

AACET Equine Osteopathy Therapy or Osteotherapy

Education and Practice Standards for the Osteopathy / Osteotherapy Modality:

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 in which the therapy is being provided to.

Equine Osteopath Therapist or Osteotherapy Therapist:

Osteopathy Therapist (the practitioner) refers to an equine health professional that does manual therapy that is concerned with the observations of motion, treatment, and prevention of mechanical disorders of the Cranial Sacral, Parietal and Visceral systems. And the effects of these disorders have on the general health.

Osteopathy/Osteotherapist Disorder:

Osteopathy/Osteotherapist Disorder is a disturbance of proper mobility in the three pillars of the body; Cranial Sacral, Parietal and Visceral.

Treatment: The method with which the practitioner will correct an Osteopathy 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.

Standards of Practice:

AACET has approved the education and practice standards created by its Equine Osteopath therapists and Equine Osteotherapist.

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

The Alberta Association Complementary Equine Therapy (AACET) Standards of Practice for Osteopathy Therapy/ Equine Osteotherapist, were developed to assist the professional Equine Osteopath 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 Equine Osteopath Therapist/ Equine Osteotherapist.
2. To assist the public in understanding what to expect from a professional Equine Osteopath Therapist/ Equine Osteotherapist.

This document allows the professional Equine Osteopath Therapist/ Equine Osteotherapist to evaluate and adapt performance in his/her Equine Osteopath practice. The professional Equine Osteopath Therapist/ Equine Osteotherapist 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

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:

- * The Equine Osteopathy therapist/ Equine Osteotherapist.
- * Educators (schools of Osteopathy or Equine Osteotherapist).
- * AACET Members
- * Complaints investigations & Conflict Resolution
- * Discipline hearings
- * Quality assurance
- * Client relations
- * The public

Scope of Practice:

The scope of practice in Equine Osteopathy therapy/Equine Osteotherapist is:

1. Assess Osteopathy/ Osteotherapist Disorders in the Cranial Sacral, Parietal and Visceral systems of the equine patient.
2. Treat the Osteopathy /Osteotherapist Disorders with manual therapy to produce a therapeutic outcome, as well as providing preventative care.
3. 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.

4. When necessary; suggest referrals to other Equine professionals, when appropriate for the best interest of the patient.

Education Standards:

Equine course based in Osteopathy therapy/ Equine Osteotherapist with a minimum of 800 instructional hours and 200 practical hours. AACET's minimum CE hours are sufficient currently.

The Osteopath therapists / Equine Osteotherapist must have an understanding of the following:

1. Contraindication as it relates to Equine Osteopathy /Equine Osteotherapist therapy.
2. Profound understanding of the equine body in the Cranial Sacral, Parietal and Visceral systems. Including Anatomical location, Biomechanics & Physiology of the whole body.
3. Knowledge of the Autonomic Nervous System.
4. Cellular development; normal growth patterns and disturbed growth patterns.
5. Equine vitals including respiration rate, pulse rate and temperature.

Practice Standards:**Contraindications:**

1. Unsafe environment, Facilities and or Handler - for therapist, equine and the client.
2. Working beyond scope of practice and therapist's education and knowledge.
3. Acute or chronic trauma without recommendations from Veterinarian
 - a. Fractures, known or obvious
 - b. Breaks,
 - c. Colic,
 - d. Ataxia,
 - e. Parietal inflammation,
 - f. Muscular,
 - g. Visceral or neuron lesions.
 - h. Bone Infections – obvious
 - i. Skin Lesions - known or obvious
 - j. Medications - that would obviously affect patient response
 - k. Stress - which compromises vital stability
4. A Patient that is currently under Veterinarian care for acute or chronic conditions where manual therapy has not been approved and or patient not released from Veterinary care.

Communication Standards:

The following is required to be discussed with the client:

1. Fees
2. Patient Information including breed, age, sex, discipline (prior & previous), pertinent past history, medical conditions, dental and hoof care as well as any other information that may assist the practitioner in treatment.
3. Chief Complaint including mechanism of injury, onset, what provokes or quiets issue, any interventions that have already been provided.

4. The practitioner's assessment to determination if Equine Osteopath Therapy is needed or if referral to another modality or a veterinarian is required
5. Therapeutic steps to be taken to improve health of patient.
6. Horse handling safety.
7. Recommended owner care for rehabilitate, preventive and maintenance of patient.

Operation Standards:

1. The practitioner will recommend a safe environment and handling procedures for themselves, the patient, and the client, to the best of their abilities throughout the duration of the appointment.
2. The practitioner will obtain a complete patient history as well as any other relevant information.
3. 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.
4. The practitioner will state that they are not providing veterinary care but Equine Osteopathy Therapy/Equine Osteotherapist, a manual therapy.
5. The practitioner will take note of any issues related to acute or chronic conditions that may be contraindications to Equine Osteopathy/Osteotherapist therapy.
6. The practitioner will perform an Equine Osteopathy/Equine Osteotherapist assessment.
7. The practitioner will use their education and knowledge gained by experience to manually treat patient.
8. The practitioner will ensure that any manual therapy performed is within their and their patient's abilities and is to be performed with respect to the patient's health.
9. The practitioner will observe the patient is left in an increased mobility state unless contraindications allowed otherwise.

Ethics Guidelines:

Although the practices of these guidelines are not required, it is highly recommended that all Equine Osteopath Therapists/Equine Osteotherapist adopt and incorporate them in their treatment regime whenever possible.

1. Do no harm. When questioning your abilities or condition of patient seek veterinary care.
2. Equine Osteopath Therapist/Equine Osteotherapist should adhere to a commitment to the highest standards of excellence and should attend to their patients in accordance with established best practices.
3. Equine Osteopaths/Equine Osteotherapist should maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct, and should comply with AACET rules and regulations.
4. Therapist-patient & client/caregiver relationships should be built on mutual respect, trust and cooperation. In keeping with these principles, equine osteopath therapists shall demonstrate absolute honesty with regard to the patient's condition when communicating with the client/care giver. Equine Osteopaths therapist/Equine Osteotherapist shall not mislead clients into false or unjustified expectations of favorable results of treatment. In communications with a client/care giver, Equine Osteopaths should never misrepresent their education, credentials, professional qualification or scope of clinical ability.
5. Equine Osteopath therapist/Equine Osteotherapist should preserve and protect the patient's confidential information, except as the patient directs or consents.
6. Equine Osteopath therapist/Equine Osteotherapist 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 manual osteopathy/Osteotherapy treatment. The client should make his or her own determination on such treatment.

7. Equine Osteopaths therapist/Equine Osteotherapist 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.
8. Equine Osteopath Therapists/ Equine Osteotherapist 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.
9. Equine Osteopath therapist/Equine Osteotherapist 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.
10. Equine Osteopath therapists/Equine Osteotherapist 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.
11. Equine Osteopaths therapists /Equine Osteotherapist should recognize their obligation to help equines and client/ caregivers knowledge to aid in daily care of health.