VETERINARY MASSAGE AND REHABILITATION THERAPY

THE HEALING OASIS

WELLNESS CENTER

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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Dear Professional Student:

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center LLC, welcomes your interest in expanding your knowledge of alternative therapies for animals with the goal of attending this Post-Graduate Education in Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation with the objective of becoming certified on said health care modality. It is a well-accepted fact that the public’s demand for competent practitioners of integrative veterinary medicine and therapies have been increasing in recent years. The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is unique in providing such health care modalities by drawing from both western and eastern philosophies. Our co-founders (Dr. Pedro Luis Rivera and Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT) have over 40 years combined experience in teaching and delivering these services and have been the driving force since the school inception in 1998.

As of today, the veterinary medical and veterinary technician schools have not met the need or demand for these modalities. However, there has been an increase in week or weekend courses given to lay people, which are trying to meet these demands. Even though this is commendable, it is our belief that the public would be better served (as well as protected) if knowledgeable licensed health care professionals that have successfully completed a thorough and extensive training are the ones providing these services.

To our knowledge, the Healing Oasis Wellness Center is the only school worldwide combining the knowledge base (both basic and advanced didactic information); providing a very low student to instructor ratio (for a better learning environment); providing both basic and some advanced techniques during the program, and expanding on advanced practical and functional (how it works) neurology as it applies to the field of Veterinary Rehabilitation. We know that our course curriculum will meet and exceed the demands for knowledge in these modalities. The small class size will give both students and teachers the very best educational experience in a caring and nurturing environment. As with any post-graduate (you must have a license in a specific health care profession) professional school, you would not only learn from the instructors, but the instructors and classmates will benefit from each other’s experience and knowledge as well.

We hope that you are ready to expand your horizons and gain knowledge in these modalities. Although it will be a long and arduous journey, once conquered, you will feel that it was a very worth-while endeavor.

Sincerely;

Pedro Luis Rivera, D.V.M, FACFN; President and Owner

Michelle J. Rivera, M.T., V.D.T.; Vice-President and Owner
MISSION STATEMENT AND PHILOSOPHY FOR THE HEALING OASIS WELLNESS CENTER

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center (HOWC) is an nationally accredited educational institution dedicated to the advancement and teaching of the knowledge base (both theoretical and practical) in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy; Advanced Neurology in Veterinary Spinal Manipulation and Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy. The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is also committed to providing up to date continuing education on different aspects of the above said programs. The HOWC will strive and search for approval by higher Educational Boards at the state and national level.

ABOUT THE CO-FOUNDERS & SOME STAFF MEMBERS:
Pedro Luis Rivera, DVM, FACFN graduated from Nuestra Señora del Pilar High School in Puerto Rico (1979) and from Purdue University, School of Veterinary Medicine in 1986. He has been practicing integrative veterinary medicine and in particular Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy (VSMT) for over the last 20 years. He successfully completed the certification program from the Options for Animals Center. He also completed all requirements for the Advanced Program by said school. He was an instructor at the Options for Animals from early 1993 through November 1999. He was an active participant in the Alternative / Complementary Therapy Modality Committee from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) which was activated in 1996 and 1999. He successfully completed Level I and II from the New England School of Homeopathy. He also attended the Advance Neurology Program modules (32 modules) at the Carrick Institute. Dr. Rivera primarily offers veterinary spinal manipulation, functional neurological examination, massage, rehabilitation therapy, Chinese and western herbology and glandular therapy modalities to all of the patients that seek his help. He is an international speaker, current faculty at the Backbone Academy for Veterinary Chiropractic and Healing Arts in Sittensen, Germany; Canadian Animal Chiropractic Program in Brantford, ON; ForVet Veterinary Rehabilitation Program in Madrid, Spain and Academia Internacional de Quiropractica Animal in Málaga, Spain. Dr Rivera lectures on the topics of veterinary spinal manipulation, massage / rehabilitation.
therapy, western herbology and glandular (organ therapy) modalities. His area of special interest is FUNCTIONAL NEUROLOGY as it applies to spinal manipulation and treatment based on hemisphericity. In 2009 he was the first licensed veterinarian to become a Fellow of the American College of Functional Neurology.

