

**Veterinary Medical Board
Proposed Language**

New text is shown in underline.

ADOPT SECTION 2038.5 OF ARTICLE 4 OF DIVISION 20 OF TITLE 16 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

§ 2038.5. Animal Rehabilitation.

- (a) The term “animal rehabilitation” (AR) is the use of the physical, chemical, and other properties of thermal, magnetic, biofeedback technology, hydrotherapy (such as underwater treadmills), electricity, sound, therapeutic massage, manual therapy, and active, passive, and resistive exercise for the prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury, or disease of animals. AR includes evaluation, treatment, instruction, and consultative services.
- (b) AR may be performed only by the following persons:
 - (1) A veterinarian who has examined the animal patient and has sufficient knowledge to make a diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal, has assumed responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the animal and the need for medical treatment, including a determination that AR will not be harmful to the animal patient, discussed with the owner of the animal or the owner’s authorized representative a course of treatment, and is readily available or has made arrangements for follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen. The veterinarian shall ensure that accurate and complete records of AR treatments are maintained in the patient’s veterinary medical record.
 - (2) A California licensed physical therapist (PT) or registered veterinary technician (RVT) working under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. A PT or a RVT shall be deemed to be working under the direct supervision of a veterinarian where the following protocol has been followed:
 - (A) The supervising veterinarian shall comply with the provisions of subsection (b)(1) prior to authorizing a PT or RVT to complete an initial evaluation of and/or perform treatment upon an animal patient.
 - (B) The supervising veterinarian shall be physically present wherever the AR is being performed.
 - (C) A veterinarian shall conform to the provisions of this section when supervising a PT or RVT who is performing AR treatments upon an animal. Failure to conform to these provisions shall be deemed unprofessional conduct or aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine pursuant to section 4826 of the Code.
 - (D) After the PT or RVT has completed an initial evaluation of and/or treatment upon the animal patient, the PT or RVT shall consult with the supervising veterinarian

to confirm that the AR care is appropriate, and to coordinate complementary treatment, to assure proper patient care.

- (E) A PT or RVT shall conform to the provisions of this section when performing AR upon an animal. Failure to conform to these provisions shall be deemed the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine pursuant to section 4826 of the Code.
- (c) If at any time either the supervising veterinarian or the PT or RVT terminates the supervisory relationship as defined above, the PT or RVT shall immediately cease AR treatment.

Note: **Authority Cited:** Sections 4808 and 4836 of the Business and Professions Code.

Reference: Sections 4825, 4826, and 4883 of the Business and Professions Code.