

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
NOTICE 825 OF 2016
VETERINARY AND PARA-VETERINARY PROFESSIONS ACT, 1982
(ACT No. 19 OF 1982)

APPLICABLE TO PARA-VETERINARY PROFESSION OF VETERINARY PHYSIOTHERAPIST

1. Notice is hereby given that the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries intends, acting under section 21(1) of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (Act No. 19 of 1982), as amended from time to time, to declare, after consideration and approval of a relevant recommendation of the South African Veterinary Council established by virtue of Section 2 of the said Act, that the provisions of the said Act shall apply to the para-veterinary profession of Veterinary Physiotherapy and to make the regulations and rules in the Schedule.
2. Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments of representations on the proposed declaration of the para-veterinary profession of veterinary physiotherapist, the proposed regulations and the rules to Mrs Dinamarie Stoltz, Director Legal Affairs at the South African Veterinary Council within thirty (30) days from publication. Late submissions may not be considered.
 - i) E-mail comments to: legaldirector@savc.org.za; and
 - ii) Fax: (012) 345-6369.
3. Kindly provide the name, postal and e-mail address, telephone and fax number of the person or organisation submitting the comments.

SCHEDULE - REGULATIONS**Definition**

1. In this Schedule "the Regulations" means the regulations published by Government Notice No. R. 2085 of 1 October 1982, as amended by the regulations published by Government Notices Nos. R. 1994 of 11 September 1987 (as corrected by Government Notice No. R. 2199 of 2 October 1987), R. 397 of 4 March 1988, R. 1067 of 17 May 1991, R. 11 of 3 January 1992, R. 976 of 27 March 1992, R. 1477 of 23 September 1994, R.47 of 20 January 1995, R. 701 of 12 May 1995, R. 1401 of 15 September 1995, R. 561 of 1 April 1996, R. 256 of 14 February 1997, R. 257 of 14 February 1997, R. 96 of 16 January 1998, R. 501 of April 1998, R. 751 of 5 June 1998, R. 374 of 26 March 1999, R. 422 of April 1999, R. 618 of 23 June 2000, R. 734 of 17 August 2001, R. 324 of 22 March 2002, R. 1571 of 20 December 2002, R. 562 of 2 May 2003, R. 275 of 5 March 2004, R. 568 of 7 May 2004, R. 679 of 4 June 2004, R. 343 of 15 April 2005, R. 294 of 24 March 2006, R. 160 of 2 March 2007, R. 319 of 20 April 2007, R. 322 of 20 April 2007, R. 772 of 24 August 2007; R. 487 of 30 April 2008; R. 655 of 6 June 2009, R. 693 of 30 July 2010 (as corrected by Government Notice No. R. 692 of 13 August 2010), R. 694 of 20 July 2010 (as corrected by Government Notice No. R. 692 of 13 August 2010), R. 810 of 12 October 2012, R. 683 of 30 August 2013, R. 305 of 25 April 2014, R. 388 of 15 May 2015 and R. 389 of 15 May 2015.

Insertion of regulations 21K, 21L and 21M into the Regulations

2. The Regulations are hereby amended by the insertion after Regulation 21J of the following regulations:

"21 K: Requirements for registration to practise the para-veterinary profession of veterinary physiotherapist

- (1) Any applicant that applies for registration as a veterinary physiotherapist must submit the following documents:
 - (a) A certificate of competence in mathematics and physical science or biology/life sciences issued for school leaving purposes by a competent secondary level schooling authority of South Africa; or
 - (b) The relevant qualification as stipulated by the South African Veterinary Council.
- (2) The degree referred to in regulation 21 which entitles a candidate to register as a veterinary physiotherapist must:
 - (a) Comprise of the completion of at least four academic years of study as a registered veterinary physiotherapy student;
 - (b) Be constituted of the exit level outcomes specified in the Table 10A; and
 - (c) Be constituted of the subject courses specified in Table 10B.
- (3) Upon completion of the prescribed degree a registered veterinary physiotherapy student may, if the examining authority is satisfied that the provision of the Act and these regulations have been successfully complied with, be registered as a veterinary physiotherapist.

