



ChiroSecureTM
MALPRACTICE INSURANCE SERVICES

To whom it may concern,

I would like to respond to your inquiry of malpractice claims that we have received pertaining to chiropractors engaging in animal adjusting with the proper training.

To date, we have not experienced any claims specifically related to animal adjusting.

I hope this is helpful.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stu Hoffman, Pres. ChiroSecure

How many education hours are required for AVCA or IVCA-certified Animal Chiropractors?

EDUCATION POINTS

The American Veterinary Chiropractic Association and International Veterinary Chiropractic Association are currently the highest standard of animal chiropractic education and certifications.

Licensed Doctors of Chiropractic (DC) and licensed Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) are only eligible for the certification program. In addition to a DC's primary schooling (*120 hours undergrad, 4500 doctorate*), they are required to attend an approved post-graduate Basic Animal Chiropractic Program which comprises a minimum of 210-240 hours of education. The teaching staff is made up of DCs and DVMs. There is a minimum of 75 hours of hands-on laboratories and a minimum of 135 hours of lecture. Once completed, the DC must pass the program's exit exam and the ACCC/AVCA or IVCA written and clinical (practical) examinations. After passing all examinations and holding a current/active (good standing) state license of chiropractic or veterinary medicine, the doctor will receive certification for animal chiropractic.



HOURS PER CURRICULUM FOR ANIMAL CHIROPRACTIC STUDENTS*

- **Anatomy and Biomechanics (Lecture and Laboratory) (38 Hrs)** – Osteology, Myology, Syndesmology, Neuro-anatomy and Physiology, Joint Movement/Mechanics, Gait Analysis, Palpation, Dissected Specimens, Skeletal Models
- **Applied Functional Neurology (12 Hrs)** – Joint Injury Evaluation, Nociception (pain), Proprioception, Spinal reflexes and Reactions
- **Chiropractic Sciences (24 Hrs)** – Safety, Vertebral Subluxation, Pathology, Treatment Protocols, and Hands On Adjusting Techniques
- **Veterinary Sciences (20 Hrs)** – Safety, Anatomy/Physiology, Pharmacology, Zoonotic and Infectious Patients, Pathology, Metabolic Conditions, Lameness, and Diagnostic Imaging
- **Animal Chiropractic Examination/Diagnosis (Lecture and Laboratory) (22 Hrs)** – Patient Intake, Health History, Static/Motion Palpation, Posture/Gait Analysis, Diagnostic Imaging Interpretation, Chiropractic Neurologic Evaluation
- **Animal Chiropractic Hands-On Adjusting Techniques (Lecture and Laboratory) (68 Hrs)** – Safety/Handling, Comfort of Doctor/Patient, Adjusting Methods/Techniques, Doctor Hand Positions/Body Positions/Contact Points

Certification Process & Continuing Education

Certified doctors must renew their animal chiropractic certification every 3 years. AVCA and IVCA renewals require submission of 30 hours of continuing education and verification of a current/active state chiropractic or veterinary license. The hours must be obtained from animal specific programs and courses approved by the AVCA and IVCA.

CAL CHIRO
CALIFORNIA CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

Questions?

Dawn Benton, MBA
CalChiro Executive Vice President & CEO
Email: dbenton@calchiro.org
Website: calchiro.org

*Options for Animals in Wellsville, Kansas



Animal Chiropractic Education

The American Veterinary Chiropractic Association and International Veterinary Chiropractic Association are currently providing the most extensive and proficient animal chiropractic education, certification, and continuing education for Doctors of Chiropractic and Doctors of Veterinary Medicine. They are facilitating the highest standards of animal chiropractic care for the public and their animals.

International Veterinary Chiropractic Association

<https://ivca.de/>

About the IVCA

- An international non-profit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in the field of Veterinary Chiropractic.
- The association endeavors to establish consistently high standards of Veterinary Chiropractic through approved educational courses, certification examinations and the membership code of conduct and standard of proficiency.
- Membership to the IVCA is only granted to qualified veterinarians or chiropractors (or individuals qualified in both professions) upon successful completion of approved veterinary chiropractic postgraduate training, successful completion of the IVCA certification exam (as of January 1st 2012) and adherence to membership rules and regulations.
- The IVCA aims to promote veterinary chiropractic so its contribution to the health of animals is understood and recognized by other health care professions and the general public, both nationally and internationally.
- The IVCA attempts to protect animals by providing the general public and other professionals with access to the IVCA register of members.

