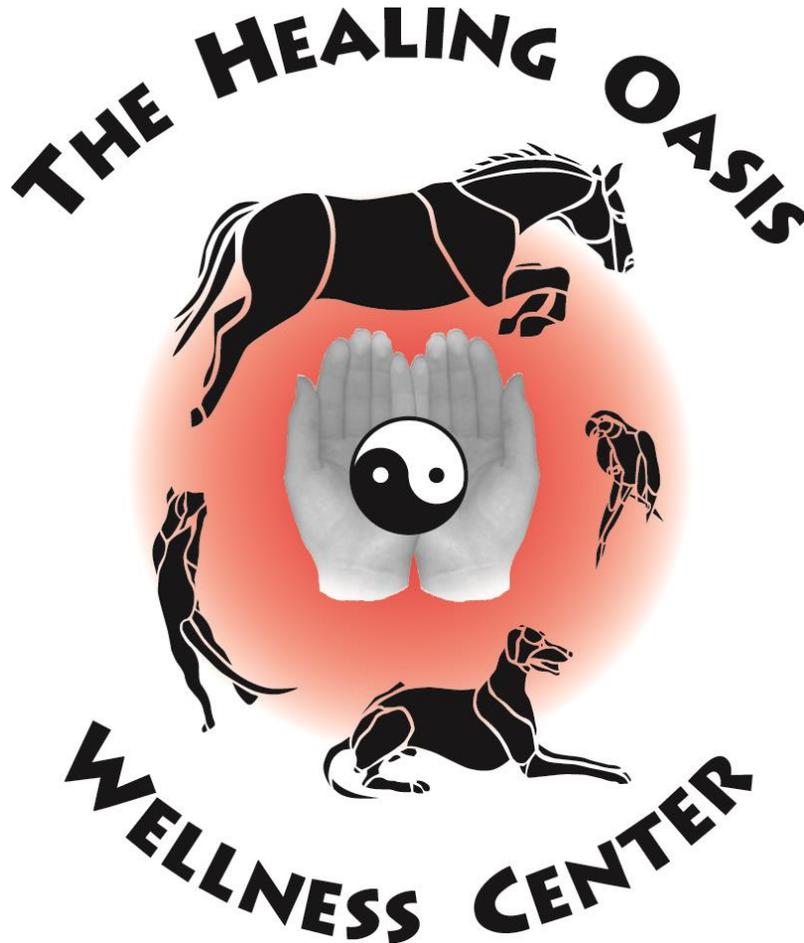


**MAIN CATALOG  
FOR THE  
VETERINARY MASSAGE AND REHABILITATION THERAPY  
AND  
VETERINARY SPINAL MANIPULATIVE THERAPY**



**POSTGRADUATE and STATE APPROVED  
CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

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## **LETTER TO ALL PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center and its faculty welcomes your interest in expanding your knowledge of integrative therapies for animals. The goal of attending and successfully completing this Postgraduate Education in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy (VSMT) or Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy (VMRT) is to gain the basic understanding of the what, how, when and where of these medical therapeutic modalities, and how they could be provided in a competent and safe way to improve patient outcomes. By successfully completing the program, licensed professionals can further expand their curriculum vitae and credentials. 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's inception in 1998.

As of today, schools providing veterinary medicine and veterinary technician degrees have not met the need or demand for these modalities. However, there has been an increase in week-long or weekend-long courses given to lay (un-licensed) people, trying to meet these demands. Even though this is commendable, we believe that the public would be better served (as well as protected) if knowledgeable licensed health care professionals that have successfully completed 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 during hands labs; providing both basic and advanced techniques during each individual program and expanding on advanced practical and functional neurology as it applies to VSMT or VMRT. We know that our course curriculum will meet and exceed the demands for knowledge in these modalities. The small class sizes will give both students and teachers the very best educational experience in a caring and nurturing environment. As with any post-graduate professional school, you 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 any of the program(s) that you are registered to attend. Although it will be a long and arduous journey, once conquered, you will feel that it was a very worthwhile endeavor.