21 L Curriculum requirements

The curriculum of any tertiary institution that offers a course for study for qualification as a Veterinary Physiotherapist in terms of regulation shall comprise of the exit level outcomes specified in Table 10A and the subject courses specified in Table 10B.

21 M Examination of the para-veterinary profession of veterinary physiotherapist

- (1) The examination for the degree shall be based on the assessment criteria specified in Table 10A and includes examination in the subject courses specified in Table 10B.
- (2) If the examination consists of a practical and a theoretical part, a sub-minimum mark of 40 percent must be obtained in each part.
- (3) A candidate shall pass an examination in a subject if at least 50 percent of the maximum marks obtainable in the examination for that subject, is obtained.

Substitution of Table 4 of the Regulations

2. Table 4 is hereby amended by insertion of:

“TABLE 4”**Addition of Table 10A: Exit level outcomes****EXIT- LEVEL OUTCOMES:**

Veterinary physiotherapists at NQF Level 8 are expected to be responsible for their own work, decision making and use of resources and to be fully accountable for the decisions and actions of others where appropriate. They are expected to apply learning strategies in a self - critical manner to effectively address their own and others' professional and ongoing learning needs.

Exit Outcome 1: Communicate academic and professional veterinary physiotherapist ideas and related information verbally and in writing to a range of audiences with due regard for the purpose of the communication, issues of confidentiality and other ethical considerations. <i>NQF 5: 7.5 credits</i> <i>NQF 6: 9 credits</i> <i>NQF 7: 19 credits</i> <i>NQF 8: 35 credits</i> <i>(70.5)</i>		
Specified Outcome	Assessment Criteria	Range
1. <i>NQF 5: 3 credits</i> <i>NQF 6: 3.2 credits</i> <i>NQF 7: 7.5 credits</i> <i>NQF 8: 11.5 credits</i>	AC1.1 Verbal and non-verbal communications offer insight and solutions to problems in a veterinary physiotherapist context and are appropriate for the audience and purpose of the communication.	Range: Verbal communications include, but are not limited to, giving feedback, reporting to owner, trainer and Animal Health Team, facilitation, presentations and interviews.
1. <i>NQF 5: 3 credits</i>	AC1.2 Written communication offers rigorous interpretation	Range: Written communication includes,

NQF 6: 3.6 credits NQF 7: 5.5 credits NQF 8: 9.5 credits	and solutions to problems and issues and is professional, accurate, coherent and correct in terms of style, tone, sensitive use of language and use of scientific register where applicable.	but is not limited to, recording of evaluation and treatment, report writing, giving written feedback, writing referrals, proposal writing, legal documentation, documenting evidence, writing research reports and journal articles.
1. NQF 5: 1.5 credits NQF 6: 1.2 credits NQF 7: 3 credits NQF 8: 9 credits	AC1.3 Active listening and observation skills demonstrate ability to access, process and synthesise information and to develop creative responses to problems and issues which are recorded accurately, concisely and coherently.	
1. NQF 5: 0 credits NQF 6: 1 credits NQF 7: 3 credits NQF 8: 5 credits	AC1.4 Knowledge of current events, issues and affairs relating to the development of the profession and international and local research is interrogated from multiple sources of knowledge, interpreted, assessed for relevance and applied where appropriate.	
Exit Outcome 2: Demonstrate knowledge and insight into veterinary therapy science concepts and their importance in the evaluation of animal patients and appropriate treatment techniques: Range; Concepts include, but are not limited to, anatomy, conformation and physiology, applied therapy, behavior, discipline, pathology, tack, nutrition, farriery, pharmacology, imaging, welfare status and human animal bond.		
1. NQF 5: 26.5 credits NQF 6: 12 credits NQF 7: 63 credits NQF 8: 38 credits (139.5)		
Specified Outcome	Assessment Criteria	Range
1. NQF 5: 13.5 credits NQF 6: 7.1 credits NQF 7: 20 credits NQF 8: 10 credits	AC2.1 The relationship between anatomy, conformation and veterinary physiotherapist is explained with reference to biomechanics, movement analysis, motor control, exercise and the purpose and effectiveness of different treatment techniques.	
1. NQF 5: 13 credits NQF 6: 3.3 credits NQF 7: 16 credits NQF 8: 9.5 credits	AC2.2 Knowledge of veterinary physiology is used to explain how muscles, bone, neural tissue and organs function and interact as a holistic living system in an animal.	
1. NQF 5: credits NQF 6: 1.6 credits	AC2.3 Pathologies and dysfunction of the neuro-musculoskeletal system and	