IVCA Certification Program

- An applicant to an Approved Institution's Basic Animal Chiropractic Course must be a Veterinarian or Chiropractor or, a Chiropractic or Veterinary Student in their last Semester/Trimester of study. The Applicant must complete his/her veterinary and/or chiropractic degree before completion of the Basic Animal Chiropractic Course.
- All IVCA approved basic veterinary chiropractic courses consist of a minimum of 210 hours of lectures in classroom and laboratory (plus home study).

- Topics studied include: anatomy, neurology, biomechanics, relevant pathology, physiology, chiropractic basis, rehabilitation, ethics, philosophy and legalities.
- In addition to this, laboratory instruction in palpation (motion and static), adjusting techniques, topography, dissection and safe handling will also be undertaken.
- Students must successfully complete and pass the comprehensive basic veterinary chiropractic course exit exams before they are able to apply for IVCA exam.
- If a veterinary chiropractor wants to join the IVCA he/she has to successfully complete the IVCA certification exam.

IVCA Certification Exam

The IVCA Certification Exam is developed and operated by the International Certification Commission for Animal Chiropractic (ICCAC) – an independent certification body of the IVCA. The ICCAC endeavors to establish the highest standards of competency in animal chiropractic care. Students must have successfully completed an IVCA approved course before sitting the IVCA certification exam. Successful completion of the IVCA certification exam is a prerequisite to IVCA membership.

Current List of List of IVCA Approved Basic Animal Chiropractic Program Providers:

Options for Animals, 4267 Virginia Rd, Wellsville, Kansas 66092, 309-658-2920,

options4animals@aol.com

Backbone-Academy, Kalbe, Germany, Telephone +49-4282-590688, Fax +49-721-

151366446

<https://www.backbone-academy.com/en/#our-courses>

American Veterinary Chiropractic Association

<https://www.animalchiropractic.org/>

About the AVCA

- A professional membership group (established 1989) comprised of licensed doctors of veterinary medicine and licensed doctors of chiropractic.
- Promotes animal chiropractic to professionals and the public.
- Acts as the certifying agency for doctors who have undergone post-graduate animal chiropractic training.
- Certification and membership are separate entities.

AVCA Certification Program

- Must be a licensed Doctors of Chiropractic and Doctors of Veterinary Medicine.
- Each basic program is required to provide a minimum of 210 certified hours..
- The basic animal chiropractic curriculum certificate program graduates must be prepared to obtain consent, evaluate, provide a report of findings, arrive at and communicate a clinical assessment, and treat neuromusculoskeletal and biomechanical conditions of animal patients.
- All graduates must be competent in the common activities as described by the Professional Practice Analysis of the AVCA and must be able to demonstrate diversified chiropractic adjustments with intent to move joints of the animal's spine beyond the usual physiological range of motion using a fast, low amplitude thrust.
- Licensed DC or DVM has sat and passed the ACCC/AVCA certification examinations.
- Certification is distinct from licensure in that it is voluntary, and requires recertification continuing education to maintain the credential.
- AVCA Certification and membership are separate entities.

AVCA Certification Exam

The Animal Chiropractic Certification Commission (ACCC) of the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) is the primary national credential for this field in North America.

Certification was developed based upon input and oversight from both professions. The ACCC develops standards of care in animal chiropractic, conducts a professional certification program and awards credentials to individuals who meet established criteria and assessments in different modes of care.

The ACCC certification examination is made available to the examinee, solely for the purpose of becoming certified in animal chiropractic by the Animal Chiropractic Certification Commission (ACCC) of the AVCA. The ACCC certification examination consists of written and practical components with blueprints and passing scores set by content area experts. The examination is under continuous review and refinement as the ACCC strives to meet the standards set by the American Psychological Association.