Sincerely;

**Pedro Luis Rivera, D.V.M, FACFN, DACVSMR, FCoAC; President and Co-Owner**

Fellow of the American College of Functional Neurology  
Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Fellow of the College of Animal Chiropractors, Mixed Animal

**Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT; Vice-President and Co-Owner**

## **MISSION STATEMENT AND PHILOSOPHY FOR THE HEALING OASIS WELLNESS CENTER**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center (HOWC) is a 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 FACULTY**

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 CO-FOUNDERS & FACULTY MEMBERS**

**Pedro Luis Rivera, DVM, FACFN, DACVSMR, FCoAC** graduated from Nuestra Señora del Pilar High School in Puerto Rico (1979) and Purdue University, School of Veterinary Medicine in 1986. He has been practicing integrative veterinary medicine and in particular Veterinary Rehabilitation & Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy (VSMT) for over 20 years. He successfully completed the certification program from the Options for Animals Center, their advanced program and he was also a fulltime instructor at that facility 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 1996). 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 teaches veterinary spinal manipulation, functional neurological examination, massage, rehabilitation therapy, Chinese and western herbology, and glandular therapy modalities. He is a current faculty member at the Backbone Academy for Veterinary Chiropractic and Healing Arts in Sittensen, Germany; Veterinary Chiropractic Learning Center in Brantford, ON; ForVet Veterinary Rehabilitation Program in Madrid, Spain and Academia Internacional de Quiropractica Animal in Málaga, Spain. Dr. Rivera is an international speaker and currently 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 & rehabilitation and treatment based on hemisphericity. In 2009 he was the first licensed veterinarian to become a Fellow of the American College of Functional Neurology. Dr. Rivera is also a proud Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Fellow of the College of Animal Chiropractors – Mixed Animal.

**Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT**, 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 Michelle Rivera and Dr. Rivera offered to their patients from 1993 through 2014. She was an instructor at the Wisconsin Institute of Chinese Herbology Veterinary Herbal Course. She is currently the main instructor for the Veterinary Chinese Herbology and Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy programs at 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.

### **Faculty members for the VMRT Postgraduate & State Approved Certification Program**

**Amber Ihrke, DVM, CCRT, CVA, CVSMT, CVPP, FCoAC, Resident ACVSMR;** Private practitioner (and co-owner) at Integrative Pet Care of Homer Glen; and national speaker.

**Rosemary LoGiudice, DVM, DACVSMR, CCRT, CVA, CVSMT, FCoAC;** Board certified in veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation, national speaker, and faculty at the HOWC since 2011 and private practitioner in the Chicago area.

**Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT;** owner and program director of the school, and owner of the Healing Oasis Veterinary Hospital.

**Pedro Luis Rivera, DVM, FACFN, DACVSMR, FCoAC;** owner and program director of the school; owner of the Healing Oasis Veterinary Hospital, and international speaker.

**Julia Tomlinson, DVM, DACVS, DACVSMR, CVSMT;** Board certified in veterinary surgery and sports medicine and rehabilitation; international speaker and owner of the Twin Cities Animal Rehabilitation Clinic.

**Deanne Zenoni, DVM, CVA, CVSMT, CVMRT, FCoAC;** Private practitioner and senior faculty for the VMRT and VSMT Post-Graduate Certification Programs since 2010.

### **Faculty members for the VSMT Postgraduate & State Approved Certification Program**

**Belinda Comito, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology).** Board certified in veterinary internal medicine (neurology) and private practitioner in Buffalo Grove, IL.

**Gregory Cramer, DC, Ph.D.;** Dean of Anatomy, Professor at the National University of Health Sciences and international speaker.

**Tom Gustafson, DVM, CVSMT, FCoAC;** Co-owner of the Thompson Veterinary Clinic & faculty member since 2007. President of College of Animal Chiropractors.

**Lyndsay Klemens, DVM, CVSMT, CVMRT;** Faculty member at the HOWC since 2009. Owner of Rural Equine Dentistry & Veterinary Services and private practitioner.

**Rosemary LoGiudice, DVM, DACVSMR, CCRT, CVA, CVSMT, FCoAC;** Board certified in veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation, national speaker, and faculty at the HOWC since 2011.

**Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT;** owner and program director of the school, and owner of the Healing Oasis Veterinary Hospital.

**Pedro Luis Rivera, DVM, FACFN, DACVSMR, FCoAC;** owner and program director of the school; owner of the Healing Oasis Veterinary Hospital, Board certified in veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation, international speakers, and program director.

**Carly Yaeger, DC, CVSMT;** Private practitioner in Wisconsin and faculty since 2015.

**Deanne Zenoni, DVM, CVA, CVSMT, CVMRT;** Private practitioner in the Chicago area and senior faculty for the VMRT and VSMT Post-Graduate Certification Programs since 2010.

## Some guest speakers

**Danielle Anderson, DC, CVSMT;** Faculty member at the HOWC since 2012 and private practitioner in Belvidere, IL.

**Rachel Eken, DC, CVSMT;** Private practitioner in Colorado and faculty since 2015.

**Douglas Gould, Ph. D.,** professor, and director of the Neurology Department, Oakland Medical College, Michigan.

**Joyce Harman, DVM, MRCVS;** Owner of Harmony Veterinary Clinic and international speaker.

**Andris Kaneps, DVM, Ph.D., DACVS, DACVSMR;** international speakers and owner of Kaneps Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery.