<p>NQF 7: 15 credits NQF 8: 9.5 credits</p>	<p>the cardio-respiratory system are explained with reference to the progress of a disease or injury and what treatment is appropriate at different stages.</p>	
<p>1. NQF 5: 3 credits NQF 6: 11.5 credits NQF 7: 22.5 credits NQF 8: 23.5 credits</p>	<p>AC2.4 Factors that could influence the outcome of veterinary physiotherapist are discussed with reference to the holistic treatment approach of animal patients and the complexities and uncertainties of selecting, applying or transferring appropriate procedures to unfamiliar problems.</p>	
<p>Exit Outcome 3: Integrate theory and practice to treat patients with a variety of neuro-musculoskeletal and cardio-respiratory dysfunctions. NQF 5: 7.5 credits NQF 6: 22.5 credits NQF 7: 62.5 credits NQF 8: 65 credits (157.5)</p>		
Specified Outcome	Assessment Criteria	Range
<p>1. NQF 5: 3 credits NQF 6: 11.5 credits NQF 7: 22.5 credits NQF 8: 23.5 credits</p>	<p>AC3.1 A full veterinary physiotherapist specific evaluation is conducted for a variety of animal patients.</p>	
<p>1. NQF 5: 2 credits NQF 6: 7 credits NQF 7: 16 credits NQF 8: 21.5 credits</p>	<p>AC3.2 A treatment program based on the veterinary physiotherapist evaluation is set up to enhance quality of life, promote health and wellbeing for the particular animal in specific circumstances and to enhance optimal performance or function.</p>	<p>Range: Treatment techniques could include, but are not limited to soft tissue techniques, electrotherapy modalities, manual therapy, rehabilitation exercises, hydrotherapy and other physical modalities used to treat injury or disease, restore and promote optimal health and function and prevent further injuries.</p>
<p>1. NQF 5: 2.5 credits NQF 6: 4 credits NQF 7: 24 credits NQF 8: 20 credits</p>	<p>AC3.3 The effectiveness of the treatment program is evaluated and appropriate suggestions are made to improve the outcome of the treatment.</p>	
<p>Exit Outcome 4: Analyse, synthesise, evaluate and review complex veterinary physiotherapist-related information in order to conceptualise a problem and produce an evidence based argument or solution to an authentic veterinary physiotherapist situation. 1. NQF 5: 0 credits NQF 6: 4 credits NQF 7: 25.5 credits NQF 8: 17 credits (46.5)</p>		
Specified Outcome	Assessment Criteria	Range