Current List of AVCA Approved Basic Animal Chiropractic Program Providers:

- Animal Chiropractic Education Source (ACES), 10771 Hwy 6 Meridian, Texas 76665, 843-900-1502, admin@animalchiropracticeeducation.com
- Parker University, Department of Continuing Education, 2540 Walnut Hill Lane, Dallas, Texas 75229, 800-266-4723 or 214-902-2401, 214-902-3454 (fax), askpostgrad@parker.edu
- Health Pioneers Institute (HPI), 1120 E Diehl Rd, Naperville, Illinois 60563, Illinois, 630-358-9644, info@healthpioneersinstitute.com
- Veterinary Chiropractic Learning Center (VCLC), 92 Governor's Road East, Paris, Ontario N3L 3E1 Canada, 519-771-8505, admin@vclceducation.ca
- Healing Oasis Wellness Center (HOWC), 2555 Wisconsin Street, Sturdevant, WI 53177-1825, 262-898-1680, contact@healingoasis.edu
- Options for Animals, 4267 Virginia Rd, Wellsville, Kansas 66092, 309-658-2920, options4animals@aol.com
- Backbone-Academy, Kalbe, Germany, Telephone +49-4282-590688, Fax +49-721-151366446
<https://www.backbone-academy.com/en/#our-courses>

Animal Chiropractic Course Curriculum Example

Options for Animals
4267 Virginia Rd.
Wellsville, KS 66092
<https://optionsforanimals.com/>

The curriculum of the Basic Animal Chiropractic Course is composed of at least 210 clock hours of education. There are a minimum of 75 clock hours of hands-on laboratories and a minimum of 135 clock hours of lecture. Each lecture clock hour consists of 50 minutes of lecture and 10 minutes of break time. Following is a brief description of these classes (Times are estimates, as some classes of students require more time to complete the required studies, and some require less.):

Anatomy and Biomechanics (Lecture) (22 Hrs)

A. Comparative Anatomy – 8 hours – All pertinent aspects comparing equine, bovine, canine, feline and human osteology, myology and syndesmology will be discussed. Fully articulated skeletal models of the horse and dog, equine and canine spine models, as well as hundreds of individual bones and models are available for use in these classes.

B. Neuroanatomy and Physiology – 6 hours – The basic cellular and physiological processes of the neuron and nervous system will be discussed. Topics include cellular neuroanatomy and physiology, the brachial plexus, the lumbosacral plexus, the autonomic nervous system and the cranial nerves.

C. Basic Spinal and Extremity Biomechanics – 4 hours – Normal movement and joint mechanics in each motion unit of the body will be discussed in order that the student is able to analyze normal versus compensatory movement.

D. Advanced Biomechanics – 4 hours – Equine and canine gait analysis including topics such normal gaits, abnormal gaits and conformational faults and gait.

Anatomy and Biomechanics (Laboratory) (16 Hrs)

A. Topographical Laboratory – 6 hours – All students will statically palpate and locate all pertinent anatomical landmarks on the equine and canine.

B. Dissection Laboratory – 8 hours – Students will investigate and study pertinent comparative anatomical structures by dissection and by examining previously dissected specimens.

C. Posture and Gait Analysis Laboratory – 4 hours – Equine and canine gait analysis including topics such normal gaits, abnormal gaits and conformational faults and gait.

Applied Functional Neurology (12 Hrs)

Applied Functional Neurology – 12 hours – These lectures explore the functional aspects of the nervous system as it applies to animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment. Topics include the evolution of joint injury, mechanoreceptors and proprioception, spinal reflexes and cord level reactions, suprasegmental control, and nociception as well as lectures that put it all together.

Chiropractic Sciences (24 Hrs)

A. Basic Chiropractic Theories and Tenets – 14 hours – Fundamental chiropractic topics are discussed including terminology, the vertebral subluxation complex, chiropractic theories, and the contemporary VSC.

B. Chiropractic and Pathology – 6 hours – Pertinent chiropractic pathologies and how adjusting techniques as well as integrative modalities can influence treatment of those pathologies.

C. Chiropractic History and Philosophy – 4 hours — The history of chiropractic and the philosophy on which it is based. Will include discussion on different chiropractic techniques and listing systems.

Veterinary Sciences (20 Hrs)

A. Basic Veterinary Theories and Tenets – 10 hours – Fundamental veterinary topics are discussed including safety and handling, physiology and pharmacology, handling zoonotic and infectious patients as well as metabolic conditions and lameness.

B. Veterinary Pathology – 8 hours – Pertinent large and small animal pathologies are discussed as well as their implications in complimentary chiropractic care. Discussion on how chiropractic and other integrative modalities can influence treatment of those pathologies.

