

Animal Physical Rehabilitation Update

The Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) will be considering the recommendations of the Animal Rehabilitation Task Force at its [April 19, 2017 Board meeting](#). The Task Force's recommendations were the result of three full-day, webcasted meetings held on June 20, 2016, October 4, 2016, and February 2, 2017, during which several significant policy considerations were discussed in great detail including, the education and training of individuals providing animal physical rehabilitation, standard of care and delegation of tasks and supervision, and practice settings where rehabilitation services may be provided to the public's animals.

On April 19, 2017, as part of a scheduled agenda item, the VMB will consider and deliberate on the recommendations and may formulate its own proposed legislative or regulatory actions. The recommendations of the Task Force, and the actions taken by the VMB, will be communicated to the Legislature. It is important to note that there has been no formal action or recommendation on the part of the VMB regarding the recommendations of the Task Force to date.

Information, including agenda items, meeting minutes, and archived webcasts, regarding the [Animal Rehabilitation Task Force meetings may be linked here](#).

- [Final Recommendations of the APR Task Force](#)

Actions Taken by the Veterinary Medical Board's Animal Rehabilitation Task Force

June 20, 2016 Meeting

At this meeting, the following motions were approved:

- Animal Physical Rehabilitation is defined as the treatment of injury or illness to address pain and improve function by means of physical corrective treatment.
- Animal Physical Rehabilitation does not include relaxation, recreational or wellness modalities, including but not limited to, massage, athletic training or exercise.
- Any proposed changes to existing law and regulations are not an attempt to restrict or amend section 2038 of the California Code of Regulations regarding the provision of Musculoskeletal Manipulation modalities.
- Prior to performing or authorizing Animal Physical Rehabilitation, a veterinarian shall establish a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship as defined in sections 2032.1 or 2032.15 of the California Code of Regulations.

October 4, 2016 Meeting

At this meeting, the following motions were approved:

- Veterinarians have sufficient education and training to provide Animal Physical Rehabilitation.
- Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs) may provide Animal Physical Rehabilitation under the direct supervision of a veterinarian unless in a range setting in which case the veterinarian may provide the appropriate level of supervision.
- Veterinary Assistants may provide Animal Physical Rehabilitation under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or an RVT.

February 2, 2017

At the third and final meeting, this motion was approved:

- California licensed physical therapists with advanced certification in Animal Physical Rehabilitation (with such certification to be defined by the Veterinary Medical Board and Physical Therapy Board working cooperatively) may provide animal physical rehabilitation under the degree of supervision to be determined by the veterinarian who has established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship, on a veterinary premises or an Animal Physical Rehabilitation premises (as defined in regulation by the Veterinary Medical Board and the Physical Therapy Board working cooperatively), or a range setting.