1. <i>NQF 5: 0 credits</i> <i>NQF 6: 1.5 credits</i> <i>NQF 7: 9.5 credits</i> <i>NQF 8: 6 credits</i>	AC4.1 Knowledge of research designs and methodologies is applied to research in a veterinary physiotherapist context.	Range: Research design and methodology may include, but are not limited to, Participatory and Action Research; Qualitative and Quantitative Research, Case Studies and Intervention-Based Research.
1. <i>NQF 5: 0 credits</i> <i>NQF 6: 1.5 credits</i> <i>NQF 7: 8 credits</i> <i>NQF 8: 7 credits</i>	AC4.2 A veterinary physiotherapist related topic is researched and includes a literature review, pilot study and evidence-based research.	
1. <i>NQF 5: 0 credits</i> <i>NQF 6: 1 credits</i> <i>NQF 7: 8 credits</i> <i>NQF 8: 4 credits</i>	AC4.3 A research report is compiled based on actual research.	
Exit Outcome 5: Operate ethically in a multi-disciplinary Animal Health Team. 1. <i>NQF 5: 3 credits</i> <i>NQF 6: 3.5 credits</i> <i>NQF 7: 12.5 credits</i> <i>NQF 8: 18 credits</i> (37)		
Specified Outcome	Assessment Criteria	Range
1. <i>NQF 5: 2 credits</i> <i>NQF 6: 2 credits</i> <i>NQF 7: 6.5 credits</i> <i>NQF 8: 9 credits</i>	AC5.1 Interaction with the Animal Health Team, owners, trainers and patients is ethical and it reflects the Codes of Conduct for veterinary physiotherapists, the South African Veterinary Council and applicable legislation.	
1. <i>NQF 5: 1 credits</i> <i>NQF 6: 1.5 credits</i> <i>NQF 7: 6 credits</i> <i>NQF 8: 9 credits</i>	AC5.2 Decisions relating to the ethical treatment of a patient address ethical issues based on critical reflection with reference to scope of practice, welfare of the animal and the circumstances in which the animal functions.	
Exit Outcome 6: Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of responsibility and accountability within own scope of practice in a veterinary physiotherapist context. <i>NQF 5: 3 credits</i> <i>NQF 6: 4 credits</i> <i>NQF 7: 6 credits</i> <i>NQF 8: 16 credits</i> (29)		
Specified Outcome	Assessment Criteria	Range
1. <i>NQF 5: 1 credits</i> <i>NQF 6: 2 credits</i> <i>NQF 7: 2 credits</i> <i>NQF 8: 6 credits</i>	AC6.1 The roles and responsibilities of veterinary physiotherapists are explained with reference to scope of practice, avenues for referral and the consequences if the	

	scope of practice, professional code of ethics and applicable legislation are contravened.	
1. NQF 5: 1 credits NQF 6: 1 credits NQF 7: 2 credits NQF 8: 6 credits	AC6.2 Skills and techniques for personal development and awareness are explored with a view to developing personal capacity to reflect and understand self and others and to fully realise own potential.	Range: Skills and techniques include, but are not limited to, self-awareness, self-management, self-reflective capacity, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills.
1. NQF 5: 1 credits NQF 6: 1 credits NQF 7: 2 credits NQF 8: 5credits	AC6.3 Responsibility and accountability are discussed with reference to the management of a veterinary physiotherapist practice and continuing professional development.	

Assessment Criteria for the Critical Cross-Field Outcomes:

The learner is able to demonstrate ability to:

- Use a range of specialised skills to identify, analyse and address complex, complicated and/or abstract problems drawing systematically on the body of knowledge and methods appropriate to veterinary physiotherapist. This is implicit in Exit Level Outcome (ELO) 2, 3 and 4.
- Work effectively with others as a member of a team, group, organisation or community. Veterinary physiotherapists work as part of a multi-disciplinary Animal Health Team. This is implicit in ELO 1, 3, 5 and 6.
- Organise and manage him/herself and his/her activities responsibly and effectively in completing tasks timeously. This is implicit in ELO 4, 6 and 3 where time management and planning are essential.
- Collect, organise and critically evaluate information. This is implicit in ELO 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Communicate effectively using visual, mathematics and language skills in the modes of oral and/or written presentations. This is implicit in ELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and integrated throughout the qualification in that sound communication skills are essential in working with a multidisciplinary Animal Health Team, owners, trainers and patients.
- Use science and technology effectively and critically in using technology for treatment where appropriate and in using electronic devices for communication and the Internet for research. This is implicit in ELO 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the world as a set of related systems by recognising that problem-solving contexts do not exist in isolation. This is implicit in ELO 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 in evaluating a patient, planning an appropriate treatment, assessing the effectiveness of the treatment and adapting the treatment.