**Mitch Lowrey, DVM, CVSMT;** Private practitioner with special interest in equine biomechanics, rehabilitation, and VSMT. Estill, SC

**Sue Ann Lesser, MS, DVM, CVSMT;** Private practitioner and the best mentor that anyone could ask for!

**Nora Moses, DC, CVSMT;** Faculty at the HOWC since 2010 and co-owner of the Red Cedar Chiropractic Clinic private practice.

**Christine Zink, DVM, DACVP, DACVSMR, CVA, CCRT, CVSMT;** international speaker, director of Molecular Biology at John Hopkins, and owner of Canine Sports Medicine Services in MD.

## ABOUT THE CENTER

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, is an Educational Institution offering a Post-Graduate Professional Certification Programs in veterinary integrative therapy modalities. To the best of our knowledge, it is the first of its kind providing such an in-depth education worldwide since 1998.

The Center is located, in a small town in the Southeastern part of Wisconsin. There is easy access to the interstate system, and there are plenty of hotels, stores, and restaurants within a 3mile radius. The physical location of the Center is 2555 Wisconsin St., Sturtevant, WI, 53177; Phone number: 262-898-1680 Fax number: 262-886-6460; email: [contact@healingoasis.edu](mailto:contact@healingoasis.edu). It consists of a 7000sq ft building, with 3500 sq. Ft. of clinic space, 2000 sq. Ft. of lecture facility, and the rest divided between the snack room, kitchen room, and restrooms services.

The class sizes are kept to a maximum number of participants, which allows for the small class size and a more personal and relaxed learning environment. Applicants must have a degree and a current license in good standing (see application form and the section discussing specific requirements). Please note that all of the patients being evaluated and used during labs are either from owners who have volunteered to help the students learn, and get the reciprocal benefit of low-cost care for their companions or from rescue facilities that have removed the animals from abusive homes, and that will benefit from the specific health care modality, and from some tender loving care that they deserve.



School building →



One of the lab facilities→

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center complies with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the regulations issued thereunder, 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 subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored at this institution.

## **SCHOOL CREDENTIALS (ACCREDITATIONS and APPROVALS)**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is Nationally Accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training ([www.accet.org](http://www.accet.org)), an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. All post-graduate programs that are presented at the school have been approved by the Wisconsin Dept. of Safety & Professional Services-Educational Approval Program ([www.dsps.wi.gov](http://www.dsps.wi.gov); [dspseap@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dspseap@wisconsin.gov)). Both postgraduate programs (VMRT and VSMT) are also approved for the GI Bill ® (by the WI State Approving Agency [SAA] for Veteran's Education Benefits, Dpt. of Veterans Affairs [DVA]), and to our knowledge the only program with such approval. The "GI Bill®" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VMRT certification program is also listed by the American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians (AARV, [www.rehabvets.com](http://www.rehabvets.com)) and the Academy of Physical Rehabilitation – Veterinary Technicians (APRVT, [www.aprvt.com](http://www.aprvt.com)). The **VSMT** program is approved by the college of Animal Chiropractors (CoAC, [www.collegeofanimalchiropractors.org](http://www.collegeofanimalchiropractors.org)). The school is a recognized educational institution under the American Association of Veterinary State Boards – RACE program (for continuing education) and the Minnesota Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE VETERINARY MASSAGE AND REHABILITATION THERAPY (VMRT) POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

The curriculum consists of a minimum of **142 hours** of supervised instruction. There is a maximum of 12 students per class, allowing us to keep a maximum ratio of 3 or 4 students to 1 faculty during practical hands-on labs. Once the class has started, no other student will be allowed to join, even if there have been dropouts or dismissals. Students will have reading assignment during each module, which might take up to 4-5hrs to complete outside of class hours. 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.

Dates for the VMRT 2020 calendar are:

Class A:

- Module I: Mar 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020
- Module II: Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- Module III: May 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- Module IV: June 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Class B:

- Module I: Sept 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Module II: Oct 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Module III: Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Module IV: Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

For more information or if you would like to check the availability of Continuing Education seminars or other postgraduate programs, please check our website ([www.healingoasis.edu](http://www.healingoasis.edu)) under “CE Seminars” or “Programs” respectively.

