

MEDICAL MASSAGE

FOR SMALL ANIMALS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



This massage class was so incredibly inspiring and transformative with regard to my daily assessment and treatment of patients. It is hands-on to an extent that leaves behind any wetlab you could find at a conference. It combines opportunities to clay-model and discuss the muscular and nerve anatomy essential for any manual therapist, with a class size that allows for lots of personal interaction with instructors.

Molly Shepard, DVM, DACVAA, CCRP, cVMA

Continued....



SEE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, CRPM, FAAMA and Rhonda Reich, MA, LMT.
41.5 CE Hours

GOAL FOR THIS COURSE:

- Educate veterinarians, veterinary students, and veterinary technicians in the science and practice of evidence-informed massage.
- Include consideration of medical massage as a first-line integrative methodology.

OBJECTIVES:

- Describe the physiologic impact of massage on muscles, joints, fascia, the nervous system, immune responses, cardiovascular function, and more.
- Identify the ways in which medical massage draws from other manual therapy approaches and adapts techniques to specific problems.
- Develop advanced skill in comprehensive myofascial palpation.
- Interrelate findings from the myofascial evaluation to internal medical conditions, musculoskeletal disorders, and neurologic conditions.
- Learn Swedish massage techniques by practicing on fellow students and volunteer dogs.
- Select massage approaches based on clinical presentations and outcome goals.
- Differentiate between direct and indirect manual therapy techniques.
- Define the mechanisms of action of osteopathic soft tissue manual therapies, including strain/counterstrain, ligamentous-articular release, lymphatic pump, craniosacral therapy, and myofascial release (direct and indirect).
- Identify the risks of medical massage for specific populations and how to avoid them.
- List contraindications to massage.
- Identify ways in which medications may impact massage safety.
- Learn to optimize one's own biomechanics while delivering hands-on care.
- Describe the ideal layout of an exam room or home environment in preparation for massage.
- Complete a case report with photos and videos, documenting competency in medical massage for small animals.

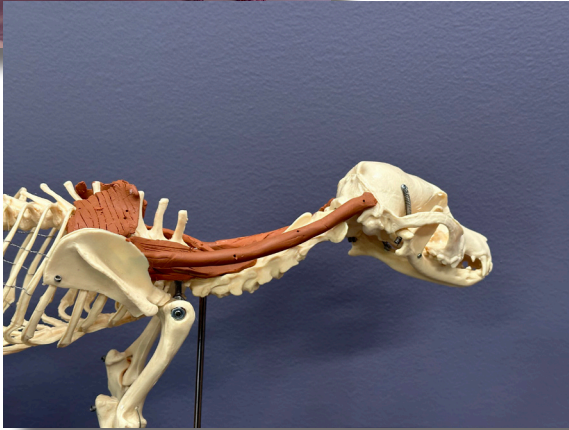
COURSE ACCESS, FORMAT, AND CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Participants begin the one-year access to online materials upon enrollment, which must be completed prior to the in-person session. Each module may contain videos, reading assignments, and assessments. All required course materials will be provided.

This course is NYSED and RACE approved. Please contact your state's licensing agency or comparable regulatory board (if you practice outside of the United States) in order to determine whether this course qualifies for 41.5 continuing education credits. Those who satisfy all the requirements will receive a certificate and the title "CVMM" for Certified (in) Veterinary Medical Massage.

Technicians, please note: This is NOT a massage certification that allows you to work independently without veterinary supervision. We seek to train veterinary technicians in ways to include medical massage as part of their skill set within a veterinary clinic or hospital, not as a sole provider.





This class felt like the learning you would expect from an apprenticeship, at times: real-world relevant, rich with experiential lessons. We were given numerous opportunities to palpate and massage dogs at various stages of life, with various preexisting issues, and worked with their owners during these visits, much like we would during a "real-world" appointment in practice. I feel so fortunate to have had Narda and Rhonda as my instructors - their experiences and teaching styles are complementary in so many ways. The anatomical and multi-modal therapeutic insights that Narda brings to this course are unmatched in the world of vet integrative medicine. Rhonda's multi-species experience and talent for communicating the principles and nuances of massage are also unmatched. The community of pet owners and dogs they have built up as a network also serve as an invaluable support system for a class like this.

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Online Modules (13.5 Hours)

- Physiology of massage on body systems and tissues, including muscle, bone, joints, fascia, nerves, vessels, immune system, and psyche.
- Myofascial palpation: Its physiologic rationale and unique capacity to enhance diagnostic accuracy.
- Setting the foundation for effective and informative myofascial palpation: Sensing, whole hand, bidirectional flow of diagnosis and treatment, cross fiber, end-to-end, anatomically aware, strain patterns (detection and interpretation), utilizing findings to formulate a comprehensive treatment.
- Anatomy and hands-on methods of myofascial palpation for the head, neck, chest, back, abdomen, limbs, and tail.
- Swedish massage techniques: History, terminology, physiology, differences between approaches, the impact of continuity and flow, and contraindications to certain methods for specific clinical circumstances.
- Swedish massage practice at home and video upload for instructor review.

In-Person Practice at CuraCore Academy (28 Hours)

- Prepare for massage, including adjusting, as necessary, table height (if not working on a floor pad), patient position, and identify ways to modify the environment for maximal clinical benefits.
- Optimize self-biomechanics when performing massage.
- Perform myofascial palpation on student partners and small animals.
- Refine Swedish massage techniques.
- Perform myofascial release, both direct and indirect, on student partners and volunteer dogs.
- Review experiences during the question and answer sections.
- Work with modeling clay to illustrate significant functional anatomic relationships.
- Compare and contrast typical areas of myofascial restriction with drawing exercises.

Case Report Content

- Submit a case report documenting three treatments and outcomes noted for a client's animal. Specific instructions will be provided.

YOU NEED A MASSAGE.

SO DO YOUR PATIENTS.

curacore.org/vet/courses/medical-massage/



Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, CRPM, FAAMA is a leading authority on scientific integrative medicine from a One Health perspective, with over two decades of practicing, teaching, and writing about integrative medical approaches in both veterinary and human osteopathic medicine.



In 1998, Dr. Robinson launched Colorado State University's first integrative medicine service and for eight years directed CSU's Center for Comparative and Integrative Pain Medicine. Dr. Robinson has taught a variety of popular, scientifically based continuing education courses, ranging from medical acupuncture and massage to botanicals and photomedicine. In 2016, she decided to focus 100% of her efforts in establishing independent educational organizations, i.e., CuraCore VET, for integrative veterinary medicine and rehabilitation, and CuraCore MED, for human integrative medicine programs.

Dr. Robinson has authored two books - Interactive Medical Acupuncture Anatomy, a neuroanatomic, heavily researched atlas on the anatomic and physiologic foundations of acupuncture points, and Canine Medical Massage, the first and only text on the translational application of human medical massage.

Rhonda Reich, MA, LMT is a 1982 graduate of the Boulder College of Massage Therapy. She has spent most of these years as a massage instructor and has worked at a number of different colleges which has allowed for an extensive oversight of massage education. Rhonda created and initiated many different facets of massage curriculum.



She has been a dedicated Canine and Equine Massage Therapist for the last 20 years. She established an International Canine Massage program as well as an Equine educational program for the Lexington Healing Arts Academy in conjunction with The Kentucky Horse Park. After many years in Colorado she moved to Lexington, Kentucky, Horse Capital of The World, for five years to massage horses in many disciplines from all over the country. She currently resides in Longmont, Colorado, is a massage instructor and maintains a private practice "Happy Tails" for humans and their animal companions.

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