



**South African Animal Physical Rehab
Association**

Code of Conduct

Objectives of the Code of Conduct

- This Code serves to indicate proper professional conduct of a Veterinary Physiotherapist.
- SAAPRA will keep a register of members
- To encourage and promote efficient and responsible practise of Veterinary Physiotherapy.

SAAPRA members will:

- Use their skills and knowledge to enhance the welfare of their patients and animals
- Promote good relationships with the Veterinary Health team to ensure optimal care for animals
- Promote good relationships with other members/owners/trainers involved with their patients
- Ensure CPD courses are available to promote evidence based practice for Veterinary Physiotherapists
- Report ill-treatment or abuse of animals to the authorities
- Ensure their clients are equipped to make educated choices in regards to treatment of their animals
- Not be influenced by pressure from third parties to make ill-choices in regards to treatment of their patients
- Ensure all patients are treated, managed and handled in a humane and respectful manner, causing the least amount of distress to achieve treatment goals.
- In all circumstances respect the rights of patients
- Willingly provide veterinary information on patients to owners upon requests.
- Always treat patient information as confidential, unless legislation or an unequivocal ethical duty compels disclosure.
- Recognize their own limitations and to refer to the appropriate Veterinary Health team member
- Report their findings and recommendations back to the referring colleague when asked to consult about a patient.
- Take reasonable steps to consult with other health professionals managing the patient.
- Conduct themselves in a professional manner that is beyond reproach, and take any necessary steps to correct unethical behavior by colleagues, including reporting this to the necessary authorities.
- Endeavour to be familiar with current legislation impacting on professional conduct.
- Take an active role in furthering the profession through participation in society and group matters.
- Scientific standards should be upheld in practice, in research as well as in the ethical creation of new knowledge. Research and the furthering of knowledge need to be promoted.

Breaching of Code of Conduct

Should any member, in the opinion of the Committee, be guilty of any of the following offenses:

- Commit any wilful breach of the constitution of the Association
- Be guilty of any improper or dishonest conduct or conduct unworthy of the profession
- Be guilty of conduct unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the Association

- Fail to make payments due to the Association after due notice
- Fail to upkeep the Code of Conduct of SAAPRA

The Committee shall have the power to

- Call upon such member, in writing, by the president or vice-president to resign, and if they fail to resign, within 14 days of such request, expel them.
- Expel or deprive such member of any or all of the rights and advantages of their membership during such period as the Committee, at its absolute discretion may deem fit or advisable
- Call upon such member to appear before the committee to explain their conduct. If they fail to appear when called upon to do so, to expel or otherwise deal with such member as provided in the constitution.