

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Agriculture & Livestock  
For HB 3397

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:01 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

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Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 8:00 AM

Melinda Beard  
Self  
Weatherford, TX

I support this bill! If our poor animals are suffering, we should be allowed to exhaust all treatment options to find them relief! Allowing suffering is inhumane.

I had a german shepherd who had been being treated for MONTHS with probiotics to help his diarrhea. I cleaned up diarrhea, at least twice a day, over this time. On his second visit to the vet, he was kept for a couple of days for IV treatment due to dehydration. After months of this continued treatment and issue, I was finally able to get a chiropractor (certified in animal chiropractic) to try an adjustment after being told it might help.

ONE adjustment and he began to run around like a puppy again. In addition, the diarrhea completely stopped! Until he passed of cancer a couple of years later, he NEVER experienced diarrhea again. The ONLY thing that changed was the adjustment! Please allow CERTIFIED ANIMAL CHIROPRACTORS to treat our animals without veterinarian approval. It took several attempts to get a referring veterinarian. A waste of time and money and my poor German Shepard was not better for it The time he spent feeling horrible was miserable for all of us! Our pets should be able to get (and as their advocates we should be able to choose) help in whatever manner. Vets are expensive and to pay just to find someone willing to take the time and effort to write a referral for such a benign treatment is ineffective.

I also saw a piglet that had exhausted all antibiotic treatment (he was going to be left to die), treated with a chiropractic adjustment and within hours of the adjustment, begin to eat and thrive. This little piglet is now a full grown, healthy pig.

No one will ever convince me that medicine is the only way to help an animal. If our physical bodies are out of whack, and a simple adjustment can help put us back into alignment with how we were made- please allow DOCTORS of Chiropractic who have years of training and have passed a vigorous test to be called doctor, AND who have additional training for animal chiropractic do what they have been trained to do WITHOUT having to get a vet to approve it. Let them stand on their own licensing! It's better for all parties!

Alyssa Thomas  
Self, chiropractor  
Gainesville, TX

The passing of this bill would be life-changing for people and animals in the state of Texas. It would allow animals to receive licensed care they need for better life function. It would take load, stress, and liability off of already overloaded and stressed to the point of suicide veterinarians. It would allow chiropractors to provide services to the public that we've been adequately trained, licensed, and certified for. It reduces cost to the animal's owner as well as providing for a more timely response to care with an extremely safe and conservative method, chiropractic. Any person can already choose to walk into a chiropractor for themselves, should they deem chiropractic an appropriate method for addressing their health and well being. All this bill does is allow them to make that choice for their pets and livestock as well, without the unnecessary step of a liable intermediary (vet) who generally has little to no idea what chiropractic can do and offer to the animal in question. Please support this bill for the good of the animals of Texas, the public of Texas, and the veterinarians of Texas. Thank you.

Bryan White, Agent  
Self Insurance Agent  
Bonham, TX

I'm in support of this bill to give animals direct access to chiropractic care

Bridgette Kirkpatrick  
Self  
Sherman, TX

Having to require veterinary care with chiropractic care just adds cost and elimination of care for animals due to cost and availability to have veterinary appointments. It isn't necessary and only prohibitive to consumers. Chiropractic care for humans doesn't require an MD referral, why animal?

Lynette Flint  
Net's Happy Pets  
Ponder, TX

We are one of the few lucky ones whose vet works directly with a chiropractor, but there are so many that don't. These animals aren't given the access to the chiropractic care that they desperately need. Some vets won't give the referrals that the current law requires because of liability issues. If we remove this requirement, it removes the liability concerns from the vets and puts it on the chiropractors where it should be anyway. These doctors go through extensive training and education and regulation in order to provide this service. Watching how much this therapy has helped our two dogs, it makes me sad that so many animals live in pain, unnecessarily, because they cannot get the medical help that they need. Because they feel so much better, our dogs love their chiropractor. In fact, our large dog insists on going with us when our small dog has an appointment. The chiropractor is one of her favorite people. I hope that the committee will consider this bill as a way to help animals in need.

Sally -- 4 yr old, 110# Pyrenees/Anatolian Shepherd mix, Goes for maintenance for overall health and well-being and to stay on top of common place large breed orthopedic issues  
Delilah -- 6 yr old, 4# Chihuahua, Has bilateral luxating patellas and is recovering from a back injury

Tammy Mattson, Dr  
Self  
Converse, TX

Veterinarians are in short supply, they are short staffed and have no need to add another task to their schedule. Chiropractic veterinarians have many more specialized hours of training dealing with joint and vertebral anomalies not to mention more training in xray diagnostics. Chiro's serve a much needed purpose for canine athletes such as mine without the need for pushing medicines.

Paula Stoll  
Self  
San Antonio, TX

Regulating Vet Chiropractic.

Ronald Hernandez DC DACBSP DACRB CSCS CCSP CKTP  
Chiropractor  
Bee Cave, TX

I support this bill.

Tammy Montgomery  
Self  
Liberty Hill, TX

I would like to be able to take my pups to the chiropractor without spending extra money to go to the vet too.

Kara skinner  
Self  
San Antonio, TX

Remove the requirement to see vet before chiropractic care. This is hugely limiting the ability to get care for animals. Vets are overloaded and chiros do great work for animals. This is over regulatory.

Kari Mendoza  
See Elf  
Justin, TX

Pass

Alisha Turner  
Dancing Needle Embroidery  
Rowlett, TX

The veterinarians all want to default to their "Gold Star Standard" of sending a dog to its heart-breaking death or \$10,000+ back surgery plus a painful rehabilitation. We all know that you don't have to do knee-jerk surgery and/or pharmaceuticals to get the results needed. As a responsible pet owner \*I\* should have the right to say what happens to MY dog. If I want my dog to have chiropractic care, that should be MY responsibility and business. What do we do with people who refuse to do anything at all? Nothing. I am able to take my child to a chiropractor when necessary. I do not have to have her doctor's permission. The veterinarians' limited experience with chiropractic care and their refusal to accept this as another alternative needs to be taken out of their control. I believe that veterinarians are afraid of losing money and therefore will not open the gates for other alternative proven healing methods. Please make sure that this law gets addressed properly giving pet owners the freedom to choose how we take care of our pets.

I have a dachshund that was given to my child by her father who has recently passed. The dog is three years old now. She injured herself and the vet REFUSED to give me the permission needed for chiropractic care. I fired that vet and removed all of my records from their office because they "don't believe in chiropractic care." The veterinarian believes that we must eradicate the world of chiropractic care because a certain veterinarian does not believe in it. Yet, she was happy to put down my beautiful dog and break my child's heart. This is when I did my research to find a vet that was a chiropractor. My dog has gone from not being able to use her back legs to running around like a puppy again. This has been an amazing transformation to watch. It has also made a believer out of my mother who thinks that chiropractic care is silly.

I am telling everyone that I know about this situation, including you. The unnecessary money spent on back surgery and rehab, and the unnecessary euthanasia of pets because the owner cannot afford the "Gold Star Standard" needs to stop. This is abuse by veterinarians not getting their way.

Jeff Hess  
Self  
Gainesville, TX

Allowing direct access to animal chiropractic services lowers the liability for vets and allows easier access (lowers cost financially and physically) for the animal and pet/livestock owner

Karen Cook  
Myself  
Carrollton, TX

The need to have a regular vet say it is okay for your dog is time consuming and not necessary. The only person who benefits is the regular vet as they get paid for a visit just to sign the paper. They do no testing or checking the pet while there. It is an archaic rule. If I want my dog to have the same level of care as I could have, it should not have this kind of restriction on the chiropractor who has attended school and been certified. Please do away with this rule.

Tingley CYNTHIA  
Equine Chiropractic  
Paradise, TX

My Chiropractor is very knowledgeable and well educated. I do not feel she needs to be under the care of a licensed vet. The education and training and post doctrine training she has accomplished is sufficient to my standards and should be by law.

Shelby Trudeau  
Self  
Ravenna, TX

Animal chiropractic has been life saving for my horses. It is unnecessary to involve a vet in the process and a vet does not replace my chiropractor.

Raymond Hames, Dr  
AVCA certified Chiropractor  
Athens, TX

Would greatly like to see this passed for all certified chiropractors

Michael Drivdahl, Engineer  
Self Firefighter  
Willow Park, TX

I am in support of this bill.

Lorraine Richards  
Self  
San Antonio, TX

I should not need a vet to decide if a chiropractic vet can do his job!