In addition this qualification contributes to the full personal development of each learner and the social and economic development of the society at large, by making it the underlying intention of any programme of learning to make the individual aware of the importance of:

- Reflecting on and exploring a variety of strategies to learn more effectively. This is implicit in ELO 1, 4, and 6.
- Being culturally sensitive across a range of social contexts in dealing with diverse people, multi-disciplinary Animal Health Team, owners, trainers and co-owners, communities and co-workers. This is implicit in ELO 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Programmes based on this qualification must take the Quality Council for Higher Education (QCHE) requirements into account. For this programme:

Minimum total credits:	480
Minimum credits at Level 7:	120
Minimum credits at Level 8:	96
Maximum credits at Level 5:	96
The balance of the 480 credits may be at Levels 6, 7 and/or 8.	

In the delivery of this qualification, four hundred credits based on Exit Level Outcomes 1 to 6 and the practical and clinical components are compulsory.

Exit Level Outcomes 1 to 6	326 credits
Work Integrated Learning	106 credits
Total	432 credits

Electives

Learners should select at least two specialisation areas that together add up to a minimum of 24 credits at Level 7 from the list of possible electives. Additional areas of specialisation that relate directly to veterinary physiotherapist may be included at the discretion of the Higher Education Institution.

Possible electives may include, but are not limited to:

- Small animal surgical rehabilitation
- Equine surgical rehabilitation
- Equine Sport Science – the working and competition animal
- Canine Sport Science – the working and competition animal
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Addition of Table 10B: Qualifications

<i>First Year</i>	<i>Credit</i>	<i>NQF</i>
Canine & Equine Conformation I	6	5
General Sciences I Biology, Chemistry, Physics	12	5
Applied & Clinical Therapy I Soft Tissue Techniques, Stretching, Orthopedics, General Topics, first aid, animal husbandry, breeds and disciplines	18	5
Therapy Science I Biomechanics Movement Analysis Rehabilitation exercises Documentation Communication	24	5
Veterinary Physiology I	24	5
Veterinary Anatomy I	36	5
<i>Second Year</i>	<i>Credit</i>	<i>NQF</i>
Introduction to Veterinary Nutrition II	6	6
Introduction to Veterinary Dentistry II	6	6
Therapy Science II Biomechanics, movement	24	6

analysis, motor control		
Veterinary Pathophysiology, Pathology and Surgery II	42	6
Applied & Clinical Therapy II Electrotherapy, Manual Therapy, Myofascial Release, Clinical – Orthopedics, geriatric, neurological, congenital, clinical reasoning	42	6
	120	
<i>Third Year</i>	<i>Credit</i>	<i>NQF</i>
Veterinary Pharmacology III	6	7
Veterinary Exercise Physiology III	6	7
Farriery III	6	7
Veterinary Imaging III	6	7
Research I	12	7
Applied & Clinical Therapy III Manual Therapy, Cardiorespiratory therapy, Hydrotherapy, Practice management, ethics and law, Clinical –sport, soft tissue, surgical	84	7
	120	

<i>Fourth Year</i>	<i>Credit</i>	<i>NQF</i>
Research II	24	8
Equine Sport Science IV	24	8
Large Animal Surgery IV	24	8
Canine Sport Science IV	24	8
Small Animal Surgery IV	24	8
Applied & Clinical Therapy IV	48	8
	120	

SCHEDULE- RULES**1. Definitions:**

“**Acupressure**” means the physical pressure applied to acupoints which are found along meridian pathways and which is particularly effective in the treatment of pain.

“**Animal health team**” means all members involved with optimising the health of the animal. It could include but is not limited to the veterinarian, veterinary nurse, farrier, dentist, trainer, saddle fitter, chiropractor, veterinary acupuncturist, behaviourist, nutritionist and veterinary physiotherapist.

“**Balance and proprioceptive training**” means exercises designed to enhance and improve the patient’s ability to stand independently, and to maintain balance whilst the body is moving.

“**Cardio-respiratory evaluation**” means techniques employed by the veterinary physiotherapist to evaluate the cardio-respiratory system of patients within the prescribed scope of practise limited to auscultation of heart and lungs, calculation of heart rate and breathing rate and functional tests to evaluate the patient’s cardio-respiratory ability.

