(s) that they have enrolled and are participating in but have not yet graduated from an approved program in animal chiropractic.



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Restrictions

- No person other than a registered member of the NSCC or NSVMA with appropriate training in the chiropractic care of animals, which includes successful completion of a certificate program in animal chiropractic, shall claim to provide 'animal chiropractic', including any variations, abbreviations or equivalents in another language. No other person other than a registered member of the NSCC with appropriate training in the chiropractic care of animals may specifically use the title 'animal chiropractor'.
- No person other than a registered member of the NSCC shall hold himself or herself out as a person who is qualified to practice in Nova Scotia as a chiropractor or in a specialty of chiropractic.
- This policy may only be amended with consultation and approval from the NSVMA.

ⁱ Maintenance of separate office space is a minimum requirement for health and sanitation reasons, particularly in light of the various communicable diseases common to humans and animals.

ⁱⁱ This requires the member to advise the owner of the animal if the member's policy of insurance or membership in a protective association does not provide coverage for the chiropractic care of animals. The owner should be informed about the member's insurance coverage as part of the general requirement that there be "informed" consent.