C. Diagnostic Imaging – 2 hours – Plain film radiography, digital radiography, myelography, fluoroscopy and magnetic resonance imaging are discussed and evaluated for normal and abnormal findings.

Animal Chiropractic Diagnosis (Lecture) (12 Hrs)

A. Differential Diagnosis of Large and Small Animal Neuromusculoskeletal Conditions – 8 hours – These lectures emphasize an integrated diagnosis of the entire patient using diagnostic resources of signalment, history and consultation, posture analysis, static palpation (osseous, muscle, temperature, coat changes, etc.) motion palpation and gait analysis. Emphasis is placed on how these diagnoses relate and integrate into the primary health care of the animal.

B. Diagnostic Imaging – 2 hours – Plain film radiography, digital radiography, myelography, fluoroscopy and magnetic resonance imaging are discussed and evaluated for normal and abnormal findings.

C. Neurological Examination – 2 hours – This lecture explores the traditional equine and canine neurological examination including live and video demonstration.

Animal Chiropractic Diagnosis (Laboratory) (10 Hrs)

A. Motion Palpation Laboratory – 8 hours – These laboratories assist the student in developing their ‘feel’ for the normal versus abnormal movement in motion units. Motion palpation is carried out on small and large animal as well as each other.

B. The Chiropractic Examination Laboratory Demonstration – 2 hours – Students observe and question as a complete equine and canine examination is performed.

Animal Chiropractic Adjusting Techniques (Lectures) (26 Hrs)

General Principles of Animal Chiropractic Adjusting – 4 hours – Certain factors increase the efficiency, safety, reliability and comfort of the doctor and patient during the chiropractic adjustment. These factors are discussed and demonstrated.

Basic Animal Chiropractic Adjusting Techniques – 16 hours – Specific animal chiropractic treatment techniques will be discussed and demonstrated. Areas included are sacropelvic, thoracolumbar, cervical, front limb, rear limb, ribs, TMJ, tail and cranium.

Review of Basic Animal Chiropractic Adjusting Techniques – 4 hours – All basic animal chiropractic adjusting techniques are reviewed.

Comparative Animal Chiropractic Techniques Lecture – 2 hours – At least four different animal chiropractic adjusting techniques are demonstrated and the students are encouraged to ask questions about each. This gives the student exposure to other methods and affords them the opportunity to seek further education in those techniques if desired.

Animal Chiropractic Adjusting Techniques (Laboratory) (42 Hrs)

A. General Principles of Animal Chiropractic Adjusting Laboratory – 8 hours – Students will learn and fine tune, through hands on laboratories, the principles learned above. Topics such as doctor hand and body positions, contact points, safety and handling, use of speeder boards and intricacies of the chiropractic adjusting thrust will be practiced.

B. Basic Animal Chiropractic Adjusting Techniques Laboratory – 22 hours – Individual hands-on instruction in all adjusting techniques above are practiced on the horse and dog.

C. Review of Basic Animal Chiropractic Adjusting Techniques Laboratory – 8 hours – All adjusting techniques taught the module before are reviewed and individual hands-on instruction is utilized for the second time on each technique. This individual hands-on teaching occurs a third time during the integrated module as a review before the final examinations.

D. Open Question and Answer Technique Laboratory – 4 hours – Students are given a chance to ask any questions they may have while in a laboratory setting so that demonstration on the animal is possible.

Management of the Animal Chiropractic Patient (28 Hrs)

A. Basic Case Management – 8 hours – These lectures address some of the common topics in everyday case management including, the lay lecture, introduction to leads and collars, introduction to saddle and harness fit, equine teeth and bits and the equine foot. (4 hours of laboratory included)

B. Integrated Case Management – 10 hours – (All of the following are addressed by lecture, in small group discussion and/or with expert panel debate through an open question forum including 4 hours of laboratory.) Review of the chiropractic theories and the contemporary vertebral subluxation complex; define assess and apply animal chiropractic diagnosis of the vertebral subluxation complex; and, investigate the creation and application of appropriate clinical goals and applying them to our integrative treatment protocols.

C. Rehabilitation – 2 hours – This lecture offers a basic review of several muscle, exercise and rehabilitative techniques.