Michelle J. Rivera, M.T, V.D.T., graduated from Brentwood High School, and SUNY at Farmingdale. She received her massage therapy training from The Chi Energy Center, in Madison, WI. She successfully finished the Chinese herbology course work from the Wisconsin Institute of Chinese herbology and has added these modalities to the array of services that she and Dr. Rivera have been offering to their patients and clients at their veterinary hospital since 1993. She was an instructor at the Wisconsin Institute of Chinese herbology Veterinary Herbal Course and she is currently the main instructor at the Veterinary Chinese herbology and Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy programs from the Healing Oasis Wellness Center. Michelle has also been practicing Feng Shui for the last 17 years. She follows the Black Hat Buddhist Tantric Sect philosophy as taught by Professor Lin Yun. In 1998 she traveled to Beijing, China and completed a clinic and lecture certificate program in Chinese herbology at the China-Beijing International Acupuncture Training Center. Ms. Rivera also a co-owner of the Healing Oasis Wellness Center, LLC and an international speaker on the above health care modalities.

Other instructors include:

Carl DeStefano, DC, DACNB, FACFN; International speaker and instructor at the Basic VSMT & Advanced Neurology Program

Joyce Harman, DVM, MVSc; owner of Harmony Veterinary Clinic, international speaker and instructor at the school

Deanne Zenoni, DVM; Private practitioner and instructor at the school

Other guest speakers could be invited to share their knowledge with the students. Dr’s Joyce Harman (Virginia); Annette Langlois (Ontario); Ken Main (Michigan); Neal Sivula (Ohio) and Ines Wecker (Sittensen, Germany) are among the international speakers and experts to be utilized.

***To view the CV’s of any of the instructors, and a complete list of the instructors and Teaching Assistants, please go into our website***
ABOUT THE STAFF:
The staff and co-founders combined experience in their field of special interest, will allow the students to take advantage from an array of knowledge and clinical experiences that is second to none.

ABOUT THE CENTER:
The Healing Oasis Wellness Center in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, is an Educational Institution offering a Post-Graduate (applicants must have a degree and a current license in good standing) Professional Certification Program in Complementary / Integrative Therapy Modalities and to the best of our knowledge, the first of its kind providing such an in depth education world-wide since 1998.

The Center is located in a small town in the Southeast part of Wisconsin. It has easy access to the “interstate” system and there are plenty of hotels and stores within a 2 mile radius. The physical location of the Center is 2555 Wisconsin St., Sturtevant, WI, 53177; 262-898-1680 or 262-886-6460Fax; email: contact@healingoasis.edu. It consists of a 7000 sq. ft. building, with 3500 sq. ft. being used as a holistic veterinary hospital, 2000 sq. ft. of lecture facility and the rest is divided between the snack room, kitchen room and restrooms services.

The class size is kept to a maximum numbers of participants which allows for the small class size and for a more personal and relaxed learning environment.

All of the patients that are evaluated and used during labs are either from current patients that their owners have volunteered to help the students learn or from rescue facilities that have removed the animals from abusive homes and that will benefit from this specific health care modality and from some tender loving care that they deserve.

NON-DISCRIMINATION
The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the regulations issued there under, to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, sexual preference or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored at this institution.
SCHOOL CREDENTIALS (ACCREDITATION and APPROVAL):

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (www.accet.org) an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. All programs that are presented at the school have been approved by the Educational Approval Board of the State of Wisconsin (http://eab.state.wi.us/). The VMRT certification program is recognized by the American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians. The school is also a recognized educational institution under the American Association of Veterinary State Boards – RACE program (for continuing education) and currently an active member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (formerly National Organization for Competency Assurance or NOCA).

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The curriculum consists of a minimum of 142 hours of supervised instruction. There is a maximum of 16 (sixteen) students per class and we will try to keep a maximum ratio of 3 or 4 (three or four) students to 1 (one) instructor for practical labs. Once the class has started, no other student will be allowed to join even if there have been drop outs or dismissals.

Students will have homework and reading assignment during each module. This homework will be reviewed and returned to each student by the end of the following module. Each student must present a total of 2 cases. A “case” constitutes either a patient that has been brought or sent to you for a consultation for VMRT care; their primary complaint, objective findings, physical findings and treatment / progress plan.

A total of 4 (four) modules will encompass an entire “class” or “complete curriculum”. Each module consists of 4 (four) days beginning Thursdays / Fridays and Saturdays (8:00am - 12pm, 1pm - 7pm), and Sunday (8:00am-1:30pm). Depending on the module, longer hours might be required.

