

**VETERINARY PHYSIOTHERAPY SUB GROUP**

**ADMISSIONS POLICY**

**Application Criteria**

1. Applicants must have successfully completed a University validated higher education degree in animal / veterinary physiotherapy at a minimum of level six with a minimum of 300 credits as recognised by the Framework for Higher Education or a level 7 award in animal / veterinary physiotherapy with a minimum of 120 credits. (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>)

**Or**

Applicants must have successfully completed a course in animal / veterinary physiotherapy at a minimum of a level six as described by Ofqual [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/461637/qualification-and-component-levels.pdf](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/AG89BFLLwYF0?domain=gov.uk) where the award is equivalent in depth and complexity to a University validated HE course as described above.

1. The course must deliver teaching that meets the day one competencies.
2. The course must contain a minimum of 250 hours of clinically relevant hands-on practice, delivered in an animal environment by an approved (as approved by the training body) musculoskeletal practitioner to equip students with high-level assessment and treatment skills for day-one competencies.
3. Applicants who do not meet the educational requirements as set out above will need to apply through a process of Recognition of Prior Learning / Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (Grand-parenting route) and are considered on an individual basis. Applicants may be required to undertake an HE accredited assessment to show clinical proficiency.
4. Applicants who undertook initial 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 have to provide evidence of active practice in the field of animal / veterinary physiotherapy by submission of a CV and evidence of 25 hours of Continuing Professional Development per annum or 50 hours accumulative in the two years before application.

All applicants who qualified from July 2017 and onwards will need to complete a Professional Development Phase (see page 4).

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 through RPL /RPEL (Grand-parenting) Route**

AHPR have a vested interest to ensure standards and quality are upheld, whilst maintaining a transparent, and robust system where they can be confident that registrants will meet the entry requirements of the subgroup in a way which is fair and does not unnecessarily disadvantage those affected. RPL/RPEL in terms of AHPR membership, will only be available for two years from the register opening.

The RPL / RPEL process is a three tiered system where it is expected that those that have been working continuously full-time in the animal / veterinary physiotherapy industry for more than three years full-time or on a pro-rata basis if working part-time (based on a 35 hour working week) will complete the process for admission at the first tier and 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.

All applicants through the RPL / RPEL route are required to complete the application form and submit an up to date CV which includes detail of the training they have undertaken to practice as an animal / veterinary physiotherapist, evidence of 25 hours of Continuing Professional Development per annum or 50 hours accumulative in the 2 years before application and evidence of appropriate insurance.

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| **Tier One** | Additionally applicants must provide signed confirmation from two veterinary surgeons with whom they frequently work in their professional capacity as an animal/veterinary physiotherapist, either on the veterinary practice headed letter paper or from the practice’s email address. They will also be required to show how their clinical experience and training have met both the day one / year one competencies. |
| **Tier Two** | If the assessor’s decision is that more evidence is required then applicants move to tier two where in addition to the above requirements they will be 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. |
| **Tier Three** | If the assessor considers more evidence of clinical competency is required applicants will move to tier three and in addition to the above requirements will also be required to complete an entry assessment by undertaking a HE accredited assessment which demonstrates clinical proficiency. Guidance will be provided by the assessor. |

The current practitioner 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.

**Professional Development Phase (PDP)**

All new graduates will be required to undergo a professional development phase to demonstrate the development of Year One competencies. This should normally be completed in their first year of clinical practice; this applies to all new graduates from 2017 onwards. Graduates will have one year to complete the PDP from the date they join the register. A completed PDP log will be required to be submitted to the register to maintain their names on the register. A completed PDP log will be required to be submitted to the register to maintain their names on the register.

