

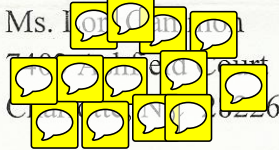
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July 17, 2017



Via Email – lorigammon6@gmail.com

Re: Pet Massage

Dear Ms. Gammon:

I am writing on behalf of the N.C. Veterinary Board to respond to your email letter of May 9, 2017. The Board interpreted your letter as a request for guidance as to whether “pet massage” falls within the legal definition of “practice of veterinary medicine.”

You wrote that you are training to be a groomer and plan to attend a 5-day workshop in August on Pet Massage. You hope to offer pet message to the animals which you groom. You indicate that you will not offer massage to treat, diagnosis or provide therapy but instead in order to provide relaxation during what can be a stressful experience.

The definition of the “practice of veterinary medicine” is set forth in the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act in N.C.G.S. §90-181(6) as follows:

“Practice of veterinary medicine” means:

- a. To diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve, or prevent animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical or mental conditions; including the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique on any animal.
- b. To represent, directly or indirectly, publicly or privately, an ability and willingness to do any act described in subdivision a. of this subdivision.

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- c. To use any title, words, abbreviation, or letters in a manner or under circumstances which induce the belief that the person using them is qualified to do any act described in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision.

The Board has determined that so long as the pet massage services that you administer to animals do not fall within the statutory categories of "practice of veterinary medicine," above, it would appear that what you intend to do would not violate the Veterinary Practice Act as the practice of veterinary medicine.

Very truly yours,

Tod J. Schadler, DVM
Executive Director

cc: Board Members
George G. Hearn, Esq.