

ANIMAL THERAPY

The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists issues Advisory Statements to provide guidance to members on practice issues. This Advisory provides direction to physiotherapists who practice on animals.

Background

The main role of the Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists¹ (NSCP) involves protection of the public by ensuring safe standards of practice for Physiotherapists assessing and treating people within the province of Nova Scotia.

The NSCP does not recognize the assessment, treatment, or care of animals as being within its jurisdiction.

When Practicing on Animals:

- The NSCP advises that physiotherapists practicing “animal therapy” not use the terms: Physiotherapist, Physical Therapist, Physiotherapy or Physical Therapy, when describing any such animal therapy. This is to avoid any confusion among the general population.
- The practitioner should inform the client that “animal therapy” is not regulated by the NSCP.
- The NSCP does not consider hours spent performing therapy on animals as acceptable clinical practice hours for licensure by this College.

¹ *Physical therapist, physiotherapist, physical therapy, physiotherapy, physiotherapie, physiotherapeute, PT and pht are official marks used with permission. The terms physical therapist and physical therapy are synonyms for physiotherapist and physiotherapy respectively.*