D. Ethics and Legalities – 4 hours – In depth discussion on ethics and legal issues including, referrals consultations, insurances, etc.

E. Current Research – 2 hours — Explores the most current research in Animal Chiropractic.

Resources

<https://www.animalchiropractic.org/>

<https://ivca.de/>

<https://optionsforanimals.com/>

DC Not allowed to Treat Animals By Law:

Alabama (vets only)
Iowa (vets only)
New York (vets only)
West Virginia (vets only) (Currently working on Legislation)

Direct-immediate supervision for licensed DC's

Arizona -
Arkansas
Louisiana
Mississippi
New Mexico
North Dakota
Vermont

Indirect supervision/referral

Missouri
Idaho
Illinois
Nevada
Oregon
Wisconsin

Legislation in Process:

Alaska
Connecticut (Currently working on Legislation)
Washington DC
Georgia (Currently working on Legislation)
Florida - (Currently working on Legislation)
Minnesota (Currently working on Legislation)
Hawaii
Maine (Currently working on Legislation)
Michigan (Currently working on Legislation)
Massachusetts (Currently working on Legislation)
Montana
New Jersey
North Carolina (Currently working on Legislation)
Pennsylvania (Currently working on Legislation)
Rhode Island
South Dakota (Currently working on Legislation)
South Carolina (Currently working on Legislation)
Texas (Currently working on Legislation)
Virginia (Currently working on Legislation)
Washington (Currently working on Legislation)
Wyoming (Currently working on Legislation)

Legislation in Process: (continued)

California (Currently working on Legislation)
Delaware (Currently working on Legislation)
Indiana (Currently working on Legislation)
Kansas (Currently working on Legislation)

Direct access

Colorado - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb18-239>
Missouri - <http://revisor.mo.gov/main/ViewChapter.aspx?chapter=340>
Ohio - <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-4734.151>
Oklahoma - <https://oklahoma.gov/chiropractic/resources/animal-chiropractors.html>
Utah - <https://le.utah.gov/~2021/bills/sbillint/SB0114.htm>
Kentucky (march 2023, allied health prof, under vet practice act, take jurisprudence)
Nebraska - <https://www.nebraska.gov/nesos/rules-and-regs/regtrack/proposals/000000000001336.pdf>
Tennessee – <https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/114/Fiscal/FM1350.pdf>
New Hampshire - <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1766080>

UTAH - <https://le.utah.gov/~2021/bills/sbillint/SB0114.htm>

Chiropractic Physician Practice Act

R156-73-603. Standards for Practice of Animal Chiropractic.

In accordance with Subsection 58-28-307(12)(a), **a chiropractic physician practicing animal chiropractic shall have completed an animal chiropractic course approved by the American Chiropractic Veterinary Association (ACVA) or another course that is substantially equivalent to the ACVA course.**

58-28-307 Exemptions from chapter.

(12) (a) upon **written referral by a licensed veterinarian**, the practice of animal chiropractic by a chiropractic physician licensed under Chapter 73, Chiropractic Physician Practice Act, who has completed an animal chiropractic course approved by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or the division

OHIO - <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-4734.151>

Section 4734.151 | Animal chiropractic.

Effective:

November 22, 2020

Latest Legislation:

House Bill 151 - 133rd General Assembly

PDF:

[Download Authenticated PDF](#)

(A) As used in this section:

- (1) "Animal" means any living animal other than a human being.
- (2) "Animal chiropractic" means the evaluation and treatment of an animal's vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction through spinal, joint, or musculo-skeletal manipulative therapy or soft tissue therapy. Animal chiropractic does not include administering, selling, distributing, recommending, or providing advice regarding any of the following to restore or maintain the health of an animal: vitamins, minerals, phytonutrients, antioxidants, enzymes, glandular extracts, botanical substances, herbal therapies, homeopathic remedies, drugs that are available without a prescription, or durable and nondurable medical goods and devices.
- (3) "Animal chiropractic practitioner" means a chiropractor licensed under this chapter who holds a current, valid certification from any of the following:
 - (a) The American veterinary chiropractic association, unless otherwise specified in rule;
 - (b) The international veterinary chiropractic association, unless otherwise specified in rule;
 - (c) The college of animal chiropractors, unless otherwise specified in rule;
 - (d) Any other credentialing organization that the state chiropractic board specifies in rules adopted under this section.
- (4) "Licensed veterinarian" means an individual licensed by the state veterinary medical licensing board to practice veterinary medicine.

