



Ontario
Chiropractic
Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario Chiropractic Association advocates to protect access to animal chiropractic care across the province

Toronto, ON — April 22, 2024: The Ontario Chiropractic Association (OCA) was pleased to address the Standing Committee on the Interior today about the *Enhancing Professional Care for Animals Act, 2024 (Bill 171)* and its impact on the availability of animal chiropractic care in Ontario.

Ontario chiropractors have been regulated and authorized to provide animal chiropractic care for more than 26 years. Animal chiropractors are a self-regulated profession under the College of Chiropractors of Ontario (CCO), which has had a comprehensive standard of practice for animal chiropractic care in place since 1998.

The OCA supports the provincial government's goal of modernizing the regulation of animal care and welcomes the Bill's recognition of animal chiropractic care, reflecting the OCA's efforts to protect client choice and direct access to expert animal chiropractic care in Ontario amid provincewide animal care shortages. More than 200 letters of support have been sent to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs from animal owners asking that their direct access to this care be maintained.

The OCA looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) to ensure that any regulations under Bill 171, if passed, do not leave animal owners with less choice or reduced access to animal chiropractic care.

"With extensive training, highly regulated care and strong support from animal owners, we were pleased to see Bill 171 specifically recognize animal chiropractors, including maintaining doctor title protection and authorizing exemptions for chiropractors to continue to practise on animals, subject to regulations," said Caroline Brereton, CEO, OCA. "The acknowledgement of chiropractors in Bill 171 is consistent with OMAFRA's stated goal to maintain the status quo for

animal chiropractors and maintain their self-regulation by the CCO, subject to the regulations.”

Animal chiropractors are experts in providing chiropractic treatment of musculoskeletal (MSK) and movement-related disorders. They design and teach the rigorous Canadian Animal Chiropractic/Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy (CAC/VSMT) Program, offered by Ontario’s Veterinary Chiropractic Learning Centre (VCLC), that many veterinarians practising animal chiropractic care graduate from.

Animal chiropractors complete extensive training beyond the four-year post-graduate program required for them to become chiropractors. This consists of a minimum of 220 hours of supervised classroom and hands-on instruction via the VCLC’s CAC/VSMT Program, which educates chiropractors and many veterinarians who have taken the program. The VCLC’s program is certified by the Animal Chiropractic Certification Commission division of the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association.

Learn more about animal chiropractic care: chiropractic.on.ca/animal-chiropractic

Ontario Chiropractic Association (OCA)

Established in 1929, the Ontario Chiropractic Association (OCA) serves as the voice of the province’s chiropractors. Through advocacy, education, member engagement and knowledge translation, the OCA supports chiropractors in delivering quality care to improve Ontario’s healthcare system. As the fourth largest association of its kind in the world by membership, the OCA is advancing its vision of *Caring Chiropractors for Healthier Ontarians*. For more information, visit chiropractic.on.ca.

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