**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.

**Veterinary Physiotherapy**

**Day One Competencies**

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| **Veterinary Physiotherapy Competencies** |
| **General professional skills and attributes;****The new animal/veterinary physiotherapist graduate should be able to:** |
| **Competence**  | **Guidance**  |
| conduct themselves in a professional manner with regard to professional and legal responsibilities and understand and apply the ethical codes as set out in the *Guide to Professional Conduct*; | Veterinary practice legislation; scope of practice; standards of conduct, performance and ethics for Veterinary Physiotherapy; ethical practice and standards of proficiency; professional conduct |
| work effectively as a member of a multi-disciplinary team in the delivery of services; | Effective communication, identification of members of the team: veterinary surgeon, veterinary nurse, hydrotherapist, behaviourist, farrier, saddler, trainer etc. |
| communicate effectively with the public, professional colleagues and appropriate authorities; | Appropriate language and terminology for audience, use of professional terminology; verbal, non-verbal and written communication including discharge summaries/treatment synopsis, poster and oral presentations and advice leaflets  |
| foster and maintain a good professional relationship with clients and colleagues, developing mutual trust and respecting professional views and confidentiality; | Professional conduct; professional competence; honesty and integrity; independence and impartiality; client confidentiality and trust; professional accountability; professional socialisation & boundaries; ethical standards |
| prepare accurate clinical and client records and case reports when necessary, in a form satisfactory to colleagues and understandable by the public.  | Importance of record keeping; legal and ethical requirements of documentation and record keeping. |
| recognise their own limitations, know when to seek assistance, understand the protocols for dealing with referrals; | Scope of practice; reflection and reflective practice; legislation relating to referral and veterinary practice; communication with the referring veterinary surgeon; practice within personal scope |
| identify personal and professional goals for continuing professional development in order to enhance competence to practice and maintain registered professional status;  | Importance of CPD; evidence based practice; literature review and understanding of the hierarchy of evidence; maintaining a portfolio of evidence; reflective practice |
| promote, monitor and maintain health and safety in the working environment applying principles of risk management, manual handling and bio-security.  | Safe and empathetic animal handling; personal health and safety including safe working positions; risk assessment and dynamic risk assessment, client safety; record keeping, evidence based practice, disinfection of equipment and clothing, animal notifiable and reportable diseases. Select appropriate personal protective equipment and use it correctly |
| understand the economic and emotional context in which the veterinary/animal physiotherapist operates.  | need for emotional resilience and clinical confidence in areas of conflicting demands; recognition of stress and where to seek assistance for themselves or others  |
| understand and apply principles of clinical governance, and practise evidence-based clinical *practice.*  | Reflection, analysis and improvement in clinical practice; importance of clinical audit and effect on future practice; peer review; case discussions & presentations; importance of CPD |
| Use their professional capabilities to contribute to the advancement of veterinary/animal physiotherapy knowledge, in order to improve the quality of animal health and welfare.  | Understand the research process; participate in active research; recognise the need to support the education and training of future graduates; duty of candour |
| Service management | Business skills including; financial, marketing and advertising, personnel management. |
| Perform professional duties within their Scope of practice and legal framework as set out in *Code of Conduct for Veterinary Physiotherapy* and *Standards of Proficiency for Veterinary Physiotherapy* | Acknowledge and work within scope of practice; undertake appropriate training in order to develop scope of practice within the boundaries of the profession; have a knowledge and understanding of the legal framework in which they work |

