

**Animal Sports Therapy & Massage Subgroup­­**

**Admission Policy**

**Application Criteria**

1. Applicants must be in a position to evidence the successful achievement of a university validated qualification at minimum level 4

Or

an Ofqual accredited qualification (found on the RQF in animal sports therapy / massage / myopractic) at a minimum of **400 hours TQT** and **37 credits**, as defined by Ofqual.

1. The course must deliver teaching and provide assessment opportunities which meet the day one competencies (Annex 1).
2. The course must contain a **minimum of 150 hours TQT clinically relevant hands-on** **practice**, in an animal environment, to equip students with high-level assessment and treatment skills in order to meet the required day-one competencies.
3. Applicants who do not meet the educational requirements as set out above may be able to apply through a process of Recognition of Prior Learning / Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPL / RPEL) and are considered on an individual basis.
4. Applicants who undertook their primary training outside the UK are invited to contact the register directly to discuss requirements for entry and will normally progress through the process described in 4 above.

**Application Process**

In all cases an application form must be completed and submitted.

1. Applicants from AHPR accredited courses will have the right to direct registration within 12 months of qualification (the date of notification of course result). All applicants must submit.
2. A completed Direct entry AHPR application form;
3. Evidence of an acceptable educational award certificate;
4. Evidence of current suitable liability insurance;

After 12 months of qualification applicants will also have to provide evidence of active practice in the field of animal sports therapy / massage / myopractic through submission of a CV, evidence of 25 hours of Continuing Professional Development per annum or 50 hours accumulative in the two years before application.

1. Applicants that have completed a course that meets the requirements of 1,2 and 3 above that is not accredited by AHPR will additionally need to demonstrate how the course meets these requirements.
2. For applicants who have completed a course that does not meet the requirements of 1, 2 and 3 above or have not completed a relevant course application can be made through the Recognition of Prior Learning / Recognition of Experiential Learning (RPL / RPEL) (Grand-parenting) Route.

**Application Process – RPL / RPEL**

Where an applicant does not satisfy the direct entry criteria, application will be via the RPL / RPEL process.

This is a three tiered systemwhere it is expected that those that have clearevidence that they have been working continuously in the animal sports therapy / massage industry for more than three years will complete the process for admission at the first tier.

Those with less experience may need to complete all three tiers to show competency. Each applicant will be appointed an RPL /RPEL assessor to help them through the process.

**Tier One**

**All applicants are required to:**

* Complete the RPL / RPEL application form.
* Provide an account of other relevant training received.
* Submit an up to date C.V.
* Provide one reference from a veterinary surgeon with whom they frequently work in their capacity as an animal sports therapist or massage therapist (either on the veterinary practice headed letter paper or from the practice’s email address) as to the applicant's professional competence in that sphere.
* Provide evidence of continuity of insurance cover prior to Register entry including current insurance;
* Applicants must map out evidence against the Day One Competencies for the AHPR animal sports therapy & massage subgroup, to show how their clinical experience and training meet the day one competencies.
* CPD evidence of 25 hours per annum or 50 hours over a rolling 2 year period prior to AHPR entry in the preceding two year (can be less if more recently qualified/extenuating circumstances)

If the assessor’s decision is that more evidence is required then applicants move to tier two:

**Tier Two**

**In addition to the requirements in tier one above**, all applicants are required to:

* Complete an assessment which demonstrates their ability to critically analyse their own practice and demonstrate clinical reasoning skills that are underpinned by current literature, via a written assessment; reflective case studies (a minimum of two and a maximum of four depending on scope of practice). Guidance will be provided by the assessor.

If the assessor considers more evidence of clinical competency is required applicants will move to tier three.

**Tier Three**

**In addition to the requirements in tier one & two above** all applicants are required to:

Complete a clinical competency test by undertaking a FE accredited assessment which demonstrates clinical proficiency. Guidance will be provided by the assessor.

The RPL / RPEL route will remain open for two years from the subgroup register going live. All applications must be completed within one year of this route closing.

**Registration Fees (2018-2019)**

Renewal is due 1st July 2019

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **One subgroup** | **Two subgroups** | **Three subgroups** | **Four subgroups** |
| AHPR Accredited Courses | £80 | £100\*\* | £120\*\* | Contact AHPR in the first instance |
| Non-accredited courses Tier One RPL/RPEL | £115 | £150 | £185 |
| Tier Two RPL/RPEL | £165 | £200 | £235 |
| Tier Three RPL/RPEL | £165 + the fee charged by the HE/FE provider | £200 + the fee charged by the HE/FE provider | £235 + the fee charged by the HE/FE provider |  |

\*\*In subsequent years on renewal of the annual registration the fee will be a flat rate (i.e. £80 for 2019) irrespective of the number of subgroups in which a registrant is listed.

