



88 Beech Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452  
(802) 878-6888 voice • (802) 878-2871 fax  
www.vtvets.org • info@vtvets.org

## VVMA Policy Statement

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### Complementary Veterinary Medicine

The VVMA defines Complementary Veterinary Medicine by the AVMA Model Practice Act definition: "Complementary, alternative, and integrative therapies" means a heterogeneous group of preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic philosophies and practices, which at the time they are performed may differ from current scientific knowledge, or whose theoretical basis and techniques may diverge from veterinary medicine routinely taught in accredited veterinary medical colleges, or both. These therapies include, but are not limited to, veterinary acupuncture, acuthery, and acupressure; veterinary homeopathy; veterinary manual or manipulative therapy (ie, therapies based on techniques practiced in osteopathy, chiropractic medicine, or physical medicine and therapy); veterinary nutraceutical therapy; and veterinary phytotherapy."

The VVMA recognizes that clients may seek any of a number of treatment modalities for their animals. However, when applied to animals, these treatment modalities represent the practice of veterinary medicine, and as such, should be subject to regulation as outlined in the practice act. Veterinarians should ensure that they have the requisite skills and knowledge for any treatment modality they may consider using. The foremost objective in veterinary medicine is patient welfare. Owner consent should be obtained prior to initiating any treatment, including complementary, alternative, and integrative therapies.

**Adopted by the VVMA Executive Committee 2/9/08**