(B) Except as provided in division (C)(2) of this section, no chiropractor who is not an animal chiropractic practitioner shall do either of the following:

- (1) Practice animal chiropractic;

(2) Represent that the person is, or hold the person's self out to the public as, an animal chiropractic practitioner.

(C)(1) All of the following apply regarding a chiropractor who is an animal chiropractic practitioner:

(a) The chiropractor shall register with the state chiropractic board in a manner specified by the board;

(b) The chiropractor may provide animal chiropractic only to types of animals on which the chiropractor has received training;

(c) The chiropractor may provide animal chiropractic without supervision by a licensed veterinarian;

(d) The chiropractor shall require completion of an application for care form in accordance with division (D) of this section;

(e) The chiropractor shall maintain for at least three years a medical record, including the application for care form, for each animal evaluated or treated and on request shall provide the medical record to the animal's veterinarian in a timely fashion.

(2) A chiropractor who is not an animal chiropractic practitioner may practice animal chiropractic only in accordance with division (F) of section [4741.19](#) of the Revised Code.

(D) Prior to providing animal chiropractic in accordance with this section, an animal chiropractic practitioner shall require the animal's owner, owner's agent, or another person responsible for the animal to complete and sign an application for care form that contains at least the following:

(1) A statement that the chiropractor is not a licensed veterinarian and cannot maintain primary responsibility for the animal's care;

(2) A statement that animal chiropractic is not intended to replace traditional veterinary care and is considered an alternative therapy to be used concurrently and in conjunction with traditional veterinary care by a licensed veterinarian;

(3) A question as to whether the animal has been seen by a licensed veterinarian within the past twelve months;

(4) A question as to whether a licensed veterinarian has provided a diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal for which animal chiropractic is sought, and if so, a request to specify the diagnosis;

(5) A statement authorizing the chiropractor to provide animal chiropractic to the animal.

(E) The board shall maintain and make available to the public a list of animal chiropractic practitioners who are registered with the board pursuant to this section.

(F) This section does not restrict a licensed veterinarian from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine, as defined in Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code, or prevent any other individual from lawfully acting in a manner authorized under that chapter.

An animal's veterinarian is not liable for any actions or omissions of an animal chiropractic practitioner who provides animal chiropractic in accordance with this section.

(G)(1) In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the board may adopt any rules it considers necessary to implement this section. The following rules, if adopted, shall be adopted in consultation with the state veterinary medical licensing board in accordance with division (G)(2) of this section:

- (a) Any rule regarding standards of medicine or care for an animal;
- (b) Any rule to remove or specify additional credentialing organizations for purposes of division (A)(3)(d) of this section.

(2)(a) Prior to filing a rule identified in division (G)(1)(a) or (b) of this section with the joint committee on agency rule review, the board shall in a timely fashion provide the full text of the proposed rule, amendment, or rule to be rescinded to the state veterinary medical licensing board. The state veterinary medical licensing board shall informally vote on the proposed rule, amendment, or rule to be rescinded at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Regardless of whether the vote is affirmative or not, the state chiropractic board may proceed in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

COLORADO - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb18-239>

SB18-239

Animal Chiropractic Education And Reporting Requirements

Concerning a licensed chiropractor's ability to perform animal chiropractic on an animal patient.

Session:

2018 Regular Session

Subject:

Agriculture

Bill Summary

Chiropractors - animal chiropractic adjustment - exemption from veterinary medical clearance requirement - continuing education - reporting requirements. The act exempts a licensed chiropractor performing an animal chiropractic adjustment from a requirement that the licensed chiropractor first obtain a veterinary medical clearance if the licensed chiropractor has successfully completed 9 hours of course work related to contagious, infectious, and zoonotic diseases. The act also requires that continuing education requirements for renewed registration in animal chiropractic include a 2-hour course on Colorado incidence rates for contagious, infectious, and zoonotic diseases and requires a licensed chiropractor performing animal chiropractic to notify the state veterinarian and an animal patient's licensed veterinarian if the licensed chiropractor suspects that the animal patient has a contagious, infectious, or zoonotic disease. Finally, the act amends the definition of "animal chiropractic" to refer to performing chiropractic adjustment of dogs and equids, where current law defines it as performing chiropractic adjustment of dogs and horses, and defines "equid" to include

horses, donkeys, mules, and zebras.