Daniel Smith  
Self  
Azle, TX  
XL

Jamele Medina  
Self - Risk Manager  
Dallas, TX

I have used a veterinary chiropractor for two of my dogs now and I cannot express enough the benefits that each dog experienced in pain relief and extension of their life. I am a firm believer in this treatment for animals and would only use those certified in this practice. With my recent dog, I had a tough time getting the referral form signed and ended up having to switch vets in order to get the form signed so that he could receive chiropractic care, all the while he was suffering. He is a 10 year old, 88 lb husky that I rescued 4 months ago, and was abused and neglected for years by prior owners. As a result he has severe arthritis that could have been slowed if basic care was given, along with other injuries related to the abuse. After only two chiropractic treatments I have seen significant improvement in how he feels and walks, and his nature is overall happier. I cannot say enough about animal chiropractic and wished he could have been treated as soon as I obtained him rather than have had to spend months trying to get a referral form signed. Thank you, Jamele Medina

Carrie Johnson  
Self  
Taylor, TX

As a client of chiropractic services, I value the freedom to visit my chiropractor without seeing my general physician to get a referral. As a dog owner, that same freedom is important to me with regard to my pet's needs. I should be able to visit a chiropractor that treats animals without jumping through hoops to get approval from a veterinarian. Carrie Johnson

Caroline Kirkpatrick  
Self, Future animal Chiropractor  
Argyle, TX

I am in chiropractic school right now. I am a barrel racer, and have been riding horses since I could walk. I college rodeoed, high school rodeoed, and still barrel race today. I can confidently say that my horses would not have been successful without the help of my equine chiropractor. She has made a world of difference for my horses and has kept them happy, healthy and competitive for the past 10 years. She is the biggest reason I wanted to be an animal chiropractor myself, it is my dream to work on horses full time. I do not want to move out of Texas, this is my home and where my family is. However, animal chiropractors are limited in what they can do having to go through a veterinarian every time they want to adjust an animal. It would mean the world to me and every animal chiropractor in Texas if this law was changed.

Mary Warren, Dr.  
Vital Force Wellness, PA  
Dallas, TX

Make it easier and less expensive for clients to provide care for animals without DVM referrals. DC's with Animal Chiropractic training can provide good care.

Jacqueline Doval-Everson, Dr.  
Texas Animal Wellness Center  
Houston, TX

I am the first certified animal chiropractor by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) in the state of Texas. This is an over 200 hrs plus 30 continuing credits required in order to maintain my certification. In my 30 years of practice, I have encountered clients who sought chiropractic for their pet and their request was denied by the treating veterinarian. The denial wasn't because there were contraindications but because the veterinarian "didn't believe in chiropractic"! Other reasons is that the way the bill is written the veterinarian is ultimately legally responsible for the animal chiropractor's actions. The current law does not give the client the right to choose to go to a non-veterinarian who is duly qualified and certified to practice animal chiropractic. The current law is also a financial burden on the client because they have to pay for an office visit that may or may not end in an appropriate referral for chiropractic. For these reasons I ask for you to vote in favor of HB 3397.

Respectfully,  
Jacqueline Doval  
DocJackie

Rachel Ramesar, DVM

Self, Veterinarian

Belton, TX

I am a Texas veterinarian and TVMA member and I support HB 3397. I have been certified in Animal Chiropractic by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) since 2016. Animal chiropractic care is an invaluable resource to my patients and to their owners. It is a safe and effective treatment in the hands of a trained professional that improves quality of life for so many animals.

As a veterinarian certified in animal chiropractic, I understand the training involved in certification. I have several chiropractor colleagues that are certified but often cannot treat patients because the owner is unable to obtain a referral from a veterinarian. Certified chiropractors are a greatly underused resource for patient well-being in the state of Texas because of the restrictions on care and the liability put onto the referring veterinarian. AVCA or IVCA (International Veterinary Chiropractic Association) certified Chiropractors could be doing so much more to prevent pain and suffering if owners were not required to get a referral from a veterinarian who may have no understanding of what animal chiropractic is, what the benefits are, what training is involved, and are essentially asked to take liability for a treatment they are not involved in.

To be clear, I do NOT support allowing chiropractic care by anyone who has not gone through the rigorous training and certification required by the AVCA or IVCA. There are some dangerous practices being carried out by lay people in the name of animal chiropractic. But I want to remove the burden of liability for the veterinarian who is not trained in or involved in the treatment. I want to give patients better and more timely access to care that can be life saving! Patients should have direct access to care with an IVCA or AVCA certified chiropractor. On more than one occasion chiropractic care that I have performed has prevented euthanasia of a pet. That is an amazing thing!

Although I am a TVMA member, I do not agree with the TVMA position on animal chiropractic care.

Rhonda Parker, Dr.

Heart and Hoof Chiropractic, PLLC and self

Austin, TX

Please support HB 3397. Many animals are suffering as they wait for vet referrals that sometimes never come. Chiropractors that are certified through the AVCA or IVCA are very qualified to adjust animals. Also, vets should not have the burden of responsibility and liability for the referral. With that said, Chiropractors that are not AVCA or IVCA certified, should still be required to get a referral from the vet. I say that because the AVCA and IVCA holds us to a higher standard.

Thank you, in advance for your consideration and support..

Dr. Rhonda Parker, DC, ACN

cAVCA Certified Animal Chiropractor

Autumn Cartier

Self

TX, Richmond, TX

Please pass HB 3397. As a pet owner whose dog has benefited greatly from chiropractic care administered by a non-vet, but who is actually the first certified animal chiropractor by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) in the state of Texas, it is inconceivable that an owner can be denied the right to provide care should the primary vet not "believe" in chiropractic therapies. Additionally, having to pay for one or more highly expensive office visits to a vet simply to get a referral puts an unreasonable financial burden on owners. Likewise, having to only seek chiropractic care from a vet puts the owner in the precarious position of not knowing if the vet has had intensive training in chiropractic adjustments, etc. or simply taken a few seminar courses (or their techs) to add another financial product to their practice. Please support and pass HB3397.

Zachary Shover  
"self" Mechanic  
Farwell, TX

Hi I am Zachary Shover. I have had a dog that needed chiropractic care. Our dog ,Littlebear , had been with us since I was 5 (I was 19 when he passed). He was there for more than half my life and was my best friend. As he got to his older years he started to have trouble waking and was hardly moving. We herd about chiropractor's from a family friend and thought we should give it a try for our dog. After the first visit to one we could tell immediately how much it helped him! He moved around and for the first time in 5-6 years he was playing and running around. He needed the care so he could enjoy the last years of his life and I believe if he didn't get it he would have passed away much sooner. Chiropractic care is an essential to animal care! If a vet now about it they should be able to refer patients to local chiropractors with no liability to the vet. I believe that this bill would be able to help so many animals with pain and help so many people with seeing the relief of their pet or livestock. Thank you for your time.

Dean Shover  
My self  
Farwell, TX

I am in favor of this bill it will make it easier for animal to receive care they need in a timidly manner and at an affordable price. We had a dog that had treatment and didn't need the extra steps for what he really needed

Michelle Shover  
Self receptionist  
Farwell, TX

I support this bill! We have had several animals that have benefited significantly from the chiropractic care!

Gail Volkmann  
Self  
Houston, TX

I am for this! I have used a wonderful vet chiropractor for many of my pets with great results!

Mindy A. Cherkin  
N/A  
Allen, TX

Relating to the regulation of veterinary chiropractic.

Linda Halpern  
self, retired attorney and current dog sport competitor  
Liberty Hill, TX

As someone who competes in a variety of dog sports (agility, scent work, Rally), I urge Representatives to support HB 3397. Under current law, the only way a dog owner can take his animal for chiropractic care (something that is routine in the dog agility community), is by first obtaining a referral from a veterinarian. Moreover, the "referring" veterinarian is required to sign a form stating that he/she will be supervising the chiropractor and setting forth the standard of care. Predictably, veterinarians, fearful of assuming liability for another practitioner's care, typically refuse to sign the referral forms.

I have direct experience with the problems HB 3397 addresses. My own (excellent) vet would not sign the permission forms for my canine chiropractor because she was unwilling "to risk her reputation" by assuming responsibility for a practitioner she did not know. As a retired civil litigation attorney, I could well appreciate her reluctance. I would not want to assume liability for another attorney's work, either. Nevertheless, the result was that I had waste time and money "forum shopping" in an attempt to find a veterinarian to perform an unnecessary examination of my healthy canine athlete so that a 'patient relationship' could be established and the dictates of the mandatory referral form satisfied. During my first such attempt, at the conclusion of the examination the vet in question likewise refused to sign the supervisory form, despite expressing support for the role of chiropractic in circumstances like mine. He, too, was intimidated by the threat of liability implicit in the mandatory referral form language.

Ironically, the vets who ultimately did sign the forms for me (I've had to do this twice for different dogs), were both board certified surgeons (Diplomate ACVS) who specialized in orthopedic surgery and were also certified in canine rehabilitation. Thus, the vets most familiar with the types of conditions/athletic demands experienced by performance dogs were willing to sign the forms, because they know chiropractic care for dog athletes, aging dogs, or dogs requiring rehab is worthwhile.

This physician "referral and supervision" roadblock does not exist when humans seek chiropractic care (or, for that matter, any other sort of specialist care), and is equally ridiculous for humans seeking licensed certified chiropractic care for their animals. As a consumer, I want the freedom to make my own choices regarding care for my animals. HB 3397 would eliminate the requirement for a vet referral for chiropractors certified by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association. In short, it would simply do for dogs what is already the norm for humans.

Glenn Braudt  
Self/contractor  
Amarillo, TX  
Please support this bill

Ranna Perdue  
Self  
Santo, TX  
In support of

Barbara Robertson  
Self  
Willis, TX

Allow certified animal chiropractors to provide services to clients' pets without requiring veterinary approval.

Ali Christie  
Self  
Wichita Falls, TX

I support allowing licensed animal chiropractors direct access to animal patients in the State of Texas.

