

AACET Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture

Education and Practice Standards for the Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture.

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 Therapeutic Acupuncture Therapy:

Acupuncture Therapist (the practitioner) refers to an equine health professional that observes the patient's Chi, and the effects of the Chi balance/imbalance have on the general health of the body and balances the Chi with Acupuncture tools (acupuncture needles, moxibustion, therapist's hands, Reiki and herbs).

Acupuncture Disorder:

Acupuncture Disorder is an imbalance of the patient's Chi.

Treatment: The method with which the practitioner will correct an Acupuncture disorder 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 therapeutic acupuncture 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 Therapeutic Acupuncture, Equine Complementary Acupuncture Therapy.

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 Therapeutic Acupuncture 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 Acupuncture Therapist.
2. To assist the public in understanding what to expect from a professional Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture/Equine Complementary Acupuncture Therapist
3. This document allows the professional Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture/Equine Complementary Acupuncture Therapist to evaluate and adapt performance in his/her Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture/Equine Complementary Acupuncture Therapy practice.
4. The professional Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture/Equine Complementary Acupuncture 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
5. 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 Therapeutic Acupuncture Therapist
 - Educators in Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture Therapy
 - AACET Members
 - Complaints investigations & Conflict Resolution
 - Discipline hearings
 - Quality assurance
 - Client relations
 - The public

Scope of Practice:

The scope of practice in Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture is:

- Assess Acupuncture Disorders in the equine patient.
- Treat the Acupuncture Disorders with Acupuncture tools (acupuncture needles, moxibustion, therapist's hands and herbs) 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:

Equine course based in Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture with a minimum of 450 instructional hours.

AACET's minimum CE hours are sufficient currently.

The Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture Therapist has an understanding of the following:

- Contraindications as they relate to Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture/Equine Complementary Acupuncture Therapy
- Understanding of the equine body's chi.
- Basic knowledge of Equine Anatomy
- Knowledge of the Equine Body's Meridians, how they relate to each other and the tissue in the Equine body.
- Profound knowledge of how to use Acupuncture tools and their affect on the equine body.

Practice Standards:

Contraindications:

- Unsafe environment, facilities and/or handler - for the therapist, equine, or the client.
- Working beyond scope of practice and therapist's education and knowledge.
- Acute or chronic trauma without recommendations from Veterinarian
- Fractures
- Colic
- Ataxia
- Parietal inflammation
- Muscular infections
- Bone Infections
- Skin Lesions

- Medications - that 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 prior), 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 determination if Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture, Complementary Acupuncture 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 Therapeutic Acupuncture.
- The practitioner will perform an Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture assessment.
- The practitioner will use their education and knowledge gained by experience to manually treat patient.
- The practitioner will ensure that acupuncture performed is within their and their patient's abilities and is to be performed with respect to the patient's health.
- The practitioner will observe the patient is left in an increased Chi state unless contraindications allowed otherwise.

Ethics Guidelines:

Although the practices of these guidelines are not required, it is highly recommended that all Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture 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 Therapeutic Acupuncture 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 Therapeutic Acupuncture 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 Acupuncture therapists shall demonstrate absolute honesty with regard to the patient's condition when communicating with the client/care giver. Equine Acupuncture Therapist shall not mislead clients into false or unjustified expectations of favorable results of treatment. In communications with a client/care giver, Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture therapist should never misrepresent their education, credentials, professional qualification or scope of clinical ability.
- Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture should preserve and protect the patient's confidential information, except as the patient directs or consents.
- Equine therapeutic Acupuncture 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 Acupuncture treatment. The client should make his or her own determination on such treatment.
- Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture Therapist should willingly consult and seek the talents of other health care professionals when such consultation would benefit their patients or when their clients/ care givers express a desire for such consultation.
- Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture 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 Therapeutic Acupuncture 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.
- Equine Therapeutic Acupuncture Therapist have an obligation to the profession to assure that their behavior does not give the appearance of professional

impropriety. Any actions which may benefit the practitioner to the detriment of the profession must be avoided so as to not erode the public trust.