Please note that no classes will be held during the following recognized holidays: New Year’s Day; Martin Luther King Jr.; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day, or Christmas Day.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

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

- Must be a licensed/registered or certified (as it applies to their individual profession) health care provider. (i.e., Veterinarian, Chiropractor, Veterinary Technician, Massage Therapist, Nurse or Physical Therapist, others. If in doubt, please contact the office) in good standing with their respective state/provincial/governmental licensing board (\*\*must sign application form attesting to said good standing).
- 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.**
- Two - character reference letters, one from a licensed veterinary professional and one from an employer. Both references should be from a non-family member. If self-employed, please include a letter with a brief description of your practice.
- Two passport photos.
- **All licensed professionals:** must include a letter stating that you understand your states rules and regulations as they apply to integrative/complementary veterinary modalities.

- Include a 200.00 dollar deposit with the application form. The remaining of tuition (\$4,785.00) to be paid during the interview (total of \$4,985.00). All currencies are in US dollars. Please, no foreign checks.

A deposit of \$200.00 (which includes a \$100.00 non-refundable fee) must be included with the application and the remaining tuition (\$4,785.00) due on the first day of school (for a total tuition of \$4,985.00). The school is not approved to provide financial aid (Federal Title IV), the remnant of tuition is due the first day of class. The application deadline is two (2) weeks before the beginning of the scheduled classes. However, registration could be closed earlier if maximum number of registrants is achieved.

The student will receive a letter (via USPS or email) confirming their reservation for the specific dates of post-graduate training. Please remember that all students must provide all applicable admissions requirements to be considered for the program. A brief interview is required for all participants before the program is started. The interview will be held 1- 1 1/2hrs before classes are scheduled to start during the first day of class. All interviews are to be held on a “first-come, first-serve basis.”

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center will offer no advanced standing for participants that have attended any weekend seminars, videotaped 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.

## **ACADEMIC CORE CURRICULUM FOR VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

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

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 include central and peripheral nervous system).

TOTAL: 12HRS

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: 5 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, among others) species dependant on class preference of small or equine species. TOTAL: 60 HRS

TCM basics: The basis of traditional Chinese medicine, Tao, Taoism, Yin and Yang, triple warmer, and some herbs will be discussed. TOTAL: 2HRS

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 addressed throughout the program. TOTAL: 2HRS

Myology: This class will address all the changes that occur not only at the cellular level during normal function and addressing pathological changes that the practitioner must always keep in mind. TOTAL: 3HRS

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 compensatory changes after a massage. TOTAL: 5HRS

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: 3HRS

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: 2HRS

Integrative Veterinary 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. Some of the modalities to be discussed include (but not limited to) Reiki, Shiatsu, Acupuncture, and Spinal Manipulation. TOTAL: 4HRS

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: 3HRS

Case Management: Ideas and standard operating procedures (through case presentations) will be given so that 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.

TOTAL: 10HRS

### **BENEFITS OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE VMRT PROGRAM**

Some of the benefits that students will gain include (but not limited to):

- Ability to define and describe what is rehabilitation, what are the main components, and how to apply these components in a knowledgeable, competent, and safe way to the patients that are being treated.
- Ability to locate and name pertinent and clinically relevant anatomy (muscular and osseous) as it applies to rehabilitation and animal patients.
- Ability to evaluate (during class, under direct supervision by the faculty) and assess the progress of the patients.
- Ability to design and plan treatment protocol(s) that are tailored to the individual patient being treated for (soft tissue injury, orthopedic condition or to maintain conditioning of an athlete). The ultimate goal for the treatment is to improve on quality of life and the return to normal function and performance as safely as possible.
- Ability to list and describe the local, spinal cord segmental level influence, suprasegmental stimulation, influences, and modulation of rehabilitation (massage therapy included). This localization of the level of origin of an influence allow the graduate to treat a resulting clinical condition more accurately.
- Ability to provide sound recommendations for therapeutic modalities that might be beneficial to the patient being evaluated and treated.
- Ability to describe the biomechanical changes that are being observed, find etiologies for those changes, and how they could be treated to improve patient outcome.
- Ability to determine the longitudinal level of the lesion, which, as stated, previously allows the graduate to more accurately treat a clinical condition.

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

TOTAL COST FOR ENTIRE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM is \$4,985.00 (four thousand, nine hundred eighty-five dollars). Payment is expected in full during the first day of the first module, after the interview. Students will have a list of suggested textbooks (from which material will be utilized throughout the program) and two required

textbooks (approximate cost of about \$110.00USD) that can be purchased through amazon.com or any bookstore. The cost of the other books will vary depending on where and how the books are purchased.