Rebecca McGill, Dr.  
Self-Doctor of Chiropractic  
Fort Worth, TX

Doctors of chiropractic are NOT body workers and we are NOT specialized technicians. We ARE licensed health professionals with a graduate-level doctorate degree that requires the same amount of hours and rigorous study to complete as a medical doctor or veterinarian degree.

In order to become certified beyond that to work on animals, we devote ourselves to more than 200 hours of post-graduate study, a very intense written and desperate hands on practical board exam, which many applicants will fail on their first attempt, and maintain our certification through required continuing education. This study includes many hours of focus in differential diagnosis of veterinary conditions which prepare animal chiropractors to be readily capable and able to correctly discern a medical necessity from a chiropractic necessity in the animals we work on.

To allow a professional this highly trained and specialized the latitude to have direct access to animals in need is just good business for Texas. It gives Texas animals, and their owners, the opportunity to receive timely and cost-effective chiropractic care for their animals without the added time and money required to see their veterinarian to approve a type of care he or she is not trained in and commonly has little to know working understanding of. It also removes unnecessary liability from the DVM and more appropriately places it on the practitioner providing care.

No one is safer, more prepared or more experienced to handle the rapidly accelerating demand for animal chiropractic than the veterinarians AND chiropractors trained and board-certified in animal Chiropractic from the AVCA and similar certifying bodies.

Alex Castro, Dr.  
Self/ Chiropractor  
Anna, TX

Chiropractors who are certified especially by the AVCA have gone through rigorous efforts in order to effectively and safely deliver safe chiropractic care to animals. Chiropractors are there for the common animals for health and wellness but are also there for animals veterinarians have either given up on or lack the ability to treat! I support this bill for ONE reason. For the animals!

Jared Morgan, Correction Officer  
Self  
Canyon, TX

Having witness the Current process that which can delay or even prevent treatment from occurring due to the multiple stages to get from step 1 to step 2. Secondly the amount of financial burden on the Owner of animal is unfathomable.

Erin Singleton  
self/licensed massage therapist  
Garland, TX

I believe if a person's training has already been deemed adequate to legally perform chiropractic care on an animal then they do not also need a referral. If the state believes the requirements to legally perform chiropractic care on an animal are not high enough on their own then that is a separate issue. Either someone is qualified to assess and treat an animal in their modality or they are not. A veterinary referral shouldn't be necessary in the same way that it's not necessary for human chiropractic. My pet has benefitted greatly from chiropractic care and they were able to assess and treat issues that my (very qualified and exemplary) veterinarians were not.

Deborah Stull

Self Electrician/dog groomer

Bovina, TX

I have horses, and dogs and their care is my responsibility. I can seek chiropractic care for myself without a physician referral, so why do we need a veterinary referral for our pets. Over the years my dogs and horses have benefited from chiropractic care, and I know best what my animals needs are.

WILLIAM BRAUDT

Self: Human and animal chiropractor

CANYON, TX

Texas is a property state. As the owner of my animals I should be allowed to seek out qualified care for those animals without a referral from a veterinarian. Ultimately, the responsibility of my animals care falls on my shoulders and that includes which veterinarian I choose. If I choose an animal chiropractor, that decision falls squarely on my shoulders. In order for an animal chiropractor to be certified, they must first be a licensed DVM of DC (Doctor of Chiropractic) which means they have both passed rigorous undergrad and graduate coursework; then they must take and complete an accredited animal chiropractic program which involves over 200 hours of extra coursework, written and practical exams; then they must pass a national exam that includes both a written and practical exam. Upon completion of animal chiropractic certification, each animal chiropractor must take at least 30 hours of continuing education each three years to maintain their certification.

Currently, Texas law requires a licensed veterinarian in the state to approve animal chiropractic to be provided by an animal chiropractor. No veterinarian school includes animal chiropractic in their curriculum. The current statute is requiring DVMs to make a decision about care that they have no training. Additionally, when the vet approves animal chiropractic care they are still liable for the treatment. This is asinine at best. When my PCP refers me to a specialist, the specialist carries the liability. It should be no different for animals. I carry liability insurance for my animal chiropractic patients.

Approximately, 50% of my animal clients either can't get a referral for much needed care or they are significantly delayed which causes needless suffering by the animal and the animal owner. Passage of this bill will allow easier access and result in improved animal outcomes.

Please support HB 3397.

Cheryl Ruane

Self/domestic engineer

Allen, TX

My dogs have been getting chiropractic care for years. If not for my veterinarian chiropractor, my dog would have had to be put down.

Christopher Cummings, Dr.

Self, Chiropractor

Dallas, TX

Please support this bill.

Cesar Reyes

Self

Garland, TX

I support this bill

Brooke Akin  
Self  
Terrell, TX  
Agree

Tim Payne, D.C.  
Rockwall Chiropractic  
Rockwall, TX

I support this bill

Charlsey Ewald  
Self/business advisor  
Haslet, TX

I support HB 3397

Marvin Hartman  
Self rancher  
Umbarger, TX

I think people should. Be able to have their pets or livestock treated by chiropractic without a vet referral because I feel it's an overreach by the government. I also believe there are probably some veterinarians that would not refer an animal to a chiropractor because they don't believe in chiropractic healing just like some medical doctors don't believe that they help people.

Jayme Chesnut  
Animal Chiropractic Care  
Amarillo, TX

To whom it may concern,  
I am here to stand for the right for myself to seek care for my animals without the need of a referral. I think animal owners should be able to seek the care they think they need for their animals without the hassle of going to a vet. It's no different from humans being able to seek alternative care without seeing their primary doctor first. If a chiropractor has gone through the correct training to adjust animals I don't feel like it's necessary to seek treatment from a vet first. The chiropractors roll is different from a veterinary's roll. I have personally seen animals do a complete turnaround in their daily living after seeing a chiropractor. The animal body system really isn't much different than humans, just as we as humans benefit from chiropractic care, animals do as well. More animals would get the benefit of a chiropractor if we as animals owners didn't have to jump through the hoops of going to a veterinarian first.

Karen Hansard  
Self  
Friona, TX

We live in a small town with one Vet so to get in for a referral visit it hard and time consuming. I work for a Chiropractor and me and my family all come just adjusted. My family human and pet.

Darla McLean  
Self  
Amarillo, TX

I believe animal owners should be able to seek alternative care for their animals without vet approval just like we humans are able to seek alternative care for ourselves without a medical doctor approval. I support HB 3397.

Austin Schlenker

Self

Bovina, TX

My vet does not do referrals. My dog is my pet I decide who sees my pet. And I do not agree that I can not decide were my friend goes and I can not get him the care he needs because my Vet says no. So st the moment I have no Vet. He is not doing the best for me and my dog so we are in search for someone that will.

Shelley Winsworth

Self

Wimberley, TX

We have used chiropractic services for our sport dogs for many years. It has been invaluable for healthy maintenance and problem correction. It would be wonderful to be able to get this service without a vet referral, especially when at a dog sporting event. There have been times when we have liked to do this, but unable to get a vet referral at the last minute.

Shannon Ross

self

Cleveland, TX

My name is Shannon Ross of Cleveland, TX and I am in support of HB3397.

Chelsea Williams

Self/Chiropractic assistant

ROCKWALL, TX

I support this bill.

Lynsie Cleavinger, Mrs.

Self speech pathologist

Friona, TX

Chiropractic care for our show steers is essential for health and maintenance of structure throughout the year. We would not be able to succeed without the help of Mindy Neal and staff.

Sara Oneal  
In Stride Chiropractic  
Plano, TX

I support that any person performing animal chiropractic must first be a licensed chiropractor or veterinarian in good standing in their profession.

I further support that a licensed chiropractor with additional and advanced training (such as the certification from the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association) should NOT require a veterinary referral prior to treating an animal patient as these individuals have already been screened by the board and have been qualified to work on animals safely and effectively.

(I still believe the veterinary referral process is warranted and is a reasonable practice to maintain should a licensed chiropractor not have this training.)

I also substantiate and support that this would make animal chiropractic UNLAWFUL to anyone without an active chiropractic or veterinary license. Our animals deserve the same standard of care as any other chiropractic patient and I believe it is in everyone's better interest to modernize this animal chiropractic law in Texas.

Lynsie Cleavinger  
Animal Chiropractic  
Friona, TX

I believe in animal chiropractic. It is vital for the health of our show steers. We do this to help with their growth and development so they can be shown by our children. We attend shows once a month. Our animals and kids are growing and learning together. We need to continue these services without having a referral from a veterinarian. This would delay the proper treatment of our show steers.

Mollie Mitchell  
self  
Canyon, TX

I support open access by CERTIFIED chiropractic for animals. Having to get referrals for any care, whether animal or human is difficult and mostly results in no care at all.

Maureen IMUS I, Cosmetologist  
Animal chiropractic  
Fort Worth, TX

I believe I should be able to make the decision of who I take my animal to a veterinarian or a chiropractic center. I don't need big government involved with my pets.

Kody Swenson  
Animal Chiropractors of Texas  
Round Rock, TX

My dog has been under consistent chiropractic care for the past 3 years as his health is the most important. I have witnessed dogs that are not mobile because of some sort of damage and started chiropractic and are now walking because of it. It should not be this hard to see an animal chiropractor.

