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## VVMA Position Statement

November 2022

### **Complementary Veterinary Medicine**

The VVMA defines Complementary Veterinary Medicine using the AVMA Model Practice Act definition: "Complementary, alternative, and integrative therapies" means a heterogeneous group of preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic philosophies and practices that are not considered part of conventional (Western) medicine as practiced by most veterinarians and veterinary technicians/technologists. These therapies include, but are not limited to, veterinary acupuncture, acutherapy, and acupressure; veterinary homeopathy; veterinary manual or manipulative therapy (i.e., therapies based on techniques practiced in osteopathy and chiropractic medicine); veterinary nutraceutical therapy; and veterinary phytotherapy.

The VVMA believes that all aspects of veterinary medicine should be held to the same standards, including complementary, alternative and integrative veterinary medicine, non-traditional or other novel approaches. The foremost objectives in veterinary medicine are the health and welfare of the patient. For this reason, the following must be adhered to:

- Diagnosis and treatment should be based on sound, accepted principles of veterinary medicine and the medical judgement of the veterinarian.
- Practitioners, whether veterinarians or non-veterinarians, should have the requisite knowledge and skills for every treatment modality they consider using. If the practitioner is not a veterinarian, the referring veterinarian must properly screen the non-veterinarian practitioner to ensure they have the requisite knowledge and skills while remembering that the liability for treatment stays with the veterinarian.
- A valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship must exist.
- Owner consent should be obtained prior to initiating treatment.
- Medical records should include outcomes of treatment.
- Veterinarians and practitioners should be aware of and abide by federal and state legislation and administrative rules.

Adopted by the VVMA Executive Committee on 11/16/22