“**Cardio-respiratory treatment**” excludes medical treatments, includes but is not limited to the use of nebulisers, the therapy of percussions, vibrations, shaking and use of postural drainage positions.

“**Cavallettis**” are small jumps or poles placed at different angles and heights. The patient is required to step or trot over them. This exercise is used to improve proprioception and also to strengthen musculature involved with lifting of limbs.

“**Dynamic evaluation**” means the assessment of an animal patient whilst in motion, which requires active input from the patient.

“**Functional diagnosis**” means a diagnosis which describes the effect of the disease or injury on the ability of the animal to carry out its normal function for example decreased extension of the coxo-femoral joint vs anatomical diagnosis such as hip dysplasia.

“**Goniometry**” means the use of an instrument (the Goniometer) to measure the joint range of movement in flexion and extension.

“**Ground work**” means working with an animal on the ground using poles and cues to motivate them to perform specific exercises that will strengthen specific parts of their bodies. Ground work as opposed to ridden work is particularly used in relation to horses.

“**Manual evaluation**” means techniques employed by the veterinary physiotherapist, using his or her hands to evaluate soft tissue function, neurological function and joint range of movement.

“**Neuro-muscular electrical stimulation [NMES]**” is an electrotherapy modality that is used to artificially contract the muscles of the animal using electrical impulses to elicit a muscle contraction in innervated muscle. The electrical current is applied to the skin of the animal, using a conductive material and electrodes. It is used as a tool for assessing and treating the muscles and other associated soft tissue. It can form part of a program to activate muscles and prevent atrophy during training and rehabilitation, as well as a tool for assessing muscle function.

“**Palpation**” means a technique used to assess the texture and tone of an animal’s muscles and other soft tissue structures as well as particular anatomical landmarks.

“**Passive evaluation**” means the assessment of the neuro-muscular and musculo-skeletal state of the patient which do not require active input from the patient i.e. tests that can be applied by the practitioner without requiring the patient to actively move.

“**Red flags**” means warning signs that suggest that veterinary referral may be warranted. It is a term describing the ability to identify dangerous or potentially dangerous findings in the history or examination. Veterinary physiotherapists should be aware of these warning signs and know where to send the patients next. Some of the warning signs can be, but are not limited to:

- Unexplained bodyweight loss
- Loss of appetite or inappetence
- Lethargy
- Signs of illness such as vomiting and increased temperature
- Previous history of tumours
- Acute, severe pain and swelling
- Dysfunction of bladder and bowel
- Respiratory distress - tachypnoea, respiratory effort, cyanosis
- Cardiovascular distress- tachycardia, hypotension, pale mucous membrane [MM], slow or rapid capillary refill time (CRT)
- Non-weight bearing lameness
- Pain or discomfort during therapy
- Undiagnosed neurological signs
- Infected wounds
- Suspected zoonoses

“**Rehabilitation exercise**” means active exercises designed to achieve active pain-free range of movement, to increase muscle mass and muscle strength, improve daily function, improve balance, reduce lameness and prevent further injury.

“**Resistance bands**” means rubber bands of varying stiffness that increase the work of a muscle by adding resistance and thereby improving the muscle’s bulk, strength and endurance.

“**Static evaluation**” means the visual evaluation of the stationary animal taking into account posture, conformation, body score and any other cues that draws attention to any abnormalities.

“**Stress point therapy**” means tender, hyper-irritable spots found in the musculo-tendinous junction. Treatment of these stress points may include but is not limited to “hold and release” techniques and laser or light therapy.

“**Trans-cutaneous electrical nerve stimulation [TENS]**” is the use of electric currents produced by a device to stimulate the nerves for therapeutic purposes. TENS by definition covers the complete range of transcutaneously applied currents used for nerve excitation although the term is often used with a more restrictive intent, namely to describe the kind of pulses produced by portable stimulators used to treat pain.