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

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE VETERINARY SPINAL MANIPULATIVE THERAPY (VSMT) POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

The curriculum consists of a minimum of 226 hours of supervised instruction. There is a maximum of **20** (twenty) students per class, allowing us to keep a maximum ratio of 3 or 4 (three or four) students to 1 (one) faculty for practical hands-on labs. Once the class has started, no other student will be allowed to join, even if there have been dropouts or dismissals.

Students will have reading assignments during each module that might take up to 4-6 hours outside of class to complete. 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 VSMT care, their primary complaint, objective findings, physical findings, and treatment/progress plan.

A total of **5 (five) Modules** will encompass an entire class or complete curriculum. Each module consists of 5 days beginning Wednesday (1:00pm – 8:00pm), Thursday / Friday and Saturday (8:00am - 12pm, 1pm - 8pm), and Sunday (8:00am-1:30pm). Depending on the module, longer hours might be required.

Dates for the VSMT 2020 calendar are:

Class A:

- Module I: Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Module II: Feb 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Module III: Mar 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Module IV: Apr 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Module V: May 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Class B:

- Module I: Aug 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020
- Module II: Sept 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Module III: Oct 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Module IV: Nov 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020
- Module V: Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

For more information or if you would like to check the availability of Continuing Education seminars or other postgraduate programs, please check our website ([www.healingoasis.edu](http://www.healingoasis.edu)) under “CE Seminars” or “Programs.”

Please note that no classes will be held during the following recognized holidays: New Year’s Day; Martin Luther King Jr.; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day, or Christmas Day.

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR VSMT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

The following requirements are the minimum necessary that the staff feels would allow a student to pursue a success in this program.

- Licensed chiropractor (DC) or veterinarian (DVM, VMD) in good standing with their particular state/provincial/governmental licensing board (\*\*must sign application form attesting to said good standing).
- Professionals registering from outside the North American Continent: Completed and graduated from a Veterinary Medical Program or Chiropractic Medical School (as viewed by the AVMA / ACA respective council on education). Must have pertinent Visa, diploma, and proper governmental licensure from the country in which they are currently practicing.
- Two - character reference letters, one from a licensed veterinary professional and one from an employer. Both references should be from a non-family member. If self-employed, please include a letter with a brief description of your practice.
- Include a copy of your current state license (current residence) and a copy of your diploma.
- Two passport-size photos.
- **All licensed professionals** – must include a signed letter stating that you understand your state / provincial rules and regulations as they apply to “animal chiropractic” or veterinary spinal manipulative therapy as set forth by their respective licensing boards.
- Include a \$200.00 deposit with the application form. The remaining tuition (\$6,610.00) to be paid during the interview (total of \$6,810.00). All currencies are in US dollars. Please, no foreign checks.

Applicants will continue to be accept until the maximum number of attendees of twenty (20) students is reached. The application deadline is 2 (two) weeks before the beginning of the scheduled classes. Registration may be closed early if the maximum number of attendees is reached.

**A deposit of \$200.00** (which includes a \$100.00 non-refundable fee) must be included with the application, and the remaining tuition of \$6,610.00 (for a total of \$6,810.00) is due on the first day of school. The school is not approved to provide financial aid (Federal Title IV).

The student will receive a letter (via USPS) or email confirming their reservation for this post-graduate training. All students must complete all applicable admissions requirements. A brief interview is required for all participants before the program begins. The interviews will be held 1 to 1.5hrs before classes are scheduled to start on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center will offer no advanced standing for participants that have attended any weekend seminars, videotaped seminars, correspondence seminars, "gained" experience, or any type of seminars. If the applicant has successfully completed (must include documentation) a basic program that has been approved by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, College of Animal Chiropractors or the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association, then they can attend and audit any of the first four (4) modules offered at the Healing Oasis Wellness Center. Please understand that as an auditor, you will only be receiving a certificate of attendance for continuing education. For more information, please contact the school directly for auditing information and prices.

## **ACADEMIC CORE CURRICULUM FOR **THE VSMT** POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

Anatomy: Review the pertinent anatomy as it applies to the application of veterinary spinal manipulative therapy. Students will also view dissection as part of the educational process. TOTAL: 18HRS

Neurology (Basic & Advanced): An essential part of veterinary spinal manipulation is to understand and thus maintain a functional nervous system. This class will emphasize Functional Neurology as it applies to spinal manipulation. Neurologic mechanism by which VSMT causes changes will also be discussed at a local and supra-segmental level. TOTAL: 30HRS

VSC & Its Scientific validity: This class will present up to date available research that not only validates the spinal manipulation health care modality but will further expand knowledge of functional neurology & the vertebral hypomobility/subluxation complex. TOTAL: 12HRS

Biomechanics: This class will explain all the biomechanical changes that occur when the body performs not only normal functions but the pathophysiologic changes that occur under stress. Saddle fitting is included under this section TOTAL: 3HRS

