

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chiropractors, Massage Therapists, Physical Therapists, Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Becky Wisell, Section Administrator, Credentialing Division
Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure

SUBJECT: Notice Regarding Performance of Services/Therapies on Animals

DATE: June 15, 2007

The Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery has been studying the issue of the collaborative practice of veterinary medicine and surgery. There have been legislative efforts in other states to allow various health care providers such as chiropractors, massage therapists, and physical therapists to perform services/therapies on animals, and the Board is considering statutory changes to allow such practice in Nebraska.

During the course of the Board's work with this matter, an Attorney General opinion (#07002) was issued in January 2007. The opinion reflects the analysis of the practice acts for chiropractic, massage therapy, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine and surgery and concludes that Nebraska law does not currently authorize health care professionals other than licensed veterinarians or licensed veterinary technicians to perform services/therapies on animals. The opinion can be found on the web site of the Nebraska Attorney General at www.ago.state.ne.us.

This notice is intended to make persons aware of this recent Attorney General opinion and also to inform you that the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery is working toward legislative changes to allow other licensees to perform services/therapies on animals. However, until those statutory changes occur, no health professional other than licensed veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians may perform services/therapies on animals.

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to Becky Wisell, Section Administrator, Medical and Specialized Health Section, at becky.wisell@hss.ne.gov or by calling 402/471-4915.

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