**ANNEX 1**

**ESSENTIAL DAY ONE COMPETENCIES REQUIRED FOR PRACTITIONERS OF ANIMAL SPORTS THERAPY / MASSAGE / MYOPRACTIC**

**A – GENERAL PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES**

*Practitioners of Animal Sports Therapy / Massage / Myopractic should be able to:*

**A1. Be able to practise within the legal and ethical boundaries of their profession**

* Be aware of current UK legislation applicable to the work of their profession; the Veterinary Surgery exemption order (2015)
* Understand and comply with legal obligations in relation to The Veterinary Surgery exemption order (2015) seeking permission of a veterinary surgeon prior to any treatment being given
* Communicate effectively with clients, the lay public, professional colleagues and veterinary surgeons; listen effectively and respond sympathetically to clients and others, using language in a form appropriate to the audience and the context

**A2. Be able to practise in a non-discriminatory manner**

**A3. Understand the importance of an be able to maintain confidentiality**

**A4. Prepare clear case reports and maintain patient records in a form satisfactory to colleagues, veterinary surgeons and understandable by the public**

**A5. Recognise the need for effective self-management of workload and resources and be able to practise accordingly**

* Have an elementary knowledge of how fees are calculated and invoices drawn up, and the importance of record keeping, including book-keeping and case reports
* Be able to use information technology effectively to communicate, share, collect, manipulate and analyse information
* Process and control client or relevant data in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1988 or the General Data Protection Regulations (effective May 2018) whichever shall apply

**A6. Be able to practise as an autonomous professional, exercising their own professional judgement**

* Be able to assess a situation, determine the nature and severity of the problem and call upon the required knowledge and experience to deal with the problem
* Be able to initiate resolution of problems and be able to exercise personal initiative
* Know the limits of their practice and when to seek advice or refer to another professional
* Recognise that they are personally responsible for and must be able to justify their decisions

**A7. Understand the obligation to maintain fitness to practise**

* Understand the need to practise safely and effectively within their scope of practice
* Understand the need to maintain high standards of personal conduct
* Understand the need and professional obligation for a commitment to continuing education and training, and professional development, throughout ones’ professional life

**A8. Be willing to use one’s professional capabilities to contribute as far as possible to the advancement of knowledge and understanding in order to benefit the profession and further improve the quality of animal care**

**B – UNDERPINNING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

*Practitioners of Animal Sports Therapy / Massage / Myopractic will need to have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the following:*

**B1. The sciences on which the activities of practitioners are based**

* Normal equine and canine anatomy and physiology, especially the dynamic relationships of structure and function, and the neuromuscular and musculoskeletal systems
* The means by which biomechanics and applied exercise physiology can inform the understanding analysis of movement and function
* Patterns of growth and development across the lifespan
* Factors influencing individual variations in ability and health status
* The aetiology, pathogenesis and clinical signs of common diseases and disorders that occur in equine and canine species that are commonly encountered in practice

**B2. How sports therapy / massage / myopractic techniques can cause physiological and structural change**

**B3. Maintain a knowledge of current research in to the sports therapy / massage / myopractic fields, including the evaluation of treatment efficacy.**

**B4. Recognise the role of other professions in the animal care industry**

* Understand the theoretical basis of, and the variety of approaches to assessment and intervention

**B5. Understand the need to establish and maintain a safe practice environment**

* Be able to establish safe environments for assessment and treatment, which minimises risks to clients, practitioners and others
* Know and be able to apply appropriate moving and handling techniques

**C – PRACTICAL COMPETENCIES**

*Practitioners of Animal Sports Therapy / Massage / Myopractic should be able to undertake the following:*

**C1. Obtain an accurate and relevant history of the individual animal, and its environment**

**C2. Be able to select and use appropriate assessment techniques**

**C3. Handle and restrain an animal safely and humanely, and instruct other in performing these techniques**

**C4. Perform a comprehensive static and dynamic assessment**

**C5. Advise on, and offer appropriate treatment**

**C6. Be able to use reasoning and problem-solving skills to determine appropriate actions**

* Be able to demonstrate a logical and systematic approach to problem solving
* Maintain current knowledge of research and other evidence to inform their own practice
* Recognise the need to discuss, and be able to explain the rationale for the use of sports therapy / massage/ myopractic treatment
* Recognise the need to refer the animal to a more skilled practitioner or veterinary surgeon for full assessment and evaluation of appropriate treatment methodologies when outside the scope of own practice

**C7. Be able to draw on appropriate knowledge and skills in order to make professional judgements**

* Be able to change their practice as needed to take account of new developments
* Be able to demonstrate a level of skill in the use of information technology appropriate to their practice

**C8. Be able to maintain records appropriately**

* Be able to keep accurate, legible records and recognise the need to handle these records and all other information in accordance with applicable legislation, protocols and guidelines
* Understand the need to use only accepted terminology in making records

**C9. Be able to monitor and review the ongoing effectiveness of planned activity and modify it accordingly**

* Be able to gather information, including qualitative and quantitative data that helps to evaluate the animal’s response to treatment
* Be able to evaluate intervention plans using recognised outcome measures and revise the plans as necessary in conjunction with the client
* Be able to make reasoned decisions to initiate, continue, modify or cease treatment or the use of techniques or procedures, and record the decisions and reasoning appropriately
* Be able to evaluate treatment plans to ensure that they meet the needs of the animal