Ethics and Legalities: This class will prepare the students to deal with the everyday legal issues that will be faced in both conventional or alternative/complementary practice. TOTAL: 4HRS

Rehabilitation Therapy: This class will give introductory information and techniques that can be used as adjunct modalities to speed up the healing process of the body TOTAL: 2HRS

Integrative Veterinary Therapy Modalities: Introductory lectures to provide practitioners with the basic understanding of some of the modalities (rehabilitation and laser therapies as examples) as they apply to VSMT. TOTAL: 3HRS

Veterinary Spinal Manipulation Techniques Lecture: This class will show basic techniques that can be used to adjust specific segments of the spine at the cervical, thoracic, lumbar, extremities, sacropelvic, sternum, Logan & cranial (sutures) techniques, among others. TOTAL: 19HRS

Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Techniques Laboratory (Hands-on): This lab will be utilized to practice and master the techniques taught at the basic VSMT class. Both small and large animals will be available for application. In module II, the students will start also taking cases, adjusting, re-assessing, and taking care of animals in a clinical setting. TOTAL: 107HRS

Case Presentations: Each student will present 2 cases in which they utilize VSMT and explain the reasoning behind the diagnosis and treatment of each case. TOTAL: 5HRS

Philosophy: A synopsis of Spinal Manipulation philosophy will include the many differing views offered from the late 1800's to the 21st Century. TOTAL: 3HRS

Adjunct Veterinary Diagnosis: This class will emphasize the "diagnosis" aspect of case management based on the case approach. Ideas and standard operating procedures will be given, so that case intake and progress plan will become second nature and proper therapeutic protocols and a realistic prognosis can be achieved and communicated to the owners of our patients TOTAL: 8HRS

Pathology: This class will review common veterinary medical pathologies that are encountered on a day to day basis, and that can benefit from VSMT. There will be an emphasis on when and when not to adjust. TOTAL: 5HRS

Radiology: This class will review the normal vs. abnormal radiological findings at the cervical, thoracolumbar, Sacro-pelvic, & extremity regions. Emphasis will be given to present clinical findings that will be encountered on an every-day practice/examination.

TOTAL: 5HRS

General & Infectious Diseases: This class will present general information that must be kept in mind when assessing a patient. Pharmacology, types of surgery, diseases (infectious and zoonotic) & basic physiology will be discussed.

TOTAL: 2HRS

### **BENEFITS OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE VSMT PROGRAM**

Some of the benefits that students will gain include (but not limited to):

- Ability to define and describe what veterinary spinal manipulative therapy is, how it affects the body, what are the main components (vertebral subluxation complex), and how to apply this health care modality in a knowledgeable, competent and safe way to the patients that are being treated.
- Ability to locate and name pertinent and clinically relevant anatomy (muscular and osseous) as it applies to VSMT and animal patients.
- Ability to locate, name, and describe the afferent influences that the adjustment provides to the patient and how this divergent information helps to improve on cortical development with its segmental efferent modulation.
- Ability to evaluate (during class hours, under direct supervision by the faculty) and assess the progress of the patients.
- Ability to design and plan treatment protocols that are tailored to the individual patient, with the ultimate goal of improving its quality of life and the return to optimal normal function and performance.
- Ability to list and describe the local, spinal cord segmental level influence, suprasegmental stimulation, influences, and modulation as it pertains to VSMT.
- Ability to provide sound recommendations for adjunct therapeutic modalities that might be beneficial to the patient.
- Able to describe and explain the biomechanical changes (from a functional neuro-anatomical point of view) that are being observed, find etiologies for those changes, and how VSMT could be used to treat and improve patient outcome.
- Able to determine the longitudinal level of the lesion, which is critical in determining the effect that is being clinically displayed by the patient, and therefore correctly treat the cause of the symptom(s).

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE VSMT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

TOTAL COST FOR ENTIRE VSMT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM is \$6,810.00

Payment is expected in full during registration day (interview day / first day of the first module). Students will have a list of suggested textbooks (from which material will be utilized throughout the program) and three required textbooks (approximate total cost of \$175.00USD) that can be purchased through amazon.com or any online bookstore. The cost of the other books varies depending on where and in what form the books are acquired.

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

### **SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS**

The faculty will provide curriculum reviews to assure that current, accurate, relevant clinical information is being presented. Lecture and PowerPoint reviews will be conducted on a module to module basis. Hands-on (technique) reviews will be conducted when new ideas are brought forth by faculty during staff meetings. Entire curriculum reviews will be evaluated every two to three years.

