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Subject:FW: Animal Rehabilitation in Virginia  
From: Board of Veterinary, yy (vetbd@dhp.virginia.gov)  
To: karen.atlas@yahoo.com;  
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:50 AM

Dear Ms. Atlas,

Regarding your question about animal rehabilitation in Virginia, I hope you find the information below to be helpful.

The *Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine* state the following regarding physical therapists (to review the full text, please go to [http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/vet/vet\\_laws\\_regs.htm](http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/vet/vet_laws_regs.htm)):

***18VAC150-20-172. Delegation of duties.***

*D. Massage therapy or physical therapy may be delegated by a veterinarian to persons qualified by training and experience by an order from the veterinarian.*

The Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine's authority is over veterinarians, veterinary technicians, equine dental technicians and veterinary establishments. It does not oversee or maintain records of complaints or discipline against physical therapists unless they are also a veterinarian, veterinary technician or equine dental technician.

The Board does not maintain a record that specifies the content of the complaint other than the action of the Board. However, during my 6+ years with the Board, I do not recall a complaint that resulted in public disciplinary action related to animal physical therapy. To review the public disciplinary actions of the Board, please go to <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/enforcement/cdecision/default.asp>.

Sincerely,

Leslie Knachel

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**Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H.**

**Executive Director**

**Board of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology**

**Board of Optometry**

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**Virginia Department of**  
**Health Professions**

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**From:** karen.atlas@yahoo.com [mailto:karen.atlas@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 2:47 PM

**To:** Board of Veterinary, yy

**Subject:** Animal Rehabilitation in Virginia

Dear Virginia Veterinary Medical Board,

My name is Karen Atlas, and I am a licensed physical therapist with advanced training/certification in canine rehabilitation.

I am also a member of the California Veterinary Medical Board's Animal Rehabilitation Task Force and we are in the process of determining appropriate regulations as it relates to animal rehabilitation here in our state.

I understand that Virginia allows properly qualified physical therapists to work under an indirect supervision model through exemption.

I was hoping that you could verify whether any complaints of harm or negligence have been made against a properly qualified physical therapist or a veterinarian practicing in the field of animal rehabilitation.

Certainly there is no need for specific names, but if you could verify the number and types of complaints made (or disciplinary action) against either a qualified physical therapist or a veterinarian in this specialty niche, it would be helpful for us as we pursue appropriate regulations in our state.

Any information you may have regarding your state model would be appreciated.

Thank you,

Karen

*Karen Atlas, MPT, CCRT*

*California Veterinary Medical Board's Animal Rehabilitation Task Force Member*