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| **Veterinary Physiotherapy Competencies** |
| **Practical and clinical competences**  |
| **Competence**  | **Guidance**  |
| assess patients safely and effectively taking into account physical, welfare and behavioural needs of the individual animal and supporting the owner client;  | Humane and empathetic/careful animal handling to include the use of therapeutic handling techniques. The use of appropriate restraint and directing others in effective constraint. Subjective assessment / history taking; interpretation of referral and results of relevant investigations. Objective assessment; observation, palpation, mobilisation etc. Analysis of normal movement and functionality linked to structure and biomechanics. |
| Clinical reasoning linking patient assessment to the treatment plan |  Evaluate a prioritised problem list from the assessment and reassessment leading to the clinical reasoned SMART goal planning (short, mid and long term) using a variety of objective and subjective outcome measures. |
| construct specific, safe and effective treatment plans for patients, using problem-solving and clinical reasoning skills;  | Evidence based; tailored to individual animal and client and assessment findings whilst prioritising the welfare of the animal; clinical reasoning and decision making models/skills  |
| use therapeutic exercise safely and effectively, incorporating decision making, goal setting and design of exercise programmes;  | Principles of exercise therapy – both MSK and CV/resp. Education principles; normal response to exercise; adaptation to species type and work/social environment |
| use manual therapy in the application of mobilisation, manipulation, massage and respiratory therapy techniques, safely and effectively;  | Manual therapy: - palpation skills – soft tissues and bony landmarks; massage; manipulation; mobilisation. Indications; contraindications; precautions and application of specific techniques |
| Proprioceptive rehabilitation techniques and movement therapies. | Therapies including; guidance movement shaping techniques, touch therapies, proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation. |
| use electrotherapeutic modalities safely and effectively, in the selection and application of a range of modalities based on the therapeutic use of electrical, thermal, light, sonic and magnetic energy;  | Modalities – ultrasound; laser; TENS; electrical stimulation; heat and cold; magnetic energy. Contraindications; precautions and application of specific commonly encountered techniques on a variety of species and anatomical regions. Health and safety considerations including disinfection of equipment. |
| assess and manage pain.  | Pain mechanisms; pain behaviour, responses to pain, compare and contrast clinical signs in a variety of species, understanding of pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of pain. Pain management in a physiotherapeutic context |
| appraise available evidence in order to choose and evaluate treatment interventions;  | Critical review of the literature; literature searching; research principles; audit; clinical decision making |
| participate effectively in inter-professional approaches to the promotion of animal health.  | Knowledge and understanding of the roles of individual members of the animal health team.  |
| demonstrate an understanding of the role of veterinary/animal physiotherapy in the prevention of illness and injury and in health promotion and performance enhancement  | Principles of good husbandry, normal response to exercise; principles of training; stretching warm up cool down ; specific exercises etc. to maximise and enhance performance |
| practice good biosecurity and infection control measures when dealing with patients | Effective disinfection procedures for clothing, equipment and self, use of correct PPE |

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| **Veterinary Physiotherapy Competencies** |
| **Underpinning knowledge and understanding** |
| **Competence**  | **Guidance**  |
| An understanding of the structure, function and behaviour of animals under their care including their physiological and welfare needs. | Anatomy, physiology and behavioural sciences relating to commonly encountered small and large animal species.Musculoskeletal, nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive system Normal behavioural repertoire of different species; Interpreting behavioural signs |
|  Knowledge of the businesses related to animal breeding, production, performance and keeping.  | Businesses relating to both large and small species. Animal Husbandry. Working animals as well as those kept for social and pleasure reasons |
| Understand the competition rules or activities and the demands of different equine and canine sports and activities | Acknowledge differing sporting/physiological requirements e.g. polo compared to dressage and field sports compared to agility; or working activities e.g. police dogs, guide dogs etc. |
| Understanding of and competence in, the logical approaches to both scientific and clinical reasoning, the distinction between the two, and the strengths and limitations of each.  | Research paradigms; hierarchy of evidence; case study presentations; Research process; evidence informed practice |
| The clinical sciences that aid understanding of pathophysiology and resulting clinical features of conditions usually encountered in animal/veterinary physiotherapy practice that also underpin effective clinical reasoning and clinical assessment skills; | Pathophysiology and clinical features of commonly encountered musculoskeletal and neurological conditions in animal/veterinary practice. Normal physiology and changes with disease, injury, poor welfare, levels of fitness, sporting or production levels |
| Physical sciences as applied to veterinary/animal physiotherapy practice in relation to movement analysis, measurement techniques, electro-physical modalities, biomechanics and ergonomics; | Biomechanics of movement; objective assessment of joint and muscle – range of movement, pattern of movement, cadence Methodologies for data collection and analysis of data relating to movement and structure. |
| Legislation relating to animal health and welfare | Specific laws governing animal welfare and health. Animal Welfare Act 2006; Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2007; Animal Health Act 1981. Reporting mechanisms re suspected cruelty, poor husbandry, animal disease etc. |
| Recognition of suspicious signs of notifiable, reportable and zoonotic diseases of commonly kept large and small animals.  | Recognition of the clinical signs and modes of transmission of the important notifiable, reportable and zoonotic diseases that can affect the species commonly worked with  |
| Understand the ethical framework within which veterinary/ animal physiotherapists should work, including important ethical theories that inform decision-making in professional and animal welfare-related ethics. | Understand the implications of client/owner/trainer/financial demands on practice. Develop and evaluate ethically based treatment programmes to maximise animal welfare and health. |

With thanks to the Physiotherapy Department at the University of Hertfordshire & the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Day One Competencies.