### **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR ALL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

Students are evaluated by a variety of methods that include written tests, practical tests (small and large animals), anatomy, and oral integration. Each student's performance will be discussed & evaluated between the faculty (that is present on the given module) and the individual student (one at a time) starting during module II (two). If necessary, during said individual review, students will be given ideas on how to improve on their performance. On the unlikely event that students might be falling below passing grade, said student might be given a special assignment with the sole purpose of improving individual scores. A panel of instructors (minimum of 2) will provide some ideas on how the student can improve on their performance. If special homework is assigned to a student, there will be a letter describing the time table and subject(s) that must be addressed and in what format to be presented.

To successfully finish the program, a **78.00%** minimal grade must be attained on **EACH** of the following individual sections: Written Test; Canine Practical; Equine Practical; Oral Evaluation and Anatomy. Grades are provided and documented using up to 2 decimal points, no "rounding up" is performed. Grading scale is as follows:

A = 93 - 100%; B = 85 - 92%; C = 78 - 84%; Fail = less than 78%

Please be advised that a student **must** maintain a passing grade (78.00% or higher) when going into the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Module of the VMRT program or the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Module of the VSMT program. 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 78.00%. As described above, special homework(s) may be provided for the students to complete to help them achieve passing grade. If it is suggested for the student to repeat any of the modules and finish the program with the following class, the student must understand that all expenses are their responsibility (see below).

The estimated expenses to repeat any module would be \$850.00 (cost of auditing a module) plus their traveling expenses. Under no circumstances will a student that cannot achieve passing grade be allowed to receive 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 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. The student will have maximum of 6months to complete said task.

### **PASSING / FAILING NOTIFICATION FOR ALL PROGRAMS**

Students will be notified within a maximum of three (3) weeks if they have successfully completed the program or not. Certification in Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy OR Certification in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy as attested by the school faculty will be awarded upon successful completion of the chosen program.

If the student fails to complete all requirements, said student will receive (included in the notification letter) a special homework, and requirements as described and recommended by the faculty that must be completed within a specific time frame. Said special homework & requirements would be graded and averaged together on the deficient section. The ultimate goal is to help the student achieve successful completion.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS FOR ALL STUDENTS**

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 provided to unauthorized person(s) or agencies without written consent from the student.

The school faculty recognizes the student's right to access their records. Students will be instructed during their first module on the procedures to follow to review their testing (grade) records under the supervision of a designated faculty member. The school maintains signed application forms, application requirements, signed attendance sheets, grades, signed student progress reports/evaluations, official school communications with the student (including beginning and completion or termination date), copy of diploma and certificate of attendance/continuing education, student grievances and subsequent resolutions, and copies of special assignments (if needed),

on all records of registered students. Above said, information will be scanned and kept on digital form as soon as the student record is completed. Paper records will be held for **three years**. After the three (3) year period, digital records, and transcripts will be kept.

## **LICENSING OF VETERINARY 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 FOR ALL PROGRAMS AND SEMINARS**

As in any other professional school, professional standards are upheld:

1. No smoking on-premises
2. Respect each speaker; do not talk out of turn.
3. Keep personal communication devices silent or turned off during class
4. Respect each other's right to have an education
5. Respect each other's beliefs and knowledge
6. Under no circumstances will any abuse or rough handling of animals be tolerated. This would constitute grounds for immediate dismissal.
7. Dishonesty is not tolerated (includes vandalism of school property)
8. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs in any part of the classroom or premises will not be tolerated or allowed and would constitute grounds for immediate dismissal.
9. Disrespectful use of language will not be tolerated.
10. Inappropriate physical contact with individuals while involved in school-related activities will not be tolerated and is ground for dismissal.
11. If a student appears impaired or is putting themselves or any classmate, staff, participant, or animal in jeopardy, they will be dismissed immediately.
12. Students must maintain an average of 78.00% or higher of EACH independent section to successfully complete the program.

Non-compliance with the above simple rules by a student would constitute grounds for dismissal. 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; shall be given in writing to either Dr. Pedro L. Rivera, Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT, any faculty member,

or the class president. The program director and faculty will make themselves available to discuss any complaint and will provide several options to remedy the situation. If the attendee does not feel that the complaint has been handled correctly, then the next step would be to contact the School Administration Consultant for the Wisconsin DSPS-Educational Approval Program at WEAB / DSPS 4822 Madison Yards Way, PO Box 8366, Madison, WI 53705, Tel: 608-266-1996 ([www.dsps.wi.gov](http://www.dsps.wi.gov); [dspseap@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dspseap@wisconsin.gov)). Final step would be to contact the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education 1722 N Street NW; Washington, DC 20036, Tel: 202-955-1113 ([www.accet.org](http://www.accet.org)).