“**Trigger point therapy**” means treatment of these trigger points that may include, but is not limited to “hold and release” techniques and laser or light therapy.

“**Trigger points**” means tender, hyper-irritable spots found in muscle bellies.

“**Veterinary physiotherapy**” means the treatment of dysfunction in the musculo-skeletal, neuro-muscular systems and cardio-respiratory system as well as the maintenance of optimal function and the prevention of dysfunction. The goal of veterinary physiotherapy is to maintain, restore and maximise optimal movement and functional ability throughout the lifespan of an animal.

2. Services pertaining specially to the profession of veterinary physiotherapist-

2.1. For the purposes of the Act the following services shall be deemed to be services, which pertain specially to the veterinary para-profession of veterinary physiotherapist:

2.1.1 Treatment of conditions in animals diagnosed by a veterinarian by applying veterinary physiotherapy;

2.1.2 Veterinary physical therapy to prevent and address disease, illness, cardiovascular and respiratory conditions and physical deficiencies in animals;

2.1.3 Assist a veterinarian with the functional diagnosis of neuro musculo-skeletal conditions;

2.1.4 Work on referral by a veterinarian who has diagnosed the animal or work in consultation with a veterinarian if there is no direct referral; and

2.1.5 Work on animal species for which training was obtained but may work on other species if in consultation with an attending veterinarian and with owner consent.

3. The scope of practice of a veterinary physiotherapist includes -

3.1. Integration of thorough musculo-skeletal, neuro-muscular anatomical, cardiovascular and respiratory system knowledge and veterinary physiology in developing a treatment, rehabilitation and preventative plan for the patient as well as sufficient knowledge of other body systems to implement an appropriate treatment plan for other conditions which would benefit from veterinary physiotherapy modalities.

3.2. Integration of theory and practice to conduct a full functional evaluation of mainly companion animals with musculo-skeletal, neuro-muscular or cardio-respiratory dysfunction including, but not limited to -

Subjective evaluation

- History
- Demeanour

Health assessment

- TPR – Temperature, pulse, respiration

Static evaluation

- Conformation
- Body score

- Observation

Dynamic evaluation

- Active movement assessment
- Gait assessment
- Joint range of movement assessment
- Flexion tests as indicated
- Functional tests

Manual evaluation

- Palpation
- Manual assessment
- Muscle strength testing
- Soft tissue assessment
- Joint range of movement including goniometry and other measurements
- Use of hoof testers in animals with hooves
- Functional neurological assessment

Sport specific assessment

- 3.3. Using clinical reasoning skills to set up a treatment plan to enhance optimal function of the animal and defining short and long term goals.
- 3.4. Application of appropriate treatment techniques and therapeutic modalities.

Treatment techniques shall include but are not limited to:

- Massage
- Soft tissue techniques
- Neural mobilisation
- Manual therapy
- Use of thermal treatment modalities
- Rehabilitation exercise
- Cardiac rehabilitation exercises
- Electrotherapy
- Respiratory techniques – postural drainage positions, percussions, vibrations, shaking, nebulising

Soft tissue techniques shall include but are not limited to:

- Trigger point therapy
- Stress point therapy
- Acupressure
- Myo-fascial release
- Cranio-sacral therapy

Rehabilitation exercise shall include but is not limited to:

- Strength training
- Suppleness training

- Stability training
- Fitness training
- Balance and proprioceptive training
- Controlled exercise

Equipment used for rehabilitation exercise shall include but not be limited to:

- Resistance bands
- Peanut balls and other balls
- Wobble boards
- Poles work and cavallettis
- Weight training
- Stairs
- Treadmill
- Under-water treadmill
- Swimming pool
- Taping for proprioception and re-education of muscle control

Electrotherapy shall include but is not limited to:

- Neuro-muscular electrical stimulation [NMES]
- Trans-cutaneous nerve stimulation [TENS]
- Faradism
- Light therapy
- Class 3B and 4 laser therapy
- Therapeutic ultrasound
- Pulsed magnetic field therapy
- Static magnetic field therapy
- Emerging electrotherapy modalities

- 3.5. Treatment of cardio/respiratory impaired patients that have been diagnosed by a veterinarian.

