

VMB MDC

**Animal Rehabilitation Task Force Report**

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- 1) A California licensed DVM may provide animal rehabilitation services.
- 2) A California licensed DVM may provide animal rehabilitation services *on a referral basis* when:
  - A. The referring veterinarian has previously examined the animal patient and has provided a differential diagnosis if appropriate.
  - B. The referring veterinarian has cleared the animal for physical rehabilitation.
    - (i) The animal patient's record must include a notation of verbal or written veterinary medical clearance. If verbal clearance is given, the veterinarian providing physical rehabilitation services (henceforth called the "**rehab veterinarian**") must document the verbal clearance in the animal patient's record, including the name of the referring veterinarian, date and time clearance was received.
  - C. The rehab veterinarian is responsible for developing and implementing the plan of care for the animal patient's physical rehabilitation, and will appropriately record the plan and progress of the patient. The referring veterinarian must approve and sign off on the rehabilitation plan before it can be implemented. Any significant changes in the plan by the rehab veterinarian must also receive prior approval from the referring veterinarian, unless there is an emergency or reason to believe that continuing with the plan would be detrimental to the patient.
  - D. It is expected that the rehab veterinarian and the referring veterinarian will continue professional collaboration and communication as necessary and appropriate for the well being of the animal patient. While the patient is undergoing physical rehabilitation, the rehab veterinarian will provide a written update of the animal patient's plan and progress to the referring veterinarian within 72 hours of a treatment.
  - E. It is expected that the referring veterinarian will review the progress reports from the rehab veterinarian, and communicate in writing or verbally any questions, concerns or recommendations for modification of the rehabilitation program.
  - F. Ultimately, cessation of physical rehabilitation will be decided by the referring veterinarian.
- 3) An RVT can provide physical rehabilitation services under the *direct* supervision of a DVM.
- 4) If a California certified RVT wishes to provide rehab services under *Indirect* supervision, then the RVT meet all of the following standards:

A) become certified by one of these two programs:

University of Tennessee (CCRP)

or

Canine Rehabilitation Institute (CCRA)

B) Spend 120 hours working with a veterinarian who provides Rehabilitation services, and who will sign off that the RVT demonstrates the skill and meets the appropriate standards at the conclusion of the internship period. At this point, the RVT will receive a credential from the VMB to provide animal rehabilitation services.

C) For a patient to be referred from a DVM to an appropriately credentialed RVT:

- (i) The referring veterinarian has previously examined the animal patient and has provided a differential diagnosis if appropriate.
- (ii) The referring veterinarian has cleared the animal for physical rehabilitation.
- (iii) The animal patient's record must include a notation of verbal or written veterinary medical clearance. If verbal clearance is given, the RVT providing physical rehabilitation services (henceforth called the "rehab RVT") must document the verbal clearance in the animal patient's record, including the name of the veterinarian, date and time clearance was received.
- (iv) The referring veterinarian and the rehab RVT are jointly responsible for developing and implementing the plan of care for the animal patient's physical rehabilitation. The rehab RVT will appropriately document the plan and progress of the patient. Any suggested changes in the plan by the rehab RVT must also receive prior authorization from the referring veterinarian, unless there is an emergency or reason to believe that continuing with the plan would be detrimental to the patient.
- (v) It is expected that the rehab RVT and the referring veterinarian will continue professional collaboration and communication as necessary and appropriate for the well being of the animal patient. The rehab RVT will provide a written update of the animal patient's plan and progress to the referring veterinarian within 72 hours of a treatment.
- (vi) It is expected that the referring veterinarian will review the progress reports from the rehab RVT, and communicate in writing or verbally any questions, concerns or recommendations for modification of the rehabilitation program.
- (vii) Ultimately, cessation of physical rehabilitation will be decided by the referring veterinarian.
- (viii) In the advent of an unexpected complication with treatment or animal emergency, the RVT will have established a protocol and a relationship with a nearby DVM to provide necessary and timely treatment.

5) A California Licensed Physical Therapist can provide rehab services under *direct* supervision.

Explanation:

1) This is consistent with the MSM language.

2) The VMB has no regulatory authority over the Physical Therapists. If this situation changes in regards to animal rehabilitation, then it is recommended by this task force that PTs with the certifications references in 4A be allowed to perform rehab under indirect supervision and conform with the standards as set forth in Section 4.

6) Unregistered Assistants may provide Physical Rehabilitation services under the *immediate* supervision of a DVM.

7) Unregistered Assistants who have become certified by the following programs may provide rehab under *direct* supervision.

University of Tennessee (CCRP)

or

Canine Rehabilitation Institute (CCRA)