Laura Yeh  
Self. Entrepreneur  
Southlake, TX

We support the idea of qualified and licensed animal chiropractors being able to provide their services without the oversight and paperwork of a vet. We moved to Texas from St. Louis a little over a year and a half ago where our elderly dog had chiropractic care that has helped keep him mobile and more comfortable in his golden years as well as reducing the amount of pain medication we have to give him. (Overmedication is a problem that concerns us as we don't believe it is good for health). In Missouri, we had the ability to choose the healthcare we thought would be most helpful to our dog. In Texas, we had to have a vet sign off on it and give us permission which felt surprising to us given how important freedom is in Texas. We had been referred to an excellent animal chiropractor by our previous one but had to scramble (in the midst of trying to move across country as well move my husband's warehouse and business here) to find a vet quickly so as not to interrupt our dog's care, particularly since the move was a stressful and hard experience for an old dog. As our dog's owners who know him best, we feel that it is right for us to be able to choose the care that will best help him without having to get permission from a vet, in our case, one that was brand new to our dog and didn't even know him. We have been most grateful for the chiropractic care we have had for our dog as we have found it extremely helpful in keeping him able to go for walks, get up and down, and able to walk without us having to hold him up. Fortunately, we found a vet willing to sign off on it although we had to change vets a couple of times before we found one that would be a good fit for our dog. But many dog owners cannot find a vet willing to do that. Instead they may go to unscrupulous and unqualified chiropractors who do not follow the rules instead of the very good ones who are careful to follow all the rules and have all the needed qualifications and licenses or they don't get chiropractic care at all and have to overmedicate, have unneeded and dangerous surgeries for older pets, or worse yet, put their pets down. The current law is not working. It needs to change so that people can access chiropractic care for their loved pets from providers who are properly licensed and will provide safe and effective care. We need more options than just taking more drugs to manage health issues and people have a right to make their own choices about this since it is a private family matter and not a state matter. Chiropractors certainly must be qualified and be licensed to work on pets, but if the laws can regulate that by ensuring that chiropractic care is offered by qualified chiropractors through state licensing requirements instead of making it difficult to get chiropractic care at all, that would be more effective and help more pets.

Faith Gutman  
Self  
Round rock, TX

My animals were greatly affected by chiropractors in the best way

Sara Bulic  
Self  
Magnolia, TX

My animals see a chiro and need this badly. Thank you!

Amy Jenkins  
Self  
Lantana, TX

I support not needing a vet signature to see chiropractor. Dr lackey is very skilled and knowledgeable and I think everyone should have access and I her services without a vet signature. She has made a huge difference with my dog.

William Braudt Jr  
Self  
Canyon, TX

This bill is just common sense to the many west Texans who love and care for animals. Please support this legislation.

Geoffrey Thompson, Mr.  
Chiropractor patient/ Cat Daddy  
Humble, TX

Our chiropractor is a miracle worker for our little four-legged family members. She's extremely gentle and very intuitive with following the animals lead but still providing the necessary care to improve movement and overall wellness and happiness for our cats. Her adjustments have been very positive for our cats past trauma. We always get rescue cats and try to give them the best home possible. Dr. Baker is a key component for us and our cats.

Dr. Baker is truly a gifted, competent practitioner in the human and animal chiropractic profession. She is committed to being a lifelong learner and advocate for the best possible health for all of her patients.

Any legislation that will provide opportunities for her to help others through her care, I support wholeheartedly. You should too.

Karen Guenther  
Self, Retired, Pet Parent  
Lewisville, TX

Allowing animal chiropractors to practice without the oversight of a vet should parallel allowing people chiropractors to practice without the oversight of a physician.

Three years ago our dog was in a lot of pain and had difficulty getting up and walking. At the time he was just six years old. After several trips to the vet including one who specializes in pain management it was determined he had blown out both of his knees. We were facing surgery on both hind legs, stem cell therapy, or rehab (which included chiropractic care). We opted for the stem cell despite the extreme cost. Almost three months after the stem cell surgery and weekly rehab he was better but not where we would have liked for him to be.

As luck would have it an animal chiropractor was entering a relationship with our regular vet. We started seeing her and within just a few weeks saw marked improvement. We have continued to see her on a monthly basis and he is thrilled to see her each and every time. Without her we would not have the happy, active dog we have today.

These professionals deserve to be regarded as such and should be allowed to practice as long as they have the credentials to do so. Having direct access to such a professional will limit the costs of seeking such treatment. We were in a situation where both the regular vet and the pain specialist recommended seeking help from an animal chiropractor - many people do not have the same relationship with a vet who supports such treatment. These people incur the additional expense of working with an additional vet to have access to this life altering treatment.

As treatments evolve, so must the thinking and regulations of access to veterinary chiropractic care. Please allow them the professional courtesy of being treated as the professionals they are.

Jon Braudt  
Self  
Amarillo, TX

Please support this bill!

Deborah Kandoll Wilson

Self/Retired

Hurst, TX

Since 2010, I have witnessed chiropractic do amazing things for dogs of all ages in need. I used to run an organization that homed and rehomed retired military working dogs. These dogs had all kinds of joint and spinal issues due to their military service. I witnessed first hand the miraculous benefits of chiropractic on these K-9 heroes. Fast forward to now raising our personal Dobermans for agility and witnessing the quality of life they enjoy after a chiropractic adjustment is so gratifying. I do know, while I CAN afford to pay for the chiropractic adjustments...I could NOT afford a vet referral on top of chiropractic costs. PLEASE allow caring dog owners the means of easily accessing qualified animal chiropractic care without a vet referral! Thank you!

Scott Standridge

Self

Burleson, TX

Limiting a medical professional ability by regulation hurts patients more than helps whether it be for animals or humans. Chiropractors for humans don't have these regulations strangling them so why do chiropractors for animals?

Shala Reed

Self/Cental Supply

Friona, TX

I believe Animal Chiropractic is very beneficial for all animal. I have an older dog that has hip issues and took her to our local Animal Chiropractor. There was no need to take her to the vet because it was evident that she needed an adjustment.

Kelsi Campling

Self/chiropractic assistant

WYLIE, TX

I am in support of this bill!

Kortnie Braudt

Self

Canyon, TX

As a pet owner I fully support this Bill. My pets belong to me. I should be able to take my pet to the animal chiropractor, who is fully trained having gone through many hours of schooling and is nationally certified, without written consent from my veterinarian. We as humans do not need to have written consent from our medical doctor to go see a chiropractor, and the same should be true for our animals. Please vote in support of this Bill.

Megan Forbes

Self

Cedar park, TX

Let animal chiropractors have their rights. They are just as knowledgeable in animal health and science as their colleagues who treat our furry friends!

Kathryn Fagan, Dr.

Impact Medical and Chiropractic

Fort Worth, TX

I am a chiropractor who is certified by the AVCA. I would love for this bill to pass!

Gabrielle Pagano, Dr.

myself

Denton, TX

As a current dues paying DVM member of TVMA I am writing in full support of HB 3397. I am a small animal veterinarian practicing in Denton, TX and have both personally and professionally experienced the positive therapeutic effects of veterinary chiropractic work performed by an AVCA certified DC. I work closely with this DC who was trained at Parker University in Dallas and she even taught in the program for a while. Her knowledge base of the musculoskeletal system and techniques to manipulate it safely for positive benefit trumps my knowledge base from veterinary school by leaps and bounds. TVMA does not represent me when it comes to their stance on HB 3397 and I urge you to listen to us veterinarians out here practicing in the field at present. We need these AVCA or IVCA certified chiropractors to have direct access to their prospective animal patients; we as general practitioners are drowning in the number of pets we try to see every day, the need for animal chiropractors will never be fulfilled by DVMs alone we need the certified DCs help.

Natalie Hair

Gold Buckle Chiropractic- Animal Chiropractic

Collinsville, TX

"I am contacting you in support of changes to Texas's laws regarding animal chiropractic (please reference bill HB 3397). Currently, Texas law requires a veterinary referral / supervision for a non-veterinarian to provide animal chiropractic services.

This law inadvertently causes 3 different kinds of harm:

- 1) It causes undue animal suffering, as an animal may have to wait on a vet appointment or a veterinary triage process.
- 2) It infringes on an animal owner's property rights / could cause undue financial stress.
- 3) It causes undue liability concerns for a referring veterinarian (as many vets currently withhold or refuse to write a referral since they could be held responsible for animal chiropractic services that they themselves do not understand and/or did not provide.)

I support that any person performing animal chiropractic must first be a licensed chiropractor or veterinarian in good standing in their profession.

I further support that a licensed chiropractor with additional and advanced training (such as the certification from the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association) should NOT require a veterinary referral prior to treating an animal patient as these individuals have already been screened by the board and have been qualified to work on animals safely and effectively.

(I still believe the veterinary referral process is warranted and is a reasonable practice to maintain should a licensed chiropractor not have this training.)

I also substantiate and support that this would make animal chiropractic UNLAWFUL to anyone without an active chiropractic or veterinary license. Our animals deserve the same standard of care as any other chiropractic patient and I believe it is in everyone's better interest to modernize this animal chiropractic law in Texas."

Dr. Natalie Hair, Chiropractor, 903-327-9499, 969 CR 203, Collinsville, TX 76233  
3/27/23

Kyle Rutkowski

self

Ponder, TX

I have been getting my dog treated and cared for by chiropractors certified by the AVCA and it has helped her mobility in the past and continues to help her as she ages with her hip dysplasia.

