**The Practice of Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine**

**Informed Consent for Veterinary Spinal Manipulation Therapy (VSMT)**

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Animal Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Species: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am a (circle one): New Client (complete below) Existing Client

Current Veterinary Practice (New clients only): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian (if known): Dr.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Reason for visit (circle one): Wellness Musculoskeletal Illness Neurological Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Main Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine**: is an inclusive term that describes treatments, therapies and/or modalities that are not accepted as components of mainstream veterinary education or practice, but that are performed on animals by certain practitioners. While these treatments, therapies and/or modalities often form part of veterinary education, they are generally viewed as alternatives or complementary to more universally accepted treatments. Treatments that are considered complementary include chiropractic care, physical therapy, rehabilitation therapy, massage therapy, homeopathy, acupuncture, nutraceutical therapy and physiotherapy.

**Veterinarian’s Act/Legislation:** it is important to note that even individuals who are licensed to practice on humans are NOT licensed to practice independently on animals under the legislation that governs their own profession. The only way for these professionals to provide complementary/alternative services to animals is through the direction and supervision of a veterinarian.

Only veterinarians have the education, knowledge, skill and judgement to evaluate and integrate complementary and alternative veterinary medicine into a treatment plan for animals. Performing alternative and complementary veterinary treatments on animals constitutes the practice of veterinary medicine such that these procedures may only be performed by a veterinarian or by a non-veterinarian who is directed and supervised by the veterinarian, within the context of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

**Veterinarian Training:** Veterinarians who utilize complementary treatments, therapies and/or modalities as part of the treatment plans developed for their clients animals must ensure they are sufficiently education and trained in the indications, risks and implementation of such approaches.

Dr Shana Halfon has successfully completed the Veterinary Chiropractic Learning Center Certification Program and is certified by the College of Animal Chiropractors. The curriculum consists of a minimum of 220 hours of supervised classroom and hands-on instruction over the course of 5, 5 day modules.  All members of the program must have graduated from an accredited veterinary school of medicine or CCE accredited chiropractic school and hold current licenses from their respective provinces or states. This program is approved by both the College of Animal Chiropractors (CoAC) and the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA). On successful completion of the program, veterinarians receive certification as Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapists (VSMT).

**VSMT**: VSMT is a field of animal health care that focuses on the preservation and health of the neuro-musculo-skeletal system. The word “Chiropractic” comes from the Greek meaning “To perform with the hands”.  It is considered a natural approach to the care and prevention of disease in pets. Anything adversely affecting the nervous system will have detrimental effects that will resonate throughout the entire body. The command centers of the nervous system are the brain and spinal cord which are protected by the spine. The spine is a complex framework of bones (vertebra), ligaments, muscles and nerves. If the movement and biomechanics of the vertebra become dysfunctional, they can interfere with the performance of the nerves that are branching off of the spinal cord and going to the all of the muscles and organs. As this occurs, your animal can lose normal mobility; resulting in stiffness, tension, pain and even organ dysfunction. Additionally, when normal movement is affected, and left unattended, it will ultimately impact your animal’s entire wellbeing and quality of life.

VSMT is NOT intended to assume the primary health care responsibility of animals or replace traditional veterinary medicine.

**VSMT visits:** Visits consist of an initial evaluation which includes a detailed case history, prior x-rays, laboratory analysis and previous diagnoses as well as a full physical examination of the animal prior to treatment. The exam includes posture assessment, gait analysis, vertebral and extremity static and motion palpation. Following the evaluation, we will determine which chiropractic adjustments your animal may require. Treatment involves a high force, low amplitude thrust specific to the anatomy of the joint, helping to restore normal movement. Response to VSMT care can be anywhere from immediate improvement but up to 72 hours after. Results depend on age, severity of restricted motion etc. A follow up adjustment may be required in 1-2 weeks. Once improvement is noted, follow up treatments may be spread out further. For optimal health, maintenance treatments are recommended anywhere from 1 time a month to once every 6 weeks.

The first visit takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes. Then any follow up visits take approximately 15 to 20 minutes. The adjustment has little or no pain and most enjoy the experience. Sometimes after the adjustment the animal can be sore. After the adjustment, the animal should have the remainder of the day to rest with only light activity. If performed correctly and with proper training VSMT is safe and effective in treating your animal.

**Treatment Costs:**

* Initial Visit, Evaluation, Consultation and 1st Adjustment: $85 +tax
* Subsequent Adjustments: $35 + tax
* Xray (if applicable) and reading: $96.23 +tax

**Veterinary Insurance:** It is important to note that there are various pet insurance companies that will cover the costs of alternative treatments. Examples of companies are as follows:

* **Pets Plus Us:** Alternative therapies up $7500 or $15000 per year (dependant on plan chosen, annual maximum is for all accidents or illness and therapies) minus annual deductible. Care is only covered for rehabilitation from an accident or illness, not wellness care.
* **Trupanion**: unlimited coverage, 90% of costs covered minus deductible. Additional Care Package must be purchased with your plan in order to be covered for alternative therapies.
* **PetSecure, CAA, ThePersonal**: 80% coverage, up to a maximum of $350 per year for alternative treatments included with plans. Annual deductible applies.

**Authorization:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ am the owner of the animal described above and am authorized to make decisions regarding its care. I have read the above information regarding VSMT and my veterinarian has answered and addressed all of my questions or concerns.

I hereby acknowledge that my veterinarian, Dr Shana Halfon, DVM, VSMT, or her representative, has advised me of and explained the following:

* The tentative or final diagnosis of my animal
* The anticipated and potential benefits
* The alternatives, including conventional options to it
* The likely consequences of having no treatment
* The cost of the treatment/procedure
* The above procedure/treatment is considered alternative and/or complementary to traditional veterinary medical approaches

I understand that there can be no guarantee as to the animal’s condition or reaction to or the outcome of any procedure/treatment undertaken. I have read and fully understand this form and declare that I voluntarily provide my informed consent.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Owner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To be signed after the initial consultation and evaluation

Veterinarian Signature/Witness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_