

The statute from the CA code of Regulations  
California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act 2005 edition  
Sect 2038 Musculoskeletal Manipulation

a) the term musculoskeletal manipulation (MSM) is the system of the application of mechanical forces applied mechanically . . or through any device to . . . prevent, cure or relieve impaired function . . when performed on animals constitutes the practice of veterinary medicine

**(b) MSM may only be performed by**

(1) **a veterinarian** (..... requires an exam, diagnosis, treatment plan and the authorization of owner, record keeping including a signed acknowledgement from the owner that MSM is considered to be and alternative/nonstandard therapy.)

(2) **a CA licensed doctor of chiropractic working under the direct supervision of a veterinarian**

Direct supervision is then defined:

(A) the veterinarian has diagnosed, judged the need, prescribed the treatment, kept the record and obtained the signed document as defined above in (b)(1)

(B) the chiropractor then examines the animal and consults with the veterinarian and they agree on the treatment

(C) the MSM is performed either within the small animal hospital and the veterinarian is on the premises OR the MSM **is performed upon a large animal in the field and the supervising veterinarian is in the general vicinity**

(D) the veterinarian ensures accurate and complete records of MSM treatments are maintained

(E) if the supervising veterinarian has ceased the relationship with the chiropractor the chiropractor shall immediately terminate such treatment

**A veterinarian who fails to conform with the provisions of this section when authorizing a chiropractor to evaluate or perform MSM treatments upon an animal shall be deemed to have engaged in unprofessional conduct.**