



MEMORANDUM

DATE February 22, 2013

TO Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee

FROM Sue Geranen Executive Officer
DCA/Veterinary Medical Board

SUBJECT **Update on Animal Rehabilitation**

Background:

The MDC submitted proposed animal rehabilitation language to the Board for review at their January 2013 meeting.

The Board approved the MDC proposed animal rehabilitation language with amendments. Amendments included adding specific language to that incorporates registered veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants as authorized to administer animal rehabilitation under direct supervision of a veterinarian.

The Board also approved a sunset provision of three years in the language and authorized staff to initiate a rulemaking file.

Action Requested:

Information item, no action requested.

Animal Rehabilitation Tasks for Licensed Physical Therapists

DRAFT – 1/14/2013

Presented by the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee

(a) The practice of veterinary medicine includes Animal Rehabilitation (AR) which is the physical or corrective rehabilitation of any animal by the use of the physical, chemical and other properties of heat, light, water, electricity, sound, massage, and active, passive, and resistive exercise for the prevention, cure or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury, or disease of animals. AR includes physical rehabilitation evaluation, treatment planning, instruction and consultative services.

(b) A California licensed physical therapist (“Physical Therapist”) in good standing, registered veterinary technician in good standing, or veterinary assistant may perform animal rehabilitation under a California licensed veterinarian’s direct supervision, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Section 2034(e) and Section 2035, under the following criteria:

(1) The veterinarian, in consultation with the licensed physical therapist, registered veterinary technician, or veterinary assistant has determined that AR care is appropriate, and

(2) The supervising veterinarian ensures that accurate and complete records of AR treatments are maintained in the patient’s veterinary medical record.

(c) Once the supervising veterinarian ceases the relationship with a physical therapist, registered veterinary technician, or veterinary assistant who is performing AR treatment, the physical therapist shall immediately terminate treatment.

(d) A physical therapist, registered veterinary technician, or veterinary assistant who fails to conform to the provisions of this section when performing AR shall be deemed to be engaged in the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine.

(e) A veterinarian who fails to conform to the provisions of this section when authorizing a physical therapist, registered veterinary technician, or veterinary assistant to evaluate or perform AR treatments shall be deemed to have engaged in unprofessional conduct.