



FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL OWNERS RIGHTS

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Supporting Choice in Animal Health Care • Promoting Optimal Animal Health

DID YOU KNOW THAT the following are considered the *Practice of Veterinary Medicine* in Florida? According to a decision made by the Florida Board of Veterinary Medicine on March 2, 2004, these are all considered the practice of veterinary medicine:

- Acupressure – Applying pressure to specific points to promote optimum energy flow
- Aromatherapy – Inhalation, ingestion, or topical application of essential aromatic oils from plants to promote good health
- Animal communication – Interpreting the thoughts of an animal
- Farriery – Trimming and placing shoes on horses' hooves
- Flower essence therapy – Ingestion of distilled extracts from flowers to enhance emotional health
- Hands on healing – Laying hands on the body to channel energy
- Homeopathy – The use of plant, mineral or other substances in minute, diluted amounts to stimulate self-healing
- Light therapy – Shining red and infrared light on the body to promote energy flow and circulation
- Magnet therapy – Using magnets to create a magnetic field that increases circulation, oxygen utilization and energy flow
- Nutritional counseling – Offering advice about nutrition

Therefore, in Florida, the use of these with an animal by anyone other than a veterinarian or the owner of the animal or his regular employee could be considered the practice of veterinary medicine without a license. If these things are considered veterinary medicine in Florida, you can probably think of other things that would be in question as well.

Violation of this law is a third degree felony, which carries a maximum penalty of a 5-year prison term and a \$5,000 fine (ss. 474.213, 775.082, and 775.083, Florida Statutes).

If this decision bothers you and you'd like to see changes in the law to allow non-veterinarians to provide these services, join the Florida Alliance for Animal Owners Rights and contact your state legislator! We are seeking legal resolution to this far-reaching Florida law.