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as enacted.)

OKLAHOMA - <https://oklahoma.gov/chiropractic/resources/animal-chiropractors.html>

140:15-8-1 Certificate of a chiropractor and animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment

- (a) A chiropractic physician may engage in practice of animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment if certified to do so by the Board. A licensed chiropractic physician may provide chiropractic treatment to an animal without being certified in animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment if the animal has been referred to the chiropractic physician by a licensed veterinarian.
- (b) “Animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment” means treatment that includes vertebral subluxation complex (vcs) and spinal manipulation of nonhuman vertebrates. The term “animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment” shall not be construed to allow the:
 1. use of x-rays
 2. performing surgery
 3. dispensing or administering of medications, or
 4. performance of tradition veterinary care.
- (c) The Board is charged by statute to establish educational criteria for certification standards in animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment. According, the Board states that the following educational criteria will be applied to any licensed chiropractic physician who requests certification in animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment, The criteria shall include education and training in:
 1. Anatomy, including sacropelvic, thoracolumbar, cervical and extremity;
 2. Equine and canine adjustments;
 3. Topographical laboratory;
 4. Chiropractic basis, including history and systems review, subluxation, and vertebral subluxation complex;
 5. Veterinary basics, including anatomy as it relates to restraint and positioning, physiology, and pharmacology, metabolic and contagious diseases and lameness;
 6. Chiropractic and neurological diagnosis;
 7. Radiology and biomechanics;
 8. Proficiency in basic technique;

9. Pathology;
10. Podiatry, including lower limb dissection;
11. Chiropractic and veterinary philosophy;
12. Professional ethics and legalities; and
13. Identification of animals.

- (d) Any licensed chiropractic physician requesting certification in animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment shall have completed no less than 210 hours of education and training education as set forth above.
- (e) Any chiropractic physician engaged in the practice of animal chiropractic shall maintain complete and accurate records and/or patient files in their office for a minimum of three years.



January 16, 2026

Penny Vaillancourt, Director
Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation
Dept. of Professional and Financial Regulation

Director Vaillancourt,

This document will include responses to your requests and reflects the best of our abilities within the limited time to any questions you have submitted regarding the Chiropractic side of the discussion.

We welcome the dialogue and look forward to the stakeholders' meetings leading to final resolution of LD 1220 as put forth by the Chiropractic community.

Respectfully,

Robert Reed, Executive Director
Maine Chiropractic Association

Question 1. How many active licensed chiropractors and veterinarians are there in Maine? (OPOR will provide number of active licenses).

The MCA utilized the online database at OPOR on January 13th which provided a list of 388 active licenses as of 1/1/2026. (The download occasionally misses one or two) This includes 45 Out of State Chiropractors who may be occasional visitors to Maine, visiting instructors or other unique situations but are not actively practicing on a regular basis. We also found one additional license still in process for 2026 due to a question on Continuing Education that we expect to be resolved shortly.

Question 2. Where in Maine (geographically) are chiropractors and veterinarians practicing (please provide data by town or county when possible)?

Using the same database query as referenced in Question 1, I am attaching a spreadsheet with three tabs.

The first tab indicates the practice location of the Chiropractor – most match licensing address, but a few are office versus home address licensing may have on file,

The second tab indicates the county breakdown of the practice locations and as an added reference we have included state census data for 2025 in each county.

The third tab is a listing of active licenses who are not practicing actively in Maine; however, they maintain that license.

Question 3. What associations represent each of the practitioners and how many members do they have? a. Chiropractors b. Veterinarians

The Maine Chiropractic Association is the only organized association representing Chiropractic in Maine. Of the 343 In state practicing Chiropractors, the MCA represents 182 as active association members (53%). As a courtesy the MCA maintains communication with nonmembers in all education events and keeps nonmembers informed on all essential information regarding the industry.

Question 4. Does the Maine Chiropractic Association have additional proposed amendments to further clarify the intent of the draft committee amendment dated

The MCA is satisfied with the draft committee amendment that has been presented and look forward to finalizing this piece of legislation, assuming this is the draft that replaces “dogs and equids” with “animals.” The changes better reflect the structural questions and definitions requested by the legislative committee.

