Medical Massage – Small Animal/Exotics

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Develop a sensitivity and awareness of the integrative approach to patient needs, issues and concerns.

    Objectives:
1. Identify and consider a variety of factors when assessing and treating the patient.
2. Recognize how the emotional state can impact the healing process.
3. Assess the physical factors that influence the patient's issues.
4. Consider the impact of the patient's physical, mental, and emotional realms, including family and quality of care delivered, on his or her health status.

Goal 2: Establish a firm foundation in medical massage fundamentals and master essential techniques.

    Objectives:
1. Demonstrate competency and care in soft tissue manual therapy techniques.
2. Perform myofascial palpation and be able to derive insights on pain and health status from the findings (e.g., areas of tension, trigger points, and taut bands; spinal segmental somatic dysfunction, hyper- and hypotonicity, etc.
3. Be able to work calmly and gently with a live animal, taking into account his or her unique physical and emotional makeup and tolerance for touch.
4. Become conversant with the mechanisms of medical massage, including its impact on neurophysiologic and connective tissues.
5. Explain how soft tissue tension and pathology affects both structure and function.

Goal 3: Become an advocate for medical massage and scientific integrative medicine.

    Objectives:
1. Be able to articulate the value of medical massage as it relates to the assessment and treatment of patients.
2. Become an advocate for the integrative approach with professional colleagues and clients.
3. Become a reflective practitioner who creates a habit of self-assessment for the purpose of sustaining a healing, caring professional environment.
4. Consider a multifaceted treatment approach.
5. Consider the modifications required for your current medical record system or any conventional medical record system.
6. Implement myofascial palpation in every assessment of your patients.