

# American Association of Equine Therapists and Technicians (AAETT)

## Code of Ethics

Introduction: The American Association of Equine Therapists and Technicians (AAETT) is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and ethical conduct within the field of therapeutic modalities for animals. Members of AAETT pledge to uphold the following Code of Ethics as they provide therapeutic services utilizing both manual and equipment-based modalities.

### Respect for Animals:

- Members will prioritize the physical, mental, and emotional welfare and well-being of animals above all other considerations in their practice. Members will do no harm to the animals in or beyond their care.
- Members will administer manual and/or equipment-based therapies in a safe, humane, and compassionate manner, respecting the individual needs and sensitivities of each animal.
- Members will endeavor to serve the best interest of their clients (animal and human) at all times to provide the highest quality service possible. Members will maintain clear and honest communications with clients and keep client communications confidential.
- Members will acknowledge the scope of practice of their skills and, when necessary, refer clients to the appropriate qualified healthcare professional.

### Professionalism and Integrity:

- Members will maintain the highest standards of professionalism in all interactions with clients, colleagues, veterinary professionals, and the public, providing services with the highest moral, ethical and professional standards.
- Members will conduct themselves with honesty, integrity, and transparency in their professional activities including accurately representing their qualifications, experience, and credentials to clients and the public.
- Members will perform their services to the best of their ability and commit to continued growth as a professional through regular self-assessment of strengths and weaknesses, and through continuing education and training for both personal and professional development.
- Members will respect the integrity of other forms of healthcare and other medical traditions and seek to develop collaborative relationships to achieve the highest quality of care for individual clients.
- Members will keep accurate records of history and treatment and respect the confidentiality of those records as required by law and industry professional standards.

### Scope of Practice:

- Members will do no harm.
- Members shall practice within the scope of their training, education, and competence in both hands-on and equipment-based modalities, and shall clearly communicate their scope with their clients and with other professionals.
- Members shall stay informed of advancements and best practices in hands-on and/or equipment-based modalities and integrate this knowledge into their practice responsibly.
- Members shall refrain from any diagnosing of medical conditions or prescribing treatment plans outside of their scope of practice and shall refer animals to appropriate veterinary or other professionals when necessary.

- Members will refrain from providing a prognosis relative to a specific condition or injury.
- Members will not employ techniques for which they have not had adequate training and will represent their education, training, qualifications and abilities honestly.
- Members will not perform manipulations or adjustments of the skeletal structure, diagnose, prescribe or provide any other service, procedure or therapy which requires a license to practice chiropractic, osteopathy, physical or other branches of veterinary medicine, unless they are currently licensed and trained to do so.
- Members will not apply any modalities or techniques in those cases where it may be contraindicated, including consulting with the client's veterinary care team to ensure collaboration and co-managed care.
- Members may assess, record and discuss the results of manual and/or equipment-based modalities, and may recommend frequency and type of therapies as indicated by the client's condition, veterinary recommendations, and the scope of their own education and realm of experience.

**Confidentiality and Privacy:**

- Members will respect the confidentiality and privacy of clients and their animals, maintaining the confidentiality of all client records and information.
- Members will obtain consent from clients before disclosing any confidential information to third parties, including use for marketing and advertising or education purposes, except as required by law.

**Continuing Education and Professional Development:**

- Members will pursue ongoing education and professional development to enhance their knowledge, skills, and competency in manual and/or equipment-based modalities.
- Members will participate in continuing education activities and stay abreast of advancements in manual and/or equipment-based modalities to provide the highest quality of care to animals.

**Compliance with Laws and Regulations:**

- Members will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and standards governing the practice of both manual and equipment-based modalities in their jurisdiction(s).
- Members will obtain any necessary licenses, permits, or certifications required to practice either manual or equipment-based modalities legally and ethically.
- Members will strive to project a professional image for themselves, their business and the profession in general.
- Members will practice honesty in advertising, promoting services ethically and in good taste, and practice and/or advertise only those techniques for which they have received adequate training and/or certification and in compliance with federal, state and local regulations.

**Conflict of Interest:**

- Members will disclose any conflicts of interest that may arise in their professional relationships and take appropriate steps to manage or mitigate these conflicts.
- Members will refrain from engaging in any activities that could compromise their professional judgment, objectivity, or integrity.