The scheduled dates for modules are as follows:

SEE ATTACHED INFORMATION or contact our website at WWW.HEALINGOASIS.EDU OR send us an email at CONTACT@HEALINGOASIS.EDU.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

The following requirements are the minimum necessary that the staff feels would allow a student to pursue a successful path in this field.

1. Must be a licensed / registered or certified (as it applies to their individual profession): Veterinarian, Chiropractor, Veterinary Technician, Massage Therapist, Nurse or Physical Therapist
2. Professionals registering from outside the North American continent, please provide a copy of the pertinent Visa, Diploma and proper governmental licensure of the country that you are licensed and currently practicing. All applicants must include a copy of their diploma and current (not expired) state or provincial / governmental license or certification
3. Two character reference letters, one from a non-family member and one from an employer
4. Two passport photos
5. All applicants must include a letter stating that you understand your
states rules and regulations as they apply to integrative/complementary
veterinary modalities
6. Include a $200.00 dollar deposit with the application form. The
remaining of tuition ($3,100.00) to be paid during the interview (total of
$3,300.00). All currencies are on US dollars. Please no foreign checks.

A deposit of $200.00 must be included with the application and the remaining
tuition ($3,100.00) due on the first day of school (for a total tuition of $3,300.00). A
non-refundable application fee of $100.00 is included in the total tuition of the program.
Since the school is not approved to provide financial aid (Title IV), the remnant of tuition
is due the first day of class. The application deadline is 3 weeks prior to the beginning of
the scheduled classes.

The student will receive a letter (via USPS) or email confirming their reservation
for this post-graduate training. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL STUDENTS MUST
COMPLETE ALL APPLICABLE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS.

A brief interview is required for all participants before the program is started.
The interview will be held 1-1 1/2 hrs on the first day of the module before classes are
scheduled to start on a first come first save basis.

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center will offer no advanced standing for
participants that have attended any weekend seminars, video taped seminars,
correspondence seminars, “gained” experience or any type of seminars. If the
applicant has successfully completed (providing documentation) a basic program that
is recognized by the American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians, then the
applicant can attend to audit any of the first three (3) modules that are offered at the
Healing Oasis School. As an auditor, you will only receive a certificate of attendance
validating the continuing education that you have attended. For more information,
please contact the school directly for auditing information and prices.

CORE CURRICULUM:
Anatomy: Review the names, location and function of each bone and muscle in the
non-human animal body TOTAL: 31 HRS

Neurology: An essential part of massage is to understand and maintain a functional
nervous system. This class will emphasize FUNCTIONAL NEUROLOGY as it applies to
VMRT (which will included central and peripheral nervous system).
TOTAL: 12 HRS

Physiology of Inflammation: This class will help the students understand the importance
of the inflammatory process and how, even though it is a natural reaction of the body,
can cause damage to the affected areas TOTAL: 3 HRS

Rehabilitation Therapy and Massage Hands On: This class will be the core of the
massage and rehabilitation training program. Students will learn the movements, techniques and treatment protocols for relaxation, therapeutic massage and therapeutic rehabilitation techniques (including exercise, electrical stimulation and ultrasound) used in both small and large animals.  

**TOTAL: 60 HRS**

**Reiki:** A Japanese technique that focuses the practitioner’s energy to balance the patient’s energy. Rather than manipulation of the body, it involves specific techniques in the laying of hands  

**TOTAL: 2 HRS**

**Shiatsu:** A Japanese technique that is also known as acupressure. This technique utilizes the finger tips to stimulate specific acupuncture points to alleviate neuromuscular problems  

**TOTAL: 2 HRS**

**TCM basics:** The basic of traditional Chinese medicine, Tao, Taoism, Yin and Yang, triple warmer and some herbs will be discussed.  

**TOTAL: 2 HRS**

**Nutrition:** Nutrition plays an essential part in not only the healing but the functional mechanisms of the body. Various nutritional supplements and diets, their pro’s and con’s and how they work will be discussed in detail.  

**TOTAL: 2 HRS**

**Myology:** This class will address all the changes that occur not only at the cellular level during normal function, but will address pathological changes that the practitioner must always keep in mind.  

**TOTAL: 3 HRS**

**Biomechanics:** This class will explain all the biomechanical changes that occur when the body performs not only normal functions, but while under stress, or as a compensatory changes after a massage.  

