ANIMAL CHIROPRACTIC / MANIPULATION SUBGROUP

ADMISSIONS POLICY
Application to the Animal Health Professions Register (AHPR)
Animal / Veterinary Chiropractic / Manipulation

Admissions Criteria

1. Applicants will need to have successfully completed a University validated higher education degree in animal / veterinary chiropractic / manipulation at a minimum of level six with a minimum of 300 credits as recognised by the Framework for Higher Education or a University validated level 7 award in animal / veterinary chiropractic / manipulation with a minimum of 120 credits. (http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf)

2. The course must have delivered teaching that meets the day one competencies (Annex 1).

3. The course must have contained a minimum of 200 hours of clinically relevant, supervised, hands-on practice, delivered in an animal environment by an approved (as approved by the validating body) animal / veterinary chiropractic / manipulation practitioner to equip the student with the necessary assessment and treatment skills for day-one competencies.

4. For the right of their respective graduates to direct AHPR registration, all UK-based animal / veterinary chiropractic / manipulation courses commencing 2018 and beyond must meet the above educational requirements and seek AHPR accreditation accordingly. A Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process will operate for two years subsequent to the opening of the Register, for those graduates of UK-based courses with a substantial history of producing / having produced safe and competent practitioners of animal / veterinary chiropractic / manipulation. Such an applicant must also be able to demonstrate an established commitment to Continuing Professional Development and continuity of appropriate insurance cover (in respect of which voluntary membership of (or registration with) an existing professional association / organisation with such mandatory requirements may be helpful).

5. Applicants who do not meet the requirements for direct registration or the RPL route as set out above will need to apply through a process of Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) and will be considered on an individual basis. Such applicants may also be required to undertake a formal assessment to show clinical proficiency.

6. Applicants who have undertaken their primary training outside the UK will be invited to contact the AHPR directly to discuss requirements for entry and will normally progress through the RPL/RPEL process described below.

Application Process – Direct Entry

Applicants from AHPR-accredited courses will have the right to direct registration within 12 months of qualification all applicants must submit:

a) A completed Direct entry AHPR application form;
b) Evidence of an acceptable educational award certificate (as defined in 4. above);
c) Evidence of current insurance;

After 12 months of qualification applicants will also have to provide evidence of active practice in the field of animal / veterinary chiropractic / manipulation by submission of a CV
and Continuing Professional Development.

Application Process – RPL/RPEL

For applicants who have qualified prior to a course gaining accreditation by AHPR, or via another training route, AHPR can accept RPL/RPEL applications. This is a three-tier process, which aims to accommodate current practitioners. This current practitioner route will only be available for 2 years from the launch of the register.

At one end of the experience spectrum, those applicants who have been working continuously in the animal / veterinary chiropractic / manipulation industry for more than three years may potentially complete the process for admission at the first tier. However, those with less experience may need to complete all three tiers to show competency. Each such applicant will be considered on his / her own merit and if needed, will be appointed an APEL advisor to help them through the process.

Tier 1:

Application through the RPL/RPEL process, will demand the submission of:

a) A completed RPL / RPEL AHPR application form;

b) Evidence of training undertaken and qualifications held. * see note below

c) Evidence of current insurance;

d) One written reference, from a veterinary surgeon;

e) Evidence of continuity of insurance cover for the two years prior to AHPR entry (can be less if recently qualified/extenuating circumstances e.g. maternity leave);

f) A CPD submission, totalling 50 hours over a rolling two years prior to AHPR entry (can be less if more recently qualified/extenuating circumstances);

g) Declaration by the applicant that they have received no complaints against them.

* Training courses not accredited by AHPR should be mapped to the day one competencies, showing a syllabus reference.

All registrants must be able to demonstrate that they are working to the Day One Competencies of the subgroup (Annex 1). In the case of historic courses mapping to the syllabus may not be possible for all of the competency areas, where this is the case applicants should provide details of how they can evidence that they are working to this standard.

Tier 2

If the assessor’s decision is that more evidence is required then applicants move to tier two where, in addition to the above requirements, they will be required to complete an assessment which demonstrates their ability to critically analyse their own practice and demonstrate clinical reasoning skills that are underpinned by current literature via reflective case studies.

