

SCPT Practice Resource

Animal Therapy

Standards of Practice for Physical Therapists and Practice Resources

Along with the implementation of the Standards of Practice document (as of September 1, 2022), Practice Guidelines are being transitioned to Practice Resources. Practice Resources are educational documents for physical therapists when considering broader topics that may involve multiple standards or regulations.

As part of the transition, Practice Guidelines will be renamed Practice Resources until they can be incorporated into new revamped Practice Resources.

The Physical Therapists Act and SCPT Bylaws, which includes the Ethical Code, and the Standards of Practice document are the approved documents for physical therapy practice in Saskatchewan providing the foundation for which practitioners are governed within the regulatory environment.

Background

The College does not recognize the assessment, treatment, or care of animals by members to fall within the regulatory authority of the College and hours spent performing therapy on animals, are not considered acceptable clinical practice hours for licensure by the College.

The SCPT Code of Ethics provides:

B. Responsibilities to the Public

1. Conduct themselves with integrity and professionalism.

C. Responsibilities to Self and the Profession

1. Commit to maintaining and enhancing the reputation and standing of the physiotherapy profession, and to inspiring public trust and confidence by treating everyone with dignity and respect in all interactions.
3. Act honestly, transparently and with integrity in all professional and business practices to uphold the reputation of the profession.

Practice Resource

1. It is the responsibility of the member to inform the client that “animal therapy” is not regulated by the SCPT and any complaints would be beyond the jurisdiction of the College.
2. Members practising “animal therapy” should not use the names or terms, “Physical Therapist”, “Physiotherapist”, “Physical Therapy”, or “Physiotherapy” when describing any such practice.