



Colorado Veterinary
Medical Association

**Testimony before the Senate Health and Human Services Committee
In regard to Animal Chiropractic Amendments
January 28, 2009**

Good morning, Chairman Boyd and members of the committee. My name is Dr. Jed Rogers; I am a veterinarian from Denver and president of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). On behalf of CVMA and its 2,200 members, I am here to testify in favor of animal chiropractic in the state of Colorado.

There are three key reasons why CVMA supports this legislation:

- This amendment is the result of many meetings between the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association and the Colorado Chiropractic Association, and is quite detailed – since providing chiropractic treatment to animals is not a typical component of the chiropractic school curriculum. Treating animals is within the statutory purview of licensed veterinarians, for the purpose of protecting both animal and public health. When non-veterinarians accept payment to treat animals they are illegally engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine.
- Animal chiropractic is a significant and radical expansion of the chiropractor's scope of practice, and thus the proposal for animal chiropractic cannot be taken lightly. Our two professional associations have worked together to articulate a system that addresses, among other details, the educational requirements, registration requirements, professional protocols, scope of practice, and disciplinary authority necessary should a licensed chiropractor choose to become qualified and registered to provide animal chiropractic. The system we propose conveys a special authority so that licensed chiropractors who become registered to provide animal chiropractic services are not in violation of the Veterinary Practice Act.
- This language in this amendment is specific and intentional, and is the result of hundreds of collective hours of dialog between the two professional associations. The language embodies the necessary safeguards for animal health, public health and safety, and the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association stands in support of this amendment.

CVMA believes that collaboration between the veterinary and chiropractic professions, with the specific language we have developed, is in the best interest of animals and people in the state of Colorado. CVMA encourages you to vote YES on this amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to present these remarks.