Lyndsey Sleeman  
Impact Medical and Chiropractic  
Boyd, TX

Chiropractors trained in animal chiro alongside DVMs should be free to treat animal patients at their discretion without a veterinary referral.

Courtney Ward, Dr.  
Self, Physical Therapist  
Justin, TX

Chiropractors, being the leading experts on spinal adjustments and manipulation, should be able to determine the need for these services separate from a veterinarian and animals and owners would benefit from direct care.

Brookelynn Mele, Doctor of Chiropractic  
Self  
Fort Worth, TX

Chiropractors spend a great deal of time training and preparing to be able to provide a quality adjustment/manipulation to animals. While input from veterinaries is always appreciated I do not feel that chiropractors should be required to obtain a referral in order to treat animals in their specialized field. Especially when many veterinarians are unfamiliar with the specifics of chiropractic and how it can benefit many conditions found in animals.

Katelyn Wilson, DC student  
Parker University  
Krum, TX

Drop a card

Stefanie Kincaid, Dr  
Platform chiropractic  
Sachse, TX

animal chiro so we dont need a referral

Brandi Moan, Mrs.  
Self  
Rhome, TX

I support this bill!

Tara Wisdom  
Animal Chiropractic  
Fort Worth, TX

Allow direct access to Chiropractic care for animals when performed by a Certified Professional whose license is in good standing.

Dale White III  
Self life insurance agent  
Richland Hills, TX

Referral from a vet is not good. A vet is not a chiropractor nor do they know if chiropractic could benefit an animal. Chiropractic is not the focus of their education nor is it part of their normal practice. That would be like me trying to tell a medical doctor what to do for a diabetic patient because diabetes affects ratings on life insurance policies.

Kayelen Helton  
Self  
Stephenville, TX  
Supportive of this bill

Alexander Franklin  
Self  
Umbarger, TX

I support HB 3397 because it gives me the right to seek care for my animals without the need for a referral

Brad Fails  
Self  
Graham, TX  
Pro

Vicki Line  
Self  
Dallas, TX

I completely support this bill. It would be so helpful to pet and livestock owners!

Gideon Traweek, Dr.  
CHIROPLUS NORTH  
Fort Worth, TX  
In support of

Mirna Sellers  
Self  
Mansfield, TX

I support this bill

Jocelyn Allen  
Self  
Justin, TX

All chiropractors who are fully trained and certified by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) should be allowed to perform chiropractic services on animals without a veterinary referral.

Stephanie Janiak, Dr  
Self  
Fort Worth, TX

This bill will allow licensed and certified in animal chiropractic to practice autonomously, it will reduce cost of treatment and increase effectiveness, inducing no harm to the animal or public. I support this bill.

Emily Puente  
Bridge Family Chiropractic  
Mansfield, TX

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I also substantiate and support that this would make animal chiropractic UNLAWFUL to anyone without an active chiropractic or veterinary license. Our animals deserve the same standard of care as any other chiropractic patient and I believe it is in everyone's better interest to modernize this animal chiropractic law in Texas.

Emily Puente, 300 Wedgewood Dr. Mansfield, TX 76063

Matt Chalmers, Dr  
Chalmers wellness  
Frisco, TX

Chiropractors should be able to see animals without getting referrals from medical veterinarians. Medical veterinarians are not trained in adjusting and people do not need to pay extra just to get their animals the care they need. This will add extra time and cost to pet owners that is unneeded.

Ericka Lowery  
Jessica Judge  
Decatur, TX

Chiropractors should have direct access to animals in need without needing a referral from a veterinarian!

Jason Huddleston  
self  
Perryton, TX

As an insurance agent for 25 years and a dog owner for 50, I have a strong opinion of how people hate to stand in line, ask permission, and pay money just to get a referral to the place we should directly have access. Animals are having to wait for care. Let's stop this referral process. I feel my dog needs to go directly to my pet chiropractor and not just take pain meds from a vet. I should be able to make that choice, just like I can with my own personal health insurance. My physician can't put my skeleton back in order for my health. I choose to be cared for by a chiropractor and don't need a referral. I have already had to take my dog to a vet and pay fees before going to the pet chiropractor. We don't have enough vets to even jump through this hoop and I am adding to a heavy patient load for a small-town vet. I am asking for my vet to give an opinion in an area that he isn't trained to treat. Sure, he can see symptoms and give a shot or pill for pain. I would rather start with my dog's chiropractor for this . . . first. This is the most economical way for me, the owner of a dog.

Laurie Gray  
Gray Veterinary Services, LLC  
Trenton, TX

I highly recommend the Animal Chiropractor be respected for their education (Chiropractor + hours of animal specialty) and allowed to practice on their own with their own insurance and NOT under the supervision of a veterinarian specifically. Similar to what happens in human medicine. Thank you

Stephen Sanders  
Self- Chiropractor  
Fort Worth, TX

Please support this bill

James Judge, Mr  
Self  
Justin, TX

I support qualified chiropractors to adjust animals.

Virginia Vickers  
Self  
Cypress, TX

Support of HB 3397. Having access to chiropractic care for our livestock and equines has made a large difference for our operations. Animals that were previously unsound for exhibition or racing have now made great recoveries with the help of our chiropractor Dr. Lauren Baker and our vet Dr Jordan. These animals without their help likely would've been sold at a severe financial and genetic loss, in addition to no longer being able to contribute valuable genetic diversity to the breed's population. With access to the benefits of care we have been able to add significantly higher quality seed stock to our herds and maintain pinnacle producers for longer.

Stevanna Tyler  
Self  
Justin, TX

Please pass this bill so the animals can get the care they need

Patricia Berkley  
Self - retired  
Justin, TX

Please pass this bill to change the current regulations by allowing direct access to chiropractic care for animals by certified licensed professionals in good standing without the need of the required veterinary referral.

Fawna Abel  
Self Emt Advanced  
Houston, TX

I am a great advocate for using my Human Chiropractor to keep my body at 64 in good shape to work and ride my horses. I also love having a horse than compete. They are susceptible to injury either from running around at home and especially competition. We invest a lot of money in our horses. And need to take care of them as well. It is very important to keep their skeletal system working and happy. As a care taker of my horses. It is my job to help them be in good shape to compete. Chiropractic for horses is a huge part of keeping horses moving correctly so as not to need pain killers and such. I use my veterinarian as needed for medical procedures such as blood work, Coggins testing and inoculations. My horse chiropractor is even more important to my horses. I learn from her how to better take care of my horses, by stretching and preparing them for exercise and competition. Thank you for your time. Fawna Lee Abel

Carmen Vasquez

Self

Pearland, TX

Our animals are able to live longer healthier lives due to their continuous chiropractic care.  
Removing or forming more regulations on this would only hinder the health of our beloved animals.

Ruth Lacey, Dr.

self, veterinarian

Wylie, TX

Greetings. My name is Ruth Lacey. I am a licensed veterinarian in the state of Texas and am certified by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association. I support HB 3397.

As a licensed veterinarian practicing animal chiropractic, I hear directly from pet owners of the issue they run into when seeking chiropractic care for their pet. Most of the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) certified professionals in my area (Dallas-Fort Worth) are Doctors of Chiropractic (DCs) and not Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVMs) like myself. The owners are very frustrated that they first have to have their vet's approval / signature for an AVCA certified DC to adjust their pet. And then they often find that their vet is unwilling to sign for an AVCA certified DC to adjust the pet. Thus, the animal suffers longer. And there simply are not enough AVCA certified DVMs like myself to service all pets in need.

There is currently a veterinary shortage and debilitating case load in veterinary medicine. Even if a veterinarian is willing to examine the animal and give signed approval for an AVCA certified DC to adjust the animal, there often is not appointment availability for two weeks or more. You can imagine the degree of frustration for the owner. And what is extremely sad is that the animal is left without a beneficial therapy option and is often suffering.

As a veterinarian, I am the voice of the animal who has no voice. And this much I know – animals are suffering under the current animal chiropractic law. I believe that amending the current law on animal chiropractic in order to allow AVCA certified DCs direct access to perform animal chiropractic can greatly help reduce animal suffering. These AVCA certified DCs have the same training and testing that I received in becoming certified by the AVCA. It is a joint program with both DCs and DVMs.

When I entered the veterinary profession, I made an oath. Within the Veterinarian's Oath I swore to protect animal health and prevent and relieve animal suffering. It is my duty as a veterinarian, in conjunction with my oath, to use my voice for the voiceless and advocate for AVCA certified DCs to have direct access to perform animal chiropractic. This protects animal health by providing an open door to qualified and trained doctors instead of to untrained lay people who are causing harm. This prevents and relieves animal suffering through more rapid and available access to needed chiropractic care. The veterinary profession is evolving, and this warrants change in the current animal chiropractic law.

Sincerely,

Ruth Lacey, DVM, cAVCA

(469) 708-8899

dr.ruthlacey@gmail.com

nosetotailanimalcare.com

Brittany Wood

Chiropractic

Willis, TX

I support HB 3397

Jessica Snyder  
Self  
Montgomery, TX

Chiropractic care has been instrumental in the health of my animals. They had mobility restrictions and pain issues that were instantly reversed!! I whole heartedly support HB 3397.

