

## *AACET Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping*

Education and Practice Standards for the Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping.

### **Glossary of Terms:**

#### Standard:

A standard is a description of a minimum level of performance one is required to demonstrate in the achievement of a task. A standard is stated in observable and measurable terms. It must be precise and clear to the therapist who is held accountable for accomplishing it. It must also be clear to the clients and the public (who assess the therapist's ability to accomplish a task as measured by the required standard).

Standards include one or more of the following measures:

- Technical Quality
- Interpersonal Quality
- Safety

#### Client:

The use of the word client will pertain to the animal owner or caretaker/ caregiver.

#### Patient:

The use of the word patient will pertain to the equine to which the therapy is being provided to.

#### Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping:

Kinesiology taping therapist (the practitioner) refers to an equine health professional that observes the patient's physical movement, assesses the patient for any dysfunctions using their education, and applies kinesiology tape to the patient with the goal of producing a therapeutic outcome.

Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Dysfunction: A muscle, tendon or fascial dysfunction in the equine body that can benefit from human manufactured support provided by kinesiology tape.

Treatment: The method with which the practitioner will correct a body dysfunction that they find while working with a patient.

Treatment Protocol: The complete plan that the practitioner feels is appropriate to provide the desired outcome for the patient.

A Course: Instruction exclusively in equine kinesiology taping lasting more than 8 hours, for which a certificate of completion or course certificate is given.

## **Standards of Practice:**

AACET has approved the education and practice standards created by its Equine Complementary *Kinesiology Taping therapists*.

Through the development and use of these standards, AACET continues to display commitment to serve its members while promoting the highest possible quality of, performed in a safe and ethical manner.

The Alberta Association Complementary Equine Therapy (AACET) Standards of Practice for, were developed to assist the professional Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist to:

1. Provide and determine quality safe consistent care and to provide a common base to develop a practice that has support and preserves the basic rights of the client and the professional Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist.
2. This document allows the professional Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist to evaluate and adapt performance in his/her Equine Complementary Therapy practice.
3. The professional Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist can evaluate the quality of his/her practice by utilizing the Standards of Practice in conjunction with the Code of Ethics, the Bylaws and Policies of AACET, and precedents set by the AACET Grievance, Standards and Bylaws Committees
4. This document has been developed as a tool to determine whether a therapist as a member of AACET can conduct their practice at an acceptable level. It will serve as a reference tool for:
  - Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist
  - Educators in Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapy
  - AACET Members
  - Complaints investigations & Conflict Resolution
  - Discipline hearings
  - Quality assurance
  - Client relations
  - The public

## **Scope of Practice:**

The scope of practice for Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapy is:

- Assess dysfunctions in the equine patient which may be benefited by the application of kinesiology tape.
- Treat the dysfunctions with kinesiology tape to produce a therapeutic outcome, as well as providing preventative care.

- Throughout the session discuss with the client any findings and treatments as well as any preventive care and maintenance that may assist the future of the equine's well-being and health.
- Suggest referrals to other equine professionals when necessary or if the practitioner feels that it is in the best interests of the patient.

**Education Standards:**

Prerequisite Eligibility for modality recognition; AACET Level 2 massage therapy, AACET Chiropractic therapy, or Osteopathy/Osteotherapy.

Equine course based in Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapy with a minimum of 16 instructional hours.

Addition of AACET's minimum CE hours are sufficient currently.

The Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist has an understanding of the following:

- Contraindications as they relate to Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapy
- Basic knowledge of Equine Anatomy, bones, muscles and fascial trains
- Basic knowledge of movement and biomechanics.

**Practice Standards:**

**Contraindications:**

- Unsafe environment, facilities and/or handler - for the therapist, equine, or the client.
- Working beyond scope of practice, or the therapist's education/knowledge.
- Acute or chronic trauma without recommendations from the attending veterinarian
- Undiagnosed lameness
- Fractures
- Colic
- Ataxia
- Significant undiagnosed inflammation
- Infection
- Bone infection
- Skin Lesions
- Medications which would obviously affect patient response
- Stress - which compromises vital stability
- A patient that is currently under veterinarian care for acute or chronic conditions and the attending veterinarian has not given approval for body work.

### **Communication Standards:**

The following is required to be discussed with the client:

- Fees
- Patient Information including breed, age, sex, discipline (current and previous), pertinent past history, medical conditions, dental and hoof care as well as any other information that may assist the practitioner in treatment.
- Chief Complaint including mechanism of injury, onset, what provokes or quiets issue, any interventions that have already been provided.
- The practitioner's assessment to determine if Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapy is needed or if referral to another modality or a veterinarian is required.
- Therapeutic steps to be taken to improve health of patient.
- Horse handling safety.
- Recommended owner care in regards to actions to be taken in between sessions, such as stretching, specific exercises, appointments with other professionals, etc.

### **Operation Standards:**

- To the best of their abilities, the practitioner will recommend a safe environment and handling procedures for themselves, the patient, and the client for the duration of the appointment.
- The practitioner will obtain a complete patient history as well as any other relevant information.
- The practitioner will obtain written consent or signed authorization of all medical information to be up to date and true, provided by client or caretaker.
- The practitioner will state verbally or in writing that they are not a veterinarian providing veterinary care.
- The practitioner will take note of any issues related to acute or chronic conditions that may be contraindications to Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapy
- The practitioner will perform an Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping therapy assessment.
- The practitioner will use their education and knowledge gained by experience to manually treat patient.
- The practitioner will ensure that Kinesiology Taping performed is within their and their patient's abilities and is to be performed with respect to the patient's health.

### **Ethics Guidelines:**

Although the practices of these guidelines are not required, it is highly recommended that all Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping therapist adopt and incorporate them in their treatment regime whenever possible.

- Do no harm. When questioning your abilities or condition of patient seek veterinary care.
- Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist should adhere to a commitment to the highest standards of excellence and should attend to their patients in accordance with established best practices.
- Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist should maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct, and should comply with AACET rules and regulations.
- Therapist-patient & client/caregiver relationships should be built on mutual respect, trust and cooperation. In keeping with these principles, Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping therapists shall demonstrate absolute honesty with regard to the patient's condition when communicating with the client/care giver.
- Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist shall not mislead clients into false or unjustified expectations of favorable results of treatment. In communications with a client/care giver, Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping therapist should never misrepresent their education, credentials, professional qualification or scope of clinical ability.
- Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist should preserve and protect the patient's confidential information, except as the patient directs or consents.
- Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist should employ their best good faith efforts to provide information and facilitate understanding to enable the client/care taker to make an informed choice in regard to proposed Kinesiology Taping treatment. The client should make his or her own determination on such treatment.
- Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist are free to choose the patients they will serve, just as patients & client/caregivers are free to choose who will provide healthcare services for their animal.
- Equine Complementary Kinesiology Taping Therapist should exercise utmost care that advertising is truthful and accurate in representing the equine health practitioner's professional qualifications and degree of competence. Advertising should not exploit the vulnerability of client/caregiver, should not be misleading and should conform to all AACET rules and regulations in connection with professional advertising.