

# ANIMAL THERAPY

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## POSITION STATEMENT

The main role of the Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists<sup>1</sup> (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:**

- It is the responsibility of the practitioner to inform the client that “animal therapy” is not regulated by the NSCP and that any complaints would be outside the jurisdiction of the NSCP.
- The NSCP does not consider hours spent performing therapy on animals as acceptable clinical practice hours for licensure by this College.
- 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.

<sup>1</sup> *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.*

*The information contained in this position statement may be time limited. Persons referring to this information more than two years from the date of publication should contact the College to confirm that the information is current.*

January 2011