Evaluation and treatments shall include but are not limited to:

- Exercise tolerance testing
- Non-drug nebulising (or with veterinarian prescription)
- Postural drainage
- Chest mobilisation techniques

- 3.6. Treatment of wounds with appropriate electrotherapy.

- 3.7. Correct application of bandages when required to be removed for treatment purposes and the re-application thereafter.

- 3.8. Understanding the implementation of basic orthotics and prosthetics and advising and referring appropriately.

- 3.9. Client education within the defined scope of practice.

- Counselling
- Support for or dealing with bereavement

- 3.10. Appropriate application of knowledge of animal behaviour:
- Sufficient knowledge to be safe
 - Sufficient knowledge to recognise the relationship between pain and behaviour
 - Sufficient knowledge to recognise normal and abnormal behaviour
- 3.11. Appropriate application of knowledge of nutrition to enable the veterinary physiotherapist to advise the client on weight loss and its relevance to compromised movement.
- 3.12. Knowledge of sport specific training and equipment and methods used to prepare the animal athletes, excluding nutrition.
- 3.13. Application of first aid in emergency situations.
- 3.14. The ability to work within a multi-disciplinary animal health care team using appropriate language and means of communication for the relevant audience.
- 3.15. Understanding the benefit of complementary fields to which the veterinary physiotherapist may refer.

These may include but are not limited to:

- Chiropractic
- Saddle fitting
- Dentistry
- Acupuncture
- Farriery
- Nutrition
- Behaviourist

3. 16. Knowledge of health and safety within the working environment.

This shall include but is not limited to:

- Zoonoses
- Veterinary physiotherapy body mechanics and ergonomics
- Handling of the patient
- Management of the environment, including hygiene

- 3.17. Clear understanding of contra-indications to treatment and when to refer back to the treating veterinarian or other relevant member of the animal health care team.
- 3.18. Knowledge of veterinary jurisprudence and its relevance to the field of veterinary physiotherapy.

4. Course of conduct for veterinary physiotherapists

- 4.1 A person who practices the veterinary para-profession of veterinary physiotherapist must base his or her personal and professional conduct thereon that -
- (a) he/she is a member of a learned and honourable profession and is required to act at all times in a manner that shall maintain and promote the prestige, honour, dignity and interest of the profession and of the persons by whom it is practiced;

- (b) he/she shall keep him/herself abreast of all he or she is morally obliged to serve the public to the ethical rules and the laws which affect him/her in the practicing of his/her profession and shall, as far as it is in his/her power, assist with the application of those laws and rules;
- (c) He/she shall to the best of his or her ability by maintaining, at all times, the highest standard of animal health care and professional conduct;
- (d) he/she is to work in co-operation with colleagues and members of other professions in a responsible and professional manner; and
- (e) he/she will not permit himself of herself to be exploited in a manner, which may be detrimental to an animal, the public or the profession.

4.2 A veterinary physiotherapist must –

- (a) execute tasks discerningly and faithfully and must refuse to take part in any unethical behaviour or procedure;
- (b) keep himself or herself informed of all the laws which affect him or her in the practicing of his or her profession;
- (c) be familiar with the ethical rules applicable to veterinary physiotherapists and must promote these rules at all times;
- (d) regard any information acquired during the course of his or her employment as strictly confidential and must refrain from divulging information to any person except his or her employer and/or the animal owner and/or as required by law;
- (e) refrain from expressing any criticism in public through which the reputation, status or practice of a colleague in the profession, veterinary profession and veterinary para-professions is or could be undermined or damaged, or through which a reflection is or could be cast on the professionalism skill, methods of conduct of such colleague; and
- (f) at all times, keep detailed and accurate records of all information and procedures performed by him or her for at least five years.

4.3 All persons practicing as veterinary physiotherapists are working for the same good cause and they must therefore co-operate with each other, the veterinary and veterinary para-professions and the authorities concerned to promote that cause.