**TOTAL: 5 HRS**

**Ethics and Legalities:** This class will prepare the students to deal with the every-day legal issues that are faced in conventional or integrative / complementary practice and record maintenance.  

**TOTAL: 3 HRS**

**Tui Na:** This ancient Chinese form of massage which utilizes not only hands on but energy work, will be studied as it applies to animals.  

**TOTAL: 2 HRS**

**Alternative / Complementary Therapy Modalities:** Basic introductory lectures will be given, so that the practitioner will have the basic understanding of the what, when, where and how of some of these health care modalities.  

**TOTAL: 2 HRS**

**Animal Handling:** Basic animal handling (restraint) techniques will be reviewed to maximize the safety of both patient and practitioner so that effective massage techniques can be performed  

**TOTAL: 3 HRS**

**Case Management:** Ideas and standard operating procedures (through case
presentations) will be given, so that case intake will become second nature and proper therapeutic protocols and a realistic prognosis can be achieved and communicated to the owners of our patients.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

**TOTAL COST FOR ENTIRE PROGRAM** is $3,300.00

Payment is expected in full during registration day, interview day or first day of the first module. Students will have a list of suggested textbooks (from which material will be utilized throughout the program) and one required textbook (approximate cost of $65.00USD) that can be purchased through amazon.com or through any bookstore. The cost of the other books varies depending on where the books are brought from (amazon, or others).

For other expenses, please see section under “Performance Evaluation”. The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is not approved to offer any federal / bank financial aid or assistance under Title IV.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

Students are evaluated by a variety of methods that include written tests, practical tests (small and large animals), anatomy and oral examinations. Each student’s performance will be discussed & evaluated between a committee composed of all of the instructors of the given module and the individual student (one at a time) starting during module II (two). During said individual review, students will be given ideas on how to improve on their performance.

To successfully finish the program, a **78%** minimal grade must be attained on EACH of the following individual sections: WRITTEN TEST; CANINE PRACTICAL; EQUINE PRACTICAL; ORAL EXAMINATION and ANATOMY. Grading scale is as follows:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 - 100%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>85 - 92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>78 - 84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>less than 78%</td>
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Please be advised that a student must maintain a passing grade (78% or higher) when going into the fourth module. If the student has not achieved a passing grade by the end of the third module, instructors will emphasize once again the information that has been presented to the student during the previous individual reviews and the approximate grade performance that must be attained during the final module testing procedures to achieve the minimum passing grade of 78%. If it is suggested for the student to repeat any of the modules and / or finish the program with the following class; the student must understand that all expenses are their responsibility (see below).

A panel of instructors (minimum of 2 including the program director) will provide some ideas on how the student can improve on their performance. If a special homework is assigned to a student, they will have until the following module to present their findings (classroom presentation and a maximum of 45 minutes)

The estimated expenses to repeat any module would be $700.00 (cost of auditing a module) plus their personal traveling expenses. Under no circumstance, a student that cannot achieve passing grade will be allowed to receive a certificate of attendance or a certification diploma as attested by the school faculty.
If a student is unable to achieve a passing grade to successfully complete the program, then a panel of instructors will review each individual test (of said student) for accuracy. Instructors will provide the program director with a letter which will include their findings and suggestions for the student to successfully complete the program.

PASSING / FAILING NOTIFICATION:
Students will be notified within a maximum of 4 weeks if they have successfully completed the program or not. Certification in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy as attested by the school faculty will be awarded upon successful completion of this program as attested by the faculty.

If the student failed to complete all requirements, said student will receive (included on the notification letter) a list of requirements as described and recommended by the faculty that must be completed to successfully complete the program.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS:
The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is aware of the confidential nature of student’s records, both personal and academic; therefore, the school exercises extreme care and concern in recording and maintaining information. Such information will not be released to unauthorized persons or agencies without written consent from the student.

The school faculty recognizes the student’s right to access their own records. Students will be instructed during their first module on the procedures to follow to review their individual testing (grade) records under the supervision of a designated faculty member. The school maintains attendance, examination and teacher progress reports on all students. Paper records will be held for 3 years. After the 3 year period only digital transcripts are kept.

LICENSEING OF COMPLEMENTARY / INTEGRATIVE THERAPIES:
To this day, there is no recognized governmental (national, state or provincial) body that oversees any of the integrative / complementary therapies offered to non-human animals.

