

## Nevada Administrative Code

### ANIMAL PHYSICAL THERAPY

**NAC 638.750 “Animal physical therapy” defined.** (NRS 638.070) As used in NAC 638.750 to 638.790, inclusive, “animal physical therapy” means the rehabilitation of injuries in a nonhuman animal through the use of the following techniques, but does not include animal chiropractic:

1. Stretching;
2. Massage therapy;
3. Rehabilitative exercise;
4. Hydrotherapy;
5. Application of heat or cold; and
6. Stimulation by the use of:
  - (a) Low-level lasers;
  - (b) Electrical sources;
  - (c) Magnetic fields; or
  - (d) Noninvasive therapeutic ultrasound.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Veterinary Med. Exam’rs by R009-04, eff. 4-26-2004; A by R091-06, 11-13-2006)

**NAC 638.760 Requirements to practice; application for certificate of registration; fee.** (NRS 638.070)

1. A person shall not practice animal physical therapy in this State unless he or she is:
  - (a) A veterinarian;
  - (b) A licensed veterinary technician who complies with the provisions of NAC 638.053; or
  - (c) A physical therapist who has obtained a certificate of registration pursuant to this section and complies with the provisions of NAC 638.780.
2. A physical therapist who desires to secure a certificate of registration to practice animal physical therapy in this State must make written application to the Board.
3. The application must be on a form provided by the Board, include any information required by the Board and be accompanied by satisfactory proof that the applicant:
  - (a) Is of good moral character;

(b) Has been an active licensed physical therapist in this State for at least 1 year;

(c) Is in good standing with the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners;

(d) Has successfully completed at least 100 hours of instruction or course work, or a combination of both, in the area of animal physical therapy, which must include, without limitation, assessment and planning of treatment, behavior, biomechanics, common orthopedic and neurological conditions, comparative anatomy, neurology, and therapeutic modalities and exercises; and

(e) Has completed at least 125 hours of supervised clinical experience in animal physical therapy with a licensed veterinarian.

4. The application must be signed by the applicant and notarized.

5. Except as otherwise provided in NAC 638.790, upon receipt of the application and information required by subsection 3 and payment of the fee required pursuant to NAC 638.035, the Board will issue to the physical therapist a certificate of registration.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Veterinary Med. Exam'rs by R009-04, eff. 4-26-2004; A by R075-06, 11-13-2006; R072-09, 4-20-2010)

**NAC 638.770 Expiration and renewal of certificate; fee. (NRS 638.070)**

1. Each certificate of registration issued pursuant to NAC 638.760 or renewed pursuant to this section expires on January 1 of each year.

2. Each application for renewal of a certificate of registration must be:

(a) Submitted in the form established by the Board;

(b) Signed by the physical therapist;

(c) Accompanied by proof that the physical therapist completed, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the beginning of the new registration year, at least 5 hours of continuing education in animal physical therapy approved by the Board; and

(d) Accompanied by proof that his or her license as a physical therapist in this State is active and that he or she is in good standing with the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

3. A physical therapist who fails to renew his or her certificate of registration before it expires forfeits the certificate of registration.

4. Except as otherwise provided in NAC 638.790, upon receipt of the application for renewal and the information required by subsection 2 and payment of the renewal fee required pursuant to NAC 638.035, the Board will renew the certificate of registration of the physical therapist.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Veterinary Med. Exam'rs by R009-04, eff. 4-26-2004; A by R072-09, 4-20-2010)

**NAC 638.780 Standards of practice for physical therapist holding certificate; maintenance of records. (NRS 638.070)**

1. A physical therapist who has been issued a certificate of registration pursuant to NAC 638.760 may practice animal physical therapy only:

(a) Under the direction of a veterinarian licensed in this State who has established a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship concerning the animal receiving the animal physical therapy before the animal physical therapy is performed; and

(b) If the physical therapist assumes individual liability for the quality of the animal physical therapy performed.

2. The veterinarian under whose direction the physical therapist performs the animal physical therapy:

(a) Is not required to supervise the physical therapist during the animal physical therapy.

(b) Is not liable for the acts or omissions of the physical therapist who performs the animal physical therapy.

3. Each physical therapist who has been issued a certificate of registration shall:

(a) Maintain in this State for at least 4 years a separate written medical record of each animal receiving animal physical therapy from the physical therapist.

(b) Within 48 hours after the initial visit with the animal, mail or transmit by facsimile machine a complete copy of the medical record to the veterinarian under whose direction the physical therapist performs the animal physical therapy.

(c) Within 48 hours after each subsequent visit with the animal, mail or transmit by facsimile machine a progress report to the veterinarian under whose direction the physical therapist performs the animal physical therapy.

4. The veterinarian shall include the copy of the medical record received pursuant to subsection 3 in the medical record required pursuant to NAC 638.0475. The written medical record must include, without limitation:

(a) The name, address and telephone number of the owner of the animal;

(b) The name or identifying number, or both, of the animal;

(c) The age, sex and breed of the animal;

(d) The dates of care, custody or treatment of the animal;

(e) The results of a basic rehabilitation examination related to physical therapy;

(f) The diagnosis and treatment plan related to physical therapy recommended by the physical therapist for the animal; and

(g) The progress and disposition of the case.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Veterinary Med. Exam'rs by R009-04, eff. 4-26-2004)

**NAC 638.790 Disciplinary action.** (NRS 638.070)

1. A violation of a provision of chapter 638 or 640 of NRS or a regulation adopted by the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners or the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners is a ground for disciplinary action.

2. If the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners determines that an applicant for a certificate of registration pursuant to NAC 638.760 or a physical therapist who has been issued a certificate of registration pursuant to NAC 638.760 has committed any act which is a ground for disciplinary action, the Board may:

(a) Refuse to issue a certificate of registration;

(b) Refuse to renew a certificate of registration;

(c) Revoke a certificate of registration;

(d) Suspend a certificate of registration for a definite period or until further order of the Board;

(e) Impose a fine in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for each act that constitutes a ground for disciplinary action;

(f) Place a physical therapist who has been issued a certificate of registration on probation subject to any reasonable conditions imposed by the Board, including, without limitation, requiring courses in continuing education or a periodic or continuous review of his or her animal physical therapy practice;

(g) Administer a public reprimand;

(h) Require the physical therapist who has been issued a certificate of registration to take a competency examination or a mental or physical examination; and

(i) Require the physical therapist who has been issued a certificate of registration to pay all costs, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred by the Board in taking disciplinary action against him or her.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Veterinary Med. Exam'rs by R009-04, eff. 4-26-2004)