Emily Wood  
Dr Lauren Baker  
Livingston, TX

I am in Support of HB 3397.

Dana Hollandsworth  
Self, Professor, Chiropractor  
Corinth, TX

I have had my dogs adjusted by veterinarians & chiropractors who teach Animal Chiropractic for several continuing education programs. I am a chiropractor, professor & have done research with an international interdisciplinary team investigating the amount of force produced by a trained veterinarian or chiropractor adjusting dog simulators. I have taught students how to control their adjustive force using this objective feedback forcesensing technology. I have both completed the Animal Chiropractic Continuing Education program at Parker University & helped teach chiropractic & veterinarian participants in the program how to control their force output using this technology. As such, I have qualified experience that allows me to form my personal opinions & suggestions as outlined below, (note that this does not reflect any statement from Parker University or its affiliates). When a chiropractor is properly trained to work with animals, they stand apart from those who are not. I am in support of having a licensing standard, which includes a written & practical examination as well as required continuing education hours, for a chiropractor to see animals without a veterinary referral. A chiropractor is highly trained in the palpation & adjusting skills of humans. With additional approved relevant training in anatomy, biomechanics, common musculoskeletal conditions, & common contraindications (among other topics) in animals, a chiropractor can skillfully apply their training to help restore motion in the spinal & extremity joints of animals. Chiropractic should NEVER replace traditional medical care, for humans or animals. There is always a need for a person to see their medical doctor & for an animal to see their veterinarian. Licensed chiropractors do not need a referral from a medical doctor for people to choose to get chiropractic care for musculoskeletal conditions. It is up to the chiropractor to recognize when a patient should be referred to other providers & when to co-manage a patient's case. The same responsibility could be put on the chiropractor who becomes certified in animal chiropractic. I appreciate the consideration for the pet owners who want to have the right to choose chiropractic care for their animals without the added step of a referral from the veterinarian. Supporting this bill would allow the referral burden to be taken off of the veterinarians in Texas but would still allow the opportunity for collaborative care. It provides owners the same rights in choice of care for their animals that they have for themselves. This could positively impact the veterinary profession in the state of Texas. Thank you for reading my comments. I have a suggested edit to HB 3397; section B(i): (B) a chiropractor licensed in good standing under Chapter 201 & who is: (i) certified in good standing by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, or International Veterinary Chiropractic Association, or the equivalent thereof;

Kathleen Gonzales  
self-retired teacher  
McKinney, TX

I support this bill to eliminate the current required vet permission to have my dog treated by a licensed animal chiropractor. Currently, my husband and I spend quite a bit at the vet as it is. I am trying to prevent Bethany having to have surgery down the road with her bad knees. We saw a remarkable improvement a month or two after we started using a vet chiropractor. Even people at the dog park who were unaware of Bethany getting this treatment remarked how much better she was walking. That confirmed the improvement to me. I find it a waste of our financial resources to have to pay a vet bill every year to continue this service. Please consider a yes to this bill.

Brad Judge  
Animal Chiropractic  
Justin, TX

I believe Animal Chiropractors should not require a veterinary referral.

Charlene Jackson  
Self  
Justin, TX

I support this- I believe In Chiropratic care for animals without restriction from veterinary medicine

Christopher Chiglo, Dr.  
Self and Animal Chiropractic  
Groesbeck, TX

Hello,

My name is Dr. Ty Chiglo, D.C., AVCA. The purpose of this letter is to discuss the importance of this bill being passed for animal chiropractic. In my experience I have not been able to provide care for several animal patients due to Veterinarians not providing a referral for animal chiropractic. I completely understand the stance these rural vets have taken, they simply do not want their license on the line for a service they are not providing. I believe by this bill passing, it will give more access to AVCA or equivalent certified Chiropractors and Veterinarians the ability to provide a necessary service. I am located in a rural area in Texas, and the barrier to entry is far too hard for animal owners here. Most people in the part of Texas do not have access or the ability to get a veterinarian for a referral. I have had to turn several patients away due to the current laws. I do believe that by passing this bill, we will see growth in Animal Chiropractic; as well as the amazing benefits it brings the patients. With the resounding success it's had in Oklahoma, and Arkansas; I believe the impact would be just as great here in Texas. Lastly, by passing this bill, we would ensure that patients are being properly treated because a standard would be set. Time and time again, I have heard of instances where an animal was injured by an "animal chiropractor" who had no formal training. I do believe that by passing this bill, we would see a large step in the right direction for the profession of animal chiropractic. I hope that by passing this bill we can have better access to animal chiropractic as well as remove the liability from the vets. They are overworked as it is, and I do believe this would help ease some of the burdens vets deal with as well. I'm so thankful for our veterinarians as they try their best to get to everyone. However, it's the folks in rural Texas that are getting left in the dust.

Suzanne Dunn, Mrs  
Self/Retired  
Colleyville, TX

All chiropractors who are fully trained and certified by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) should be allowed to perform chiropractic services on animals without a veterinary referral.

Darrell Barnett  
Self  
Springtown, TX

I am for this bill. Giving equine owners access to any treatment or medicine without another doctors blessing isn't right. I'm sure it has been very profitable to those that lobbied for the original bill. Thank you for your service to your constituency and your consideration of my thoughts.

Alexandra Christian

Self

Nazareth, TX

I believe chiropractors without a DVM should be allowed to practice on animals without referral from another DVM. The education requirements certifying chiropractors without a DVM is adequate for said individuals to fill this niche. I believe the veterinary profession should be welcoming of other professions wanting to help animals. I think this is a beautiful way to allow this networking to move in the right direction.

Terry Wilson

Self/ Flight Attendant

Hurst, TX

AVCA qualified chiropractors should be able to treat animals WITHOUT requiring a veterinary referral. The health and welfare of our animals is improved when we do not have to solicit and pay for a veterinary referral to then take our pets to a chiropractor. We, as humans have the right to go to any qualified DC...why are our animals treated as less than ?

Pass this bill!

Dylan LaValleu

Self

Sherman, TX

Hello, chiropractic care has helped both of my dogs dramatically. The process however is too lengthy. Having a vet sign papers to make the choice to get your dog adjusted does not make sense. You don't go to the Dr for you your child to provide them chiropractic care. You just go to the chiropractor. Waiting on the vets to have the time to sign the need papers was time my dogs were having to wait to get relief. Both of my shepherds having struggle with knee pain and back pains. After they have been adjusted you can see the difference in how they walk and carry themselves. The process needs to be updated and improved.

Deedra Wright, Dr

Self/Chiropractor

Abilene, TX

I support the ability of licensed and properly certified Chiropractors to be allowed to provide Chiropractic Care to animals without supervision, direct or indirect, or referral of a Veterinarian.

Nancy Judge, Mrs

Self

Justin, TX

I support this bill to have a certified chiropractor treating my animals without a veterinary referral.

Jon McGill

Self

Fort Worth, TX

There's a real need to modify the rule that properly trained and certified equine and canine chiropractors need to obtain a veterinarians referral before working on horses and dogs in Texas. Not so in other states & a definite impediment to the good work that properly certified animal chiropractors do in the state of Texas

Theresa Milan  
Chiropractic veterinarians  
Gunter, TX

I am contacting you in support of changes to Texas's laws regarding animal chiropractic (please reference bill HB 3397).

Currently, Texas law requires a veterinary referral / supervision for a non-veterinarian to provide animal chiropractic services. This law inadvertently causes 3 different kinds of harm:

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I support that any person performing animal chiropractic must first be a licensed chiropractor or veterinarian in good standing in their profession.

I further support that a licensed chiropractor with additional and advanced training (such as the certification from the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association) should NOT require a veterinary referral prior to treating an animal patient as these individuals have already been screened by the board and have been qualified to work on animals safely and effectively.

(I still believe the veterinary referral process is warranted and is a reasonable practice to maintain should a licensed chiropractor not have this training.)

I also substantiate and support that this would make animal chiropractic UNLAWFUL to anyone without an active chiropractic or veterinary license. Our animals deserve the same standard of care as any other chiropractic patient and I believe it is in everyone's better interest to modernize this animal chiropractic law in Texas.

((Theresa Milan))  
((1/9/64))  
((551 Massey Rd, Gunter, TX75058))  
((03/28/23))

Chris Kreymer, Dr.  
Self  
Rowlett, TX

I support bill HB 3397

Angela Stephens, Dr.  
Animal Care Committee of Texas  
Liberty Hill, TX

I 100% SUPPORT this bill. Chiropractic care is essential and given direct access to humans, why isn't it with animals? Animal chiropractors are highly trained, tested, evaluated, and maintain CEU's to uphold the standards of a licensed individual in Texas. Chiropractic care is essential in animals, but the hoops to get through to have your animal seen can be more damaging to the animals spine health which can lead to permanent damage. If direct access is allowed, then the animal can be evaluated in a timely manner and given the appropriate care or even referral back to the veterinarian for non chiropractic related care. Take the liability and the time constraints off of the veterinarians by passing this bill!

Theresa Hernandez, Family nurse practitioner

Family first functional medicine

Bee cave, TX

Allow. Chiropractic care should not be restricted

Massey Amanda, Dr.