It is up to the ethical values of the individual to pursue the best post-graduate program available.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:
As in any other professional school, professional standards are upheld:
1. No smoking on premises
2. No talking during lecture time
3. Respect each other’s right to have an education.
4. Respect each other’s beliefs and knowledge
5. Under no circumstances will any abuse or rough handling of animals
6. Dishonesty is not tolerated (includes vandalism of school property)
7. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs in any part of the classroom or grounds at any time will not be tolerated or allowed.

8. Disrespectful use of language or inappropriate physical contact with individuals while involved in school related activities will not be tolerated.

9. If the student appears impaired putting itself or any of the classmates in jeopardy (from the safety standpoint) they will be dismissed immediately.

10. Student must maintain an average of 78% or higher (see section under performance evaluation) to successfully complete the program.

Any student, who doesn’t comply with the above simple rules, will be dismissed. If dismissal is due to any of the above “rules of conduct” readmission will not be allowed and reimbursement will be based on the established “pro rata” refund (see section under “Withdrawal from the Program”).

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE:
All complaints regarding conduct, grading or any concerns; should be given in writing to either Dr. Pedro L. Rivera or Michelle J. Rivera, M.T., V.D.T. If the attendee doesn’t feel that the complaint has been handled correctly, then the next step would be to contact the Wisconsin Educational Approval Board at: c/o Mr. Pat Sweeney, Educational Specialist; Wisconsin Education Approval Board, 30 W. Mifflin St.; 9th Floor; PO Box 8696; Madison, WI 53708-8696 and / or Accrediting Council for Continuing Education 1722 N Street NW; Washington, DC 20036.

ATTENDANCE:
A 100% attendance is required for the lecture and technique classes. A student will be considered tardy for class if more than 20 minutes late. If a student is tardy 3 consecutive times (60 minutes in sequence within one module or within one day of a module), it will count as an absence. If a student knows they will be absent or tardy prior to class, they must call or inform the center for an excused absence.

Although leave of absence is not encouraged, there are certain extraordinary cases, such activation to active military duty (through the Department of Defense of the United States), death in the family or severe illnesses that will cause the student to miss classes. If leave of absence is for more than 6 months, then the student must re-apply to enter (or continue) the program. Individual extra tutorial time, if required is available at $150.00 per hour; and make-up reading assignments and quizzes will be assigned to complete the missing work.

There are NO probational periods, students must complete all the required work and maintain minimum grade standards to continue to the final module (fifth module).
WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM:

If, for any reason, the student withdraws or is dismissed by the school prior to attending classes, there will be no charge to the student. All moneys except the application fee of $100 will be reimbursed to the student.

The student will receive a full refund of all money paid (minus the deposit of $100.00) if the student cancels within the first three days of the first module of the program.

A student who withdraws or is dismissed after attending at least one class, but before completing 60% of the program in the current enrollment period, is entitled to a pro rata refund as follows:

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<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO REFUND</td>
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As part of this policy, the school may retain a one-time application fee of no more than $100. The School will make every effort to refund prepaid amounts for books, supplies and other charges, as long as they have been returned in good condition. A student will receive the refund within 30 working days of termination date. If a student withdraws after completing 60% of the instruction, the school may refund a pro rata amount; if withdrawal is due to mitigating circumstances beyond the student's control, a written notice of withdrawal is not required.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

Upon graduation from the school students will be exceptionally qualified to offer a variety of professional services that can be used to enhance conventional veterinary medicine. All attendees that successfully complete the program must comply with the bylaws and regulation of the AVMA and the individual state practice acts in regards to Alternative / Integrative Therapy Modalities. The school will offer ethical and business lectures on how to use and how to market the newly acquired knowledge.

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center does not guarantee employment to any of the participants during or after the program.
LIBRARY:

The school will have a separate office which will serve as a library. All required books and suggested reading materials will always be available to the students.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CENTER:

From Chicago, take I94 North (West) to Wisconsin. Take exit #335 (Hwy 11) and at the stop sign, take a right (going East). Go about 2.1 mile and you will see a sign 96th Street or “Wisconsin St.”. Take a left on Wisconsin St (going north) and 1/4 mile down the road (on East side or right side) you will see the Center.

From Milwaukee, take I94 South (East) to Hwy 20 (exit #333) and at the stop sign make a left (going East). Go about 2.5 - 3 miles to 96th Street or “Wisconsin St” and take a right (going south). The building will be on the East side (left side) of the road about 1/4 – ½ - 1/2 mile down the road.