

AACET Equine Cranial Sacral therapy

Education and Practice Standards for the Equine Cranial Sacral therapy.

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 Cranial Sacral therapist

Cranial Sacral Therapist (the practitioner) refers to an equine health professional that observes the patient's Cranial Sacral motion as it relates to the cerebrospinal fluid flow and the effects this has on the biomechanics of the patient.

Equine Cranial Sacral therapy Disorder: A disorder in the equine body that can benefit from the act of cranial sacral therapy.

Treatment: The method with which the practitioner will correct a body 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 cranial sacral therapy lasting more than 8 hours, for which a certificate of completion or course certificate is given.

Wet Lab: Equine necropsy/dissection, lasting a minimum of 6 hours. Photographic documentation must be provided, including a photo of the horse when live if possible, reason for euthanasia, a minimum of 5 pictures of the anatomy learned during the necropsy/dissection, a description in writing of what was learned, and the signature of the euthanizing veterinarian, animal owner, or wet lab instructor.

Standards of Practice:

AACET has approved the education and practice standards created by its Equine Cranial Sacral 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 Cranial Sacral therapist.

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 Cranial Sacral therapist.
2. This document allows the professional Equine Cranial Sacral therapist to evaluate and adapt performance in his/her Equine Therapeutic Cranial Sacral practice.
3. The professional Equine Therapeutic Cranial Sacral 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. Cranial Sacral therapist
 - Educators in Equine Therapeutic Cranial Sacral therapist
 - AACET Members
 - Complaints investigations & Conflict Resolution
 - Discipline hearings
 - Quality assurance
 - Client relations
 - The public

Scope of Practice:

The scope of practice for Equine Cranial Sacral Therapy is:

- Assess Cranial Sacral Disorders in the equine patient.
- Treat the Disorders with Cranial Sacral therapy 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:

Level 1: An human based course that is 32 hours of instruction.

Level 2: Level 1 requirements and 16 hours of Equine Anatomy instruction, wet lab or online course. 75 documented case studies on horses.

Level 3: Level 2 and an equine based course with 32 hours of instruction in advanced cranial sacral techniques, in addition practitioners must take 32 hours of instruction on Cranial Nerves based on humans or equines.

or an Osteopathy/Osteotherapy course that has included 64 hours of Cranial Sacral instruction and minimum of 16 hours of wet lab dedicated to the Cranial Sacral System.

Level 4: Level 5 requirements and 32 hours of Equine Anatomy wet lab on the cranial sacral system, not accumulative from level 3.

Level 5: Level 4 plus 75 hours of Continuing Education hours dedicated in the Study of Cranial Sacral techniques.

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

The Equine Cranial Sacral therapy has an understanding of the following:

- Contraindications as it relates to Equine Cranial Sacral therapy
- Basic knowledge of Equine Anatomy, bones, muscles and fascial trains
- Basic knowledge of peripheral biomechanics
- Knowledge of the Cranial Sacral System and how it relates to the whole horse.

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 infection
- Bone Infections
- 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 equine cranial sacral therapy.

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 Cranial Sacral 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 Cranial Sacral therapy
- The practitioner will perform an Equine Cranial Sacral therapy assessment.
- The practitioner will use their education and knowledge gained by experience to manually treat patient.

- The practitioner will ensure Cranial Sacral therapy 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 Cranial Sacral therapy 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 Cranial Sacral 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 Cranial Sacral 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 Cranial Sacral therapist shall demonstrate absolute honesty with regard to the patient's condition when communicating with the client/care giver.
- Equine Cranial Sacral therapist shall not mislead clients into false or unjustified expectations of favorable results of treatment. In communications with a client/care giver, Equine Therapeutic Cranial Sacral therapist should never misrepresent their education, credentials, professional qualification or scope of clinical ability.
- Equine Cranial Sacral therapist should preserve and protect the patient's confidential information, except as the patient directs or consents.
- Equine Cranial Sacral 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 Cranial Sacral treatment. The client should make his or her own determination on such treatment.
- Equine Cranial Sacral 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 Cranial Sacral 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.