### **APPEAL PROCESS FOR ALL DISMISSALS**

If a student is dismissed from the program, an appeal may be made in writing to the program directors (Dr. Pedro Rivera or Michelle J. Rivera). When reviewing the appeal, the program directors will consider all factors, including attendance, class participation, grades, and consultations with faculty that have had contact with said student. The student will be notified within 15 business days if the appeal is approved or denied. If approved, the student will be readmitted to the respective program.

### **ATTENDANCE**

100% attendance is required for the entire program (didactic & practicums). Attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of each day (signed attendance general spreadsheets) and will be kept in a binder in the program directors office. A student will be considered tardy for class if more than 20 minutes late or departing 20 minutes earlier. If a student is tardy or departs early three consecutive times (60 minutes in sequence within one module or one day of a module), it will count as an absence. If a student knows they will be absent or tardy before class, they must call or inform the center for an excused absence. However, a student is considered to have provided constructive notice of withdrawal if he/she misses two (2) consecutive days of class.

In the unlikely event that the student receives an absence, then a panel of instructors (minimum of two [2]) will provide a special homework (in an official communication) that the student must research and present to a faculty panel during the next scheduled Module.

Although leave of absence is not encouraged, there are certain extraordinary cases, such as activation to 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 six 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 (of 78.00% for EACH individual section) to successfully complete the chosen program for which the student is registered.

### **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM & REFUND POLICY**

If for any reason, the student withdraws or is dismissed by the school before attending classes, there will be no charge to the student. All moneys except the non-refundable application fee of \$100.00 will be reimbursed to the student.

The student will receive a full refund (within ten business days) of all money paid if the student:

- Cancels within the three-business-day cancellation period under SPS 406.03 ([https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/sps/zeducational\\_approval/406](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sps/zeducational_approval/406)).
- Accepted was unqualified, and the school did not secure a disclaimer under SPS 409.04 (<https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/EA409.pdf>).
- Enrollment was procured as the result of any misrepresentation in the written materials used by the school or in oral representations made by or on behalf of the school.

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:

<u>AT LEAST</u>	<u>BUT LESS THAN</u>	<u>REFUND OF TUITION</u>
1 UNIT	10%	90%
10%	20%	80%
20%	30%	70%
30%	40%	60%
40%	50%	50%
50%	60%	40%
60%	NO REFUND	NO REFUND

As part of this refund policy, the school may retain a one-time application fee of no more than \$100.00. The school will make every effort to refund prepaid amounts for books, supplies, and other charges sold by the school. Refunds other than those under the “three-business-day” cancellation period will receive their pro-rata refund within 40 days of termination date. If a student withdraws after completing 60% of the instruction, and withdrawal is due to mitigating circumstances beyond the student’s control, the school may refund a pro-rata amount. A written notice of withdrawal is not required.

### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Upon completion and graduation from the any of the postgraduate school programs, students will be exceptionally qualified to offer a variety of professional

services that can be used to enhance conventional veterinary medicine. All graduates are encouraged to comply and follow the bylaws and regulations of the AVMA and the individual state practice acts relating to Alternative/Integrative/Complementary 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 provide or offer any employment/placement services, nor guarantee employment to any of the participants during or after the program. However, any job opening that is provided or sent to the school office would be displayed on the bulletin board for all students to see and read. Student referrals to prospective employers is not based on direct contact with employer regarding current job openings. It would be up to the student to contact the prospective employer for job particulars.



Dr. Gary Goodell teaching

## **LIBRARY**

The school will have a separate office, which will serve as a library. All required books and suggested reading materials will be available to the students while instructors/faculty are in premises. Books may not be taken off-premises.

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE CENTER FROM INTERSTATE 94**

From Interstate 94 going south: Go east on Highway 20 / Exit #333 (Washington Avenue) for about 2.5 miles. You will cross under a railroad bridge and at the lights turn right on to Wisconsin Street. You will head south for about 0.8 mile, passing the Army Reserve facility and the Correctional Center. You will see the Healing Oasis Main Campus on your left. The town of Sturtevant is just another block south from there. Note the speed limit drops to 30 mph before getting to the school building.

From Interstate 94 going north: Go east on Hwy 11 / Exit #335 (Durand Ave.) for about 2.5 miles. Once you pass the first traffic light (Will's RV Center), take the left lane as you will be making a left turn (going north) right after the railroad tracks (US Bank on the corner) on Wisconsin St. Go about .8 miles and you will find the Healing Oasis Main Campus on your right (corner of Charles St. and Wisconsin).