

4-Legged Holistic Scope of Practice & Standard of Care

Scope of Practice

4-Legged Holistic provides non-invasive massage therapy services for canines and equines with the goal of supporting overall wellness, comfort, mobility, and performance.

Massage therapy services may include, but are not limited to:

- Relaxation and stress reduction
- Muscle tension relief
- Circulation and lymphatic support
- Support for flexibility, range of motion, and posture
- Recovery and maintenance for active or performance animals
- Supportive care for aging animals
- General wellness and preventative maintenance

All techniques used are hands-on, manual soft tissue techniques appropriate for the animal's species, size, temperament, health status, and tolerance.

Massage sessions are tailored to each animal based on:

- Client-provided intake information
- Observational assessment on the day of service
- The animal's comfort, consent, and response during the session
- Veterinary referral if needed

Outside the Scope of Practice

4-Legged Holistic does not:

- Diagnose medical conditions
- Prescribe medications
- Perform veterinary procedures
- Manipulate joints or perform chiropractic adjustments
- Treat disease, infections, fractures, or open wounds
- Replace veterinary care

Massage therapy is not a substitute for veterinary diagnosis or treatment.

If an animal presents with symptoms or conditions outside the scope of massage therapy, the client will be advised to seek guidance from a licensed veterinarian.

Veterinary Collaboration

4-Legged Holistic strongly supports collaborative care and may work alongside veterinarians, trainers, farriers, and other animal care professionals when appropriate.

Massage therapy may be provided:

- With veterinary approval when required
- As complementary support to an existing veterinary treatment plan
- For relaxation and well being
- For assisting senior animals and animals with injuries

With client consent, communication with a veterinarian may occur to ensure the safest and most effective care for the animal.

Standard of Care

4-Legged Holistic is committed to providing services that meet the highest standard of professional

care, including:

- Maintaining up-to-date training, education, and certification
- Practising within ethical, professional, and legal boundaries
- Using safe, humane, and species-appropriate techniques
- Prioritizing animal comfort, consent, and well-being
- Modifying or discontinuing treatment if an animal shows signs of stress, pain, or discomfort
- Maintaining client confidentiality and secure record-keeping

Each session begins with a brief check-in and observational assessment and ends with client feedback, recommendations, and after-care guidance where appropriate.

Animal Welfare & Safety

The safety and well-being of the animal is always the top priority.

Massage therapy may be paused or discontinued if:

- The animal exhibits signs of distress, pain, or aggression
- The environment is unsafe
- Accurate health information was not disclosed
- The practitioner determines massage or other holistic modalities is not appropriate at that time

For equine sessions, safe handling practices must be followed, including appropriate restraint, environment, and assistance when required.

Client Responsibility

Clients are responsible for:

- Providing accurate and complete health and veterinary information
- Informing 4-Legged Holistic of any changes to the animal's health prior to each session
- Ensuring their animal is fit to receive massage therapy
- Following pre- and post-session care recommendations

Clients acknowledge that results may vary and that no guarantees are made regarding outcomes.

Consent & Acknowledgement

By booking and receiving services from 4-Legged Holistic, clients acknowledge that:

- They understand the scope and limitations of holistic therapy
- Massage therapy is complementary and non-medical
- They consent to treatment within the outlined scope of practice