Self

Buda, TX

I support this bill. I am an avca certified animal chiropractor that has been practicing in TX for 8 years. Many of the animals that have come to see me "too late" have permanent nerve damage that could likely have been reversed with chiropractic care during the acute phase of injury (within 48 hours). Delaying care in order to obtain a vet referral is hurting animals. I also carry up to 1 million dollars liability insurance policy for animals. It is not necessary for insured animal chiros to share liability with veterinarians. Thank you!

Marcelle Mcdaniel

Self

Dallas, TX

Please pass this law regarding chiropractic care for our fur babies! My old Maltese has a slipped disk in her neck, she was screaming in pain it was heart wrenching, she was in excruciating pain. I took her to the vet and all they could do was give her pain meds. I asked him what I could do to make sure it doesn't flare up again. His words were haunting, he said, sorry you'll just have to wait until the next time it happens bring her in and we can put a cortisone shot in her neck. I was shocked that he didn't have any other answers for me. I started researching pet chiropractic practices and that's when I found Dr. Lackey. It was a pain and long process to get a vet to write the referral so she could get started on my Madie. I cannot tell you the immediate change in Madies walk the way she slept everything!! It was nothing short of a miracle. Her neck gets sore at times but then Dr Lackey makes her visit and puts everything back in place!!! What an absolute God send!!! I don't know what I would have done if I couldn't have gotten that vet referral finally. We need the referral process in this instance, removed from hindering the help our animals so desperately need. Please sign the bill to help our little furry family members not have to live in pain or be drugged up all the time to live their lives. Thank you for your time. Marcelle McDaniel

Katherine Beard, Dr.

Beard Chiropractic, LLC

Weatherford, TX

I personally support this bill. It will remove a barrier allowing animals to receive care that can drastically improve their quality of life.

Miranda Olson

Self

Sanger, TX

I brought my Corgi mix in for maintenance care due to her age and risk for IVDD. She is almost 8 years old and still plays fetch like a young pup. I then brought my Lab/Pyr mix in for maintenance and found that some of the issues I attributed to allergies were actually pain responses and now I know that when he is showing those symptoms I need to schedule an appointment with the chiropractor. His adjustments have brought a huge relief to him and myself and each time we go he loves it because he knows he'll feel better afterwards.

Dailynn White  
Animal chiropractic  
Windom, TX

Our pets and owners need better access to animal chiropractic options for their pets. There are so many hoops we as parents have to jump through to have our animals seen by a qualified animal chiropractor. Many pet parents do not want to go through those hoops to get their pets help. The vet community has the final say if a pet patient can or cannot be seen, which reduces the options for the pet. This reform needs to happen!!!

Ellen Oliver  
Self  
Rhome, TX

I am in support of being able to choose and have my animals care performed without the need for a veterinary approval. Regulation on chiropractic care only complicates the process and incurs unnecessary cost for the animal owners.

Devra Markwardt  
self  
Midlothian, TX

I support this bill. I have used an animal chiropractors on my dogs and have benefited from an animal chiropractor for over 20 years. Texas is one of the few states that requires a veterinarian referral. Texas needs to look at Oklahoma. Animal chiropractors have to be registered & licensed by the state. You do not call a plumber for something that is electrical. The same is true here, animal chiropractor vs veterinarian. There are animal colleges that these chiropractors have to spend years getting certified. Just like a vet goes to college for animal medicine. An animal chiropractor must have a Bachelors + Doctorate of human chiropractic and 210 hours of animal specific training for a total of 7.5 years of school. how many vets have this education on top of their Veterinary Schooling. Many vets do not have any idea what all is involved in being an animal chiropractor. It once again is two different fields of animal care. Many vets will not sign the referral has they do not want to be responsible for referring you to an animal chiropractor. This is ridiculous has an animal chiropractor must be certified and have insurance, just like the vets. How many veterinarians have been certified as an animal chiropractor or (alternative medicine). Very few are diversified. I do not need a human doctor to give me a referral to a human chiropractor.

**MOST IMPORTANT !!!!!**

Animals (dogs) are concerned personal property in the Texas has an asset. It is my responsibility & law to take care of dogs. The State of Texas is violating my rights to have proper care of my dogs, when I have to have a vet referral to an animal chiropractor. This should be my choice and not a veterinarian. Maybe I should sue the veterinarians that refused to give me a referral that could not treat my dog that could not walk and an animal chiropractor got my dog back walking again.

Once again, the State of Texas needs to implement the same like State of Oklahoma. Have a Board of Licensing for Alternative Medicine for Animals which includes animal chiropractors.

Patrick Berry  
self/business owner  
Round Rock, TX

When I first heard about needing a veterinarian's "permission" to take my dog to a chiropractor, I was incredulous. I didn't believe it was true. I assume that this situation is due to the veterinarians themselves. I can't see any other reason why this is the case. It is an absurdity. There are a lot of animal lovers in Texas and they need to get educated and made aware that this is happening. If HB 3397 does not pass, then I predict a social media barrage outing the veterinarian's that support this. A veterinarian that supports this is not an animal lover and is obviously only in it for the money. These folks need to be losing their jobs. Please pass HB 3397 and bring Texas into the 21st century.

Sam W. Line

Self

Dallas, TX

Best for the animals

Mark Puente

Self/firefighter

Mansfield, TX

I am contacting you in support of changes to Texas's laws regarding animal chiropractic (please reference bill HB 3397). Currently, Texas law requires a veterinary referral / supervision for a non-veterinarian to provide animal chiropractic services. This law inadvertently causes 3 different kinds of harm:

1) It causes undue animal suffering, as an animal may have to wait on a vet appointment or a veterinary triage process.

2) It infringes on an animal owner's property rights / could cause undue financial stress.

3) It causes undue liability concerns for a referring veterinarian (as many vets currently withhold or refuse to write a referral since they could be held responsible for animal chiropractic services that they themselves do not understand and/or did not provide.)

I support that any person performing animal chiropractic must first be a licensed chiropractor or veterinarian in good standing in their profession.

I further support that a licensed chiropractor with additional and advanced training (such as the certification from the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association) should NOT require a veterinary referral prior to treating an animal patient as these individuals have already been screened by the board and have been qualified to work on animals safely and effectively.

(I still believe the veterinary referral process is warranted and is a reasonable practice to maintain should a licensed chiropractor not have this training.)

I also substantiate and support that this would make animal chiropractic UNLAWFUL to anyone without an active chiropractic or veterinary license. Our animals deserve the same standard of care as any other chiropractic patient and I believe it is in everyone's better interest to modernize this animal chiropractic law in Texas.

Brandon Holland

Self, IT specialist

Pflugerville, TX

Please vote this bill into law. I support this legislation.

Amy Fantozzi

Self

Austin, TX

My beloved dog, Eddie, is a large breed dog that unfortunately tore both rear ACL's (knees) before he was two years old. I was able to get my Vet to give us a referral to see a chiropractor, Dr. Angelo Marinakis, who has changed all of our lives for the better.

Eddie went through surgery for both knees but Dr Angelo helped us rehab him regularly to adjust his shoulders and back and hips, where he was carrying his weight in an effort to keep weight off of his painful knees. Eddie is now 8 years old and doing amazingly! Eddie continues to benefit from chiropractic adjustments regularly, which has helped him enormously and I have Angelo's chiropractic to thank.

Please consider HB 3397 and make it easier for us loving pet parents to access this precious help.

Thank you

Amy

Susan Foertsch

Chiropractors treating animals

Crowley, TX

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Ryan Mainey

Sales Transformations, LLC

Irving, TX

I agree and support licensed chiropractors treat animals

Robi Farris

Heel To Heal Dog Training

Seguin, TX

My dog receives chiropractic treatment for a congenital issue in her lower back. The regular application of chiropractic care has allowed my dog to enjoy an active life style and work as a service dog. My dog was unable to find relief for her symptoms even after visiting a multitude of varying vets and rotating through medication recommendations. If I had not taken the first step to branch out to try alternative medication I believe my girl would still be undiagnosed as the vets never provided the option for chiropractic care. Having to receive a referral from a vet, unsuccessful in diagnosing or treating my dog's ailment, only delayed her treatment. Just as people do not need referrals for dog training I believe it is unnecessary for people to need a referral to seek alternative care for their beloved pets. Veterinarians have a base line understanding of behavior and nutrition and then must specialize into a field of medicine just like a human doctor. Relying on someone who may have limited understanding on a subject, such as how the spine affects the nervous system and adjacent parts, would be like listening to a dentist for neurological advice. So it is my firm belief that pet owners should be allowed to seek chiropractic care, of their own accord, with a licensed medical provider.

Megan Tiedtke

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

I support this bill. My pets see a chiropractor and it has helped them immensely.

Andrew Foertsch

HB3397

Grapevine, TX

I am contacting you in support of changes to Texas's laws regarding animal chiropractic (please reference bill HB 3397). Currently, Texas law requires a veterinary referral / supervision for a non-veterinarian to provide animal chiropractic services.

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1) It causes undue animal suffering, as an animal may have to wait on a vet appointment or a veterinary triage process.

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Lori Hill, Dr.