Question 5. Identify the states that have expanded chiropractic practice to include the treatment of animals (dogs, equines, etc.) and include regulations of same.

See attached document "LD 1220 State by State Breakdown." which provides a list as updated as currently possible given many states are in the same or similar process as Maine. Nine states have adopted direct access animal chiropractic legislation to date, twenty-five more are in process of direct access legislation and 13 other states already allow it through referral or under supervision. Those states with direct access are.

1. Oklahoma in 2010
2. Nebraska in 2013
3. Colorado in 2018
4. Missouri in 2018
5. Ohio in 2019
6. Utah in 2020
7. Kentucky 2023
8. Tennessee in 2025
9. New Hampshire 2025

Question 6. In states with expanded scope for chiropractors, please provide quantitative data that shows the number of licensed chiropractors who became authorized to perform under the expanded scope of practice within the first 5 years of enactment. b. The number of animal patients who accessed treatment from chiropractors with expanded authorities within first 5 years of enactment. d. The number and type of adverse event reports regarding the procedures related to expanded scope of practice from initial enactment to date. e. Please provide any other quantitative data that you believe is relevant to this discussion.

As to the number of licensed chiropractors who became authorized in the first five years – this would be extremely difficult to produce for each state. This data would require inquiries into each individual doctor to find when they first began. What we can provide is that on average there are only about thirty-five doctors per state who acquire this additional training and licensure. Animal chiropractors can be found on search engines including [Doctor search - American Veterinary Chiropractic Association \(AVCA\)](#) and [Find a Veterinary Chiropractor - International Veterinary Chiropractic Association](#) the two associations representing the profession.

In Maine, we are aware of less than ten licensed chiropractors who have either completed the education and certification program, are actively working on certification, are already certified in other states or are interested in certification should the legislation pass. That does not represent a definitive number, but rather an indication that this is not a large number of doctors looking to work with animals but a small caring group.

We also cannot provide any data on the number of animals or animal chiropractic encounters in other states without a significant investment in time and money and we refer you back to the small volume of chiropractic doctors providing the care at this time. As to the related question of adverse events, we are unaware of any adverse events in any state where licensure has been granted and are attaching letters from two major chiropractic malpractice carriers Chiro Secure and NCMIC both stating that to date they have not had a single claim filed for animal care.

As to quantitative data, we note that despite claims to the contrary, we have been unable to identify a single complaint or claim within Maine chiropractic licensing records that reference the care or treatment of an animal. We encourage the licensing authority to independently verify this information and advise the stakeholder group and the legislative committee as this matter moves forward. We remain concerned that inaccurate or unsupported information may be presented by others that contradicts the absence of such findings in the available records.

Question 7. Identify the specialized training and/or examination(s) necessary to ensure commensurate with the scope of practice procedures anticipated to ensure competency in ensuring public protection.

Attached you will find an explanation of the education and certification for animal chiropractic licensure under both the IVCA and AVCA programs titled “LD 1220 Animal Chiropractic Education”. These line up with the legislation proposed by the MCA. For those who are unfamiliar with the program it is important to understand that the curriculum is designed to have chiropractor and veterinarians in the same classes taking the same courseload and learning together and at times from each other.

The goal of the MCA has always been a pathway for those doctors wishing to provide care for animals, in a safe, well-trained manner. From day one we engaged the Maine Veterinary Medicine Association as a partner looking for their suggestions along the way. We anticipate continuing education utilizing those same veterinarians may excel at. We look forward to a robust discussion.

March 28, 2025

Re: Animal Chiropractic Care

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to highlight an important aspect of chiropractic care for animals, specifically regarding the safety and reliability of this practice as it relates to our experience in the insurance sector.

As the leading provider of professional liability insurance for chiropractors, insuring approximately 60% of the chiropractic profession, NCMIC has a unique perspective on the practices and outcomes associated with chiropractic care. Notably, throughout our extensive history, we have not received a single claim alleging injury to an animal during chiropractic care. This absence of claims underscores the commitment of chiropractors to maintaining high standards of care and safety when working with animals.

I hope this information is valuable as you consider the safety and efficacy of chiropractic services for animals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



David Siebert
President