

AAAOR CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Code of Conduct states the principles and guidelines for the Approved Practitioner Members of the Alberta Association for Animal Owner's Rights. Any breach of the Code of Conduct will be open to review by the Disciplinary Committee and may be open to Disciplinary Action, including dismissal from the Association.

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As it relates to your practice/therapy:

- The owner of the animal or person responsible for the animal must be made aware that the Approved Practitioner will not act as a substitute for veterinarian attention and that the veterinarian should always be the primary caregiver of the animal.
- Approved Practitioners are not, under any circumstance, permitted to prescribe medications of any type, diagnose or make diagnostic comments about any condition of the animal, nor offer treatment to the animal other than working within the parameters of their specific modality.
- In the event of any doubt about the health of the animal, the animal must be referred to a veterinarian for diagnosis. The Approved Practitioner should not resume any therapy until advised by the veterinarian responsible for the animal in question.
- Referral to a veterinarian must be recorded by the Approved Practitioner and any further therapy sessions should not resume until veterinary approval has been granted.

As it relates to your documentation:

- It is expected that a disclaimer be included in all client records stating that owner/trainer permission or veterinary approval, when applicable, has been granted to work on an animal.
- All Approved Practitioners are required to keep accurate records of each therapy session carried out. This includes noting of owner/trainer approval as well as veterinary approval when applicable.

As it relates to your AAAOR Membership:

- All Approved Practitioners are expected to strictly adhere to the AAAOR Code of Conduct as well as all Guidelines and Standards pertaining to their specific modality.

- All Approved Practitioners MUST be covered by professional indemnity insurance through the AAAOR group insurance provider, or other, if and when it is available. It is the responsibility of the practitioner to maintain and provide proof of such insurance.
- To keep their membership in good standing, Approved Practitioners will be expected to submit all applicable documentation to their Department head yearly, including proof of continuing education, course certificates and Membership fees.

As it relates to the AAAOR and other Approved Practitioners:

- All Approved Practitioners are expected whenever possible to work in conjunction with other practitioners in a collaborative effort to benefit the health of the animal.
- All Approved Practitioners are expected to treat other members of the Association in a respectful and positive manner. Slander of other practitioners or of the AAAOR will not be tolerated.
- All Approved Practitioners are expected to promote the Association by advising their clients to become members of the AAAOR.
- It is expected that all Approved Practitioners maintain a high standard in work and appearance and that they give the profession and Association a positive and professional image at all times, both with clients and fellow professionals within the industry.
- If Approved Practitioners involve the Association in any publicity they are requested to send a copy of any feature or article to the Association office prior to publication. Please contact a member of the Executive Committee (EC) before engaging the Association in any kind of publicity. In this way the standard of representation of the profession and the Association can be monitored.
- Any Approved Practitioner giving a lecture and/or demonstration is requested to contact the office with details. The Board of Directors will monitor the activities and, if notified in advance, will publish applicable information on the Association website.

As it relates to your client:

- Client confidentiality must be maintained at all times and any requests on the progress of a client must be directed through the owner/trainer/veterinarian responsible for the animal in question. When discussing case studies with other practitioners, remember not to name the animal or client being discussed.

As it relates to Continuing Education:

- All Approved Practitioners are required to attend at least sixteen (16) hours of Continuing Education (CE) during each year. Details should be kept so that these may be sent to your respective Department Head with annual renewal of membership. If in doubt regarding the acceptability of a specific professional development activity, please contact a member of the Executive

Committee who will review the information and advise the member of approval. The following activities qualify for CE hours:
Modality Specific informational seminars presented for members by the AAAOR; Any CE courses held by the instructor of your Approved Course (all hours of attendance accepted); Attendance at a seminar or workshop or conference on equine health related topics not presented by the AAAOR (if unsure if it qualifies please check with EC); Attendance at courses in regard to business management (total hours claimed may not exceed 8 hours when submitting CE requirements each year).

The Association is not responsible for the conduct of it's Approved Practitioners, though any complaints will be investigated and practitioners may be removed from the Association if deemed necessary. The Association therefore cannot be held legally responsible for the actions of Approved Practitioners.