

## CHAPTER 147

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**PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**


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**HOUSE BILL 07-1126**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) McGihon, Green, Kefalas, and Todd;  
also SENATOR(S) Johnson, Taylor, and Tochtrop.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS TO PERFORM PHYSICAL THERAPY ON ANIMALS.**

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** 12-41-103 (6) (a) (I), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

**12-41-103. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(6) (a) (I) "Physical therapy" means the examination, treatment, or instruction of ~~human beings~~ PATIENTS AND CLIENTS to detect, assess, prevent, correct, alleviate, or limit physical disability, movement dysfunction, bodily malfunction, or pain from injury, disease, and other bodily conditions.

**SECTION 2.** 12-41-113, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

**12-41-113. Special practice authorities and requirements. (4) Physical therapy of animals.** (a) A PHYSICAL THERAPIST IS AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS WHEN SUCH PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SCOPE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE. IN RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THIS SUBSECTION (4), THE PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION (4) SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 12-64-103, NOR SHALL IT BE DEEMED A VIOLATION OF SECTION 12-64-104.

(b) IN RECOGNITION OF THE EMERGING FIELD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS,

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

BEFORE COMMENCING PHYSICAL THERAPY OF AN ANIMAL, A PHYSICAL THERAPIST SHALL OBTAIN VETERINARY MEDICAL CLEARANCE OF THE ANIMAL BY A VETERINARIAN LICENSED UNDER ARTICLE 64 OF THIS TITLE.

**SECTION 3.** 12-41-125 (2) (b), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

**12-41-125. Powers and duties of director - reports - publications.** (2) In addition to any other powers and duties given the director by this article, the director shall have the following powers and duties:

(b) To adopt all reasonable and necessary rules ~~and regulations~~ for the administration and enforcement of this article, including, but not limited to, rules regarding:

(I) The supervision of unlicensed persons by physical therapists taking into account the education and training of such unlicensed individuals; AND

(II) PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, EDUCATIONAL AND CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS AND THE PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES REGARDING PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS. IN ADOPTING SUCH RULES, THE DIRECTOR SHALL CONSULT WITH THE PHYSICAL THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-41-126 AND WITH THE STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-64-105.

**SECTION 4. Effective date.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

**SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: April 16, 2007