Tier 3

If the assessor considers the evidence submitted at tier 2 does not demonstrate the required standard and more evidence of clinical competency is required applicants will move to tier
three and in addition to the above requirements will also be required to complete an entry assessment by undertaking a HE-accredited assessment which demonstrates clinical proficiency

ANNEX 1

ESSENTIAL “DAY ONE” COMPETENCES REQUIRED OF PRACTITIONERS OF ANIMAL / VETERINARY CHIROPRACTIC / MANIPULATION

A - GENERAL PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES

Practitioners of Animal / Veterinary Chiropractic / Manipulation should be able to:

A1. Be able to practise within the legal and ethical boundaries of their profession
   ● Be aware of current UK legislation applicable to the work of their profession; the Veterinary Surgery exemption order (2015)
   ● Understand and comply with legal obligations in relation to The Veterinary Surgery exemption order (2015) seeking permission of a veterinary surgeon prior to any treatment being given
   ● Communicate effectively with clients, the lay public, professional colleagues and veterinary surgeons; listen effectively and respond sympathetically to clients and others, using language in a form appropriate to the audience and the context

A2. Be able to practise in a non-discriminatory manner

A3. Understand the importance of and be able to maintain confidentiality

A4. Prepare clear case reports and maintain patient records in a form satisfactory to colleagues, veterinary surgeons and understandable by the public

A5. Recognise the need for effective self-management of workload and resources and be able to practise accordingly
   ● Have an elementary knowledge of how fees are calculated and invoices drawn up, and the importance of record keeping, including book-keeping and case reports
   ● Be able to use information technology effectively to communicate, share, collect, manipulate and analyse information

A6. Be able to practise as an autonomous professional, exercising their own professional judgement
   ● Be able to assess a situation, determine the nature and severity of the problem and call upon the required knowledge and experience to deal with the problem
   ● Be able to initiate resolution of problems and be able to exercise personal initiative
   ● Know the limits of their practice and when to seek advice or refer to another professional
   ● Recognise that they are personally responsible for and must be able to justify their decisions

A7. Understand the obligation to maintain fitness to practise
   ● Understand the need to practise safely and effectively within their scope of practice
● Understand the need to maintain high standards of personal conduct
● Understand the need and professional obligation for a commitment to continuing education and training, and professional development, throughout one’s professional life

A8. Be willing to use one’s professional capabilities to contribute as far as possible to the advancement of knowledge and understanding in order to benefit the profession and further improve the quality of animal care

B - UNDERPINNING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

Practitioners of Animal / Veterinary Chiropractic / Manipulation will need to have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the following:

B1. The sciences on which the activities of practitioners are based
   ● Normal equine and canine anatomy and physiology, especially the dynamic relationships of structure and function, and the neuromuscular and musculoskeletal systems.
   ● The means by which biomechanics and applied exercise physiology can inform the understanding and analysis of movement and function
   ● Patterns of growth and development across the lifespan
   ● Factors influencing individual variations in ability and health status
   ● The aetiology, pathogenesis and clinical signs of common diseases and disorders that occur in equine and canine species that are commonly encountered in practice

B2. How chiropractic/manipulation techniques can cause physiological and structural change

B3. The principles and applications of scientific enquiry, including the evaluation of treatment efficacy and the research process

B4. Recognise the role of other professions in the animal care industry
   ● Understand the theoretical basis of, and the variety of approaches to assessment and intervention

B5. Understand the need to establish and maintain a safe practice environment
   ● Be able to establish safe environments for assessment and treatment, which minimise risks to clients, practitioners and others
   ● Know and be able to apply appropriate moving and handling techniques

C - PRACTICAL COMPETENCES

Practitioners of Animal / Veterinary Chiropractic / Manipulation should be able to undertake the following:

C1. Obtain an accurate and relevant history of the individual animal, and its environment

C2. Be able to select and use appropriate assessment techniques

C3. Be able to undertake or arrange investigations as appropriate

C4. Be able to analyse and critically evaluate the information collected
C5. Handle and restrain an animal safely and humanely, and instruct others in performing these techniques

C6. Perform a comprehensive static and dynamic assessment

C7. Advise on, and offer appropriate treatment

C8. Be able to use research, reasoning and problem-solving skills to determine appropriate actions

- Recognise the value of research to the critical evaluation of practice
- Be aware of a range of research methodologies
- Be able to demonstrate a logical and systematic approach to problem solving
- Be able to evaluate research and other evidence to inform their own practice
- Recognise the need to discuss, and be able to explain the rationale for the use of manipulative treatment

C9. Be able to draw on appropriate knowledge and skills in order to make professional judgements

- Be able to change their practice as needed to take account of new developments
- Be able to demonstrate a level of skill in the use of information technology appropriate to their practice

C10. Be able to maintain records appropriately

- Be able to keep accurate, legible records and recognise the need to handle these records and all other information in accordance with applicable legislation, protocols and guidelines
- Understand the need to use only accepted terminology in making records

C11. Be able to monitor and review the ongoing effectiveness of planned activity and modify it accordingly

- Be able to gather information, including qualitative and quantitative data that helps to evaluate the animal's response to treatment.
- Be able to evaluate intervention plans using recognised outcome measures and revise the plans as necessary in conjunction with the client
- Be able to make reasoned decisions to initiate, continue, modify or cease treatment or the use of techniques or procedures, and record the decisions and reasoning appropriately
- Be able to evaluate treatment plans to ensure that they meet the needs of the animal.