

VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Chiropractic and Acupuncture Care

Applicable Law:

§ 54.1-3800. Practice of veterinary medicine.

Any person shall be regarded as practicing veterinary medicine within the meaning of this chapter who represents himself, directly or indirectly, publicly or privately, as a veterinary doctor or uses any title, words, abbreviation or letters in a manner or under circumstances which may reasonably induce the belief that the person using them is qualified to practice veterinary medicine.

Any person shall be deemed to be practicing veterinary medicine who performs the diagnosis, treatment, correction, change, relief or prevention of animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical or mental conditions; including the performance of surgery or dentistry, the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique, and the use of any manual or mechanical procedure for embryo transfer, for testing for pregnancy, or for correcting sterility or infertility, or to render advice or recommendation with regard to any of the above.

Guidance:

The Board of Veterinary Medicine unanimously voted that chiropractic and acupuncture care performed on animals is the practice of veterinary medicine as defined by the Code of Virginia (§54.1-3800) and may not be delegated to anyone not licensed as a veterinarian. If these treatments are performed by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian, the person would be engaging in unlicensed practice.