

Information For Clients:



Physiotherapy Information

Owners, physiotherapists and other physical therapists frequently contact us in relation to treatment of animals under our care.

Where physiotherapy is part of a training or conditioning program then, in the absence of injury or disease, please feel free to go ahead without the need for us to examine the animal first.

Where treatment is for any injury, disease or other abnormality we would need to examine the animal for the purposes of diagnosis before referring for treatment. This is in order to comply with the Veterinary Surgeons Act (the appropriate extract is copied below for information), to ensure physical treatment is appropriate and that appropriate diagnostics and medication are provided as part of a holistic approach to the issue. It is obviously important to keep within the law and for physiotherapy to follow veterinary referral in order not to invalidate any subsequent insurance claim.

Please feel free to call us to discuss a case with our equine veterinary surgeons, or alternatively an appointment can be arranged with the practice on 01202 823512.

Under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (VSA) an act of veterinary surgery is defined as follows:

- (a) the diagnosis of diseases in, and injuries to, animals including tests performed on animals for diagnostic purposes;*
- (b) the giving of advice based upon such diagnosis;*
- (c) the medical or surgical treatment of animals; and*
- (d) the performance of surgical operations on animals. and can only legally be carried out by a qualified veterinary surgeon.*

There is an exemption to allow physiotherapy to treat an animal where a veterinary surgeon had first seen the animal for the purposes of diagnosis and recommended treatment by physiotherapy.

The Veterinary Surgeons (Exemptions) Order 2015 (which revokes the Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 1962) allows the treatment of an animal by physiotherapy if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) the first condition is that the person providing the treatment is aged 18 or over*
- (2) the second condition is that the person is acting under the direction of a qualified person who—*
 - (a) has examined the animal, and*
 - (b) has prescribed the treatment of the animal by physiotherapy.*

19.20 The Order specifies that a qualified person "means a person who is registered in the Register of Veterinary Surgeons or the Supplementary Veterinary Register".

19.21 'Physiotherapy' is interpreted as including all kinds of manipulative therapy. It therefore includes osteopathy and chiropractic but would not, for example, include acupuncture or aromatherapy.