Myself

Denton, TX

I am a doctor of veterinary medicine and I rent space to an animal chiropractor. She does a great service for a large number of our patients. However, as it is now she has to turn away patients if we cannot see them first and our schedule is full. She is a doctor and ALWAYS consults us if there is any question as to the patient's care. We work closely together. I would love to be able to send patients directly to her to see if she can help BEFORE we see them. She is much more knowledgeable on the adjusting process and if she can help a pet. If she cannot she immediately tells clients and refers them back to us. This should be a client's option without coming to us first. Please make this happen!

Amanda Burch

Impact Chiropractic

Newark, TX

I support this bill. A certified and educated chiropractor should not have to be referred by a veterinarian.

Tina Marco

Dr Angelo chiropractor

Pflugerville, TX

My elder cat is mobile, jumping, and climbing now thanks to Dr Angelo aligning her. I choose this method vs overly priced drugs that are a bandaid metaphorically. Please pass HB3396 for our best friends' doctors/chiropractor to holistically fix them.

Thank you

Enrico Fantozzi

Self

AUSTIN, TX

Please make it easier to access vet chiro services

Jen Konrad  
Self  
Leander, TX

I would like to voice my support for this Bill. As a dog trainer competing at the national & international level of my sport, Canine Agility, my dogs receive regular chiropractic care. The trusted chiropractic professionals specializing in canines are highly trained & more knowledgeable in this area of care than my regular vet. I do not feel it's necessary that I should be required to get veterinary approval for them to work on my dogs.

M McDonald  
self/retired  
Rockwall, TX

I am in agreement with the changes requested in support of this bill.

Charles Beard  
Self  
Weatherford, TX

This will help get care to the animal much faster.

Letty McNulty, Owner  
Self  
Liberty Hill, TX

I recently moved here from Maryland & we never had to go through this screening process. What they r making Texans do in order to gain proper chiropractic care for our dogs is barbaric - antiquated - and a ridiculous waste of precious time when we r seeking relief for our canine partners.

Judy Henry, Dr  
self  
Elgin, TX

We are in full support of allowing pet owners to dire tly access certified chiropractic services for their pets without first going through a veterinarian. Removing the interim step will save money for the pet owner and allow the pet to be treated much sooner.

Michael Puente  
Self (retired)  
Fort Worth, TX

I am contacting you in support of changes to Texas's laws regarding animal chiropractic (please reference bill HB 3397). Currently, Texas law requires a veterinary referral / supervision for a non-veterinarian to provide animal chiropractic services.

This law inadvertently causes 3 different kinds of harm:

- 1) It causes undue animal suffering, as an animal may have to wait on a vet appointment or a veterinary triage process.
- 2) It infringes on an animal owner's property rights / could cause undue financial stress.
- 3) It causes undue liability concerns for a referring veterinarian (as many vets currently withhold or refuse to write a referral since they could be held responsible for animal chiropractic services that they themselves do not understand and/or did not provide.)

I support that any person performing animal chiropractic must first be a licensed chiropractor or veterinarian in good standing in their profession.

I further support that a licensed chiropractor with additional and advanced training (such as the certification from the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association) should NOT require a veterinary referral prior to treating an animal patient as these individuals have already been screened by the board and have been qualified to work on animals safely and effectively.

(I still believe the veterinary referral process is warranted and is a reasonable practice to maintain should a licensed chiropractor not have this training.)

I also substantiate and support that this would make animal chiropractic UNLAWFUL to anyone without an active chiropractic or veterinary license. Our animals deserve the same standard of care as any other chiropractic patient and I believe it is in everyone's better interest to modernize this animal chiropractic law in Texas.

Jennifer Clark  
Active Life Chiropractic  
Round Rock, TX

I've been taking my senior pups to see Dr. Marinakis for a couple of years now and without t no s invaluable service they would not be the pups they are. It started when my poor girl hurt her back while playing with us on the sofa. I was able to see Dr. Marinakis but had to first set up an emergency visit with a veterinarian who was pretty far away first just to get a recommendation/referral. Thankfully I was able to do this but if someone had been out of town or on vacation or? my poor girl would've suffered in pain much longer. Please pass this bill so that animals can get the relief they need quickly. Let people decide if this treatment is right for them or their pets. The state shouldn't have to chime in. Thank you.

Michael Alton, Dr  
Self Chiropractor  
Leander, TX

I am in agreement with the bill that would allow owners of animals to receive animal chiropractic care without a veterinarian referral.

Judy Addington  
Self. Retired  
San Antonio, TX

My dog a female Maltese life was saved by veterinary chiropractic!

Kelsey Marcus  
Cedar Haven Stables  
Plano, TX

I'm a horse trainer & use chiropractor care on all my horses. I believe I should be able to get the horses under my care chiropractic care with out veterinary approval

Rebecca Vieregger

Myself

North Richland Hills, TX

I would vote yes to this bill.

Kimberly May

self

New Caney, TX

I fully support this bill allowing a chiropractor licensed in good standing under Chapter 201 and who is certified in good standing by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association

Manda Krauss

Self

Sanger, TX

We should be able to get treatment for our animals by a licensed Dr. of Chiropractic without a veterinary referral. They ARE trained/licensed Doctors.

Yolanda Puente

Self/Retired Educator

Ft. Worth, TX

I would like to express my support of changes to Texas's laws regarding animal chiropractic HB 3397. Changes would be helpful to animal owners who can go to a licensed chiropractor that has additional and advanced training from the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association. The responsibility would be on the owner to select a licensed chiropractor either for financial savings and avoid delays in timely animal chiropractic care. Please consider these changes as it benefits the animals and the owners. Thank you for your consideration.

Angela Schindler

self, attorney, horse owner

Waxahachie, TX

I first want to state that I am IN FAVOR of removing the mandate a Veterinarian must approve chiropractic care. I want to state I come from a varied background of long time horse owner, 17 years vet tech and a legal degree. I first am interested to understand why the AVMA is wanting to hold the the authority here. By doing so they are essentially taking on ALL the Legal Liability of treatment through a modality they have no training in by someone other than themselves and while not in their presence. From a legal standpoint it is "unwise". As a horse owner, I decide what treatments I want for my horse. For me I use western and eastern medicine. All of it very beneficial. One of our horses we own had a spinal issue that was not resolvable through veterinary medicine and has been helped with chiropractic enabling proper movement now with enhanced comfort. We need to expand our use of modalities in the treatment and betterment of health for our horses just as we have on the human side. Allowing this change helps open the AVMA to support other modalities we are already using. Such as PEMF, Essential Oils, Chiropractic, Theraplates, CBD, water treadmills, massage therapy, etc. I believe if they poled their clients they would find many of us already using all these other modalities in the care of our horses without decreasing the care by a veterinarian. This would also allow vets to add chiropractic training to their tools for treating horses. Chiropractic is a very old science and widely recognized. I Pray the AVMA will release an old mindset and open up to these other modalities including Chiropractic. Please rule in favor of this change being requested.

Amy Fulbright

Self

Round Rock, TX

Please pass this legislation so I don't need a vet referral for chiropractic

Stella Edelman

Self

Justin, TX

When an animal is hurting you cannot always get a veterinarian to see them right away. An animal chiropractor will know if the animal needs to be seen by a vet upon inspection. Why hold up treatment of an animal and make them suffer. It could mean death if not treated quickly.

Lillie DeSimone

Self veterinarian

Bullard, TX

As a veterinarian certified in animal chiropractic I support this bill and would love for my animal certified chiropractor colleagues to be a part of my team and business to provide more access to animals that need our services without me having to establish the client patient relationship first or without needing to write a referral.

Dalyn Andrews

Equine realign

Whitehouse, TX

Great movement

Cheryl Springer

Self , Operations Supervisor

Round Rock, TX

My shih tzu has been seen by a canine chiropractor for almost 3 years. He has helped slow the degenerative process in her lower back. I support the bill that will allow dog owners to get chiropractic care for their dogs without having a vet recommendation. It should not have to be this way.

Susan Sturr

self

Round Rock, TX

I support HB 3397 which allows animal owners to access to AVCA certified animal chiropractors without a veterinary approval.

Hunter Leatherman

Self

Tulia, TX

I should be able to take my animals to a chiropractor without having to have a referral.

Victoria Murray

Self/Department of Homeland Security

Salado, TX

Just as humans can choose to seek chiropractic treatment for pain/injury, we should also be able to make the choice for our pets without the added hassle of getting veterinary approval. Thank you.

Si Beerwinkle  
Beerwinkle Livestock  
Eaeth, TX

I have witnessed chiropractic practices be of great advantages to the health and well being to many calves. It is not convenient nor financially feasible to seek my veterinarian's referral when needing to get assistance from an animal chiropractor. I believe that my livestock are my possession and I should be able to seek an evaluation from a trained animal chiropractor if I so choose without the consent of my regular Veterinarian. Thank you for your consideration to this matter

Nina Nolen  
Self  
Round Rock, TX

I support this bill so we can choose what is best for our pets. Thank you.

Laurie Rucker  
Self / hostess  
Pflugerville, TX

I think that the veterinary chiropractor should be able to assess the patient without veterinarians having to refer them. A lot of veterinarians, as well as people still, do not see the value of a trained chiropractor

Delinda Hukill  
Self / retired  
Lindale, TX

I Delinda Hukill want to support human chiropractors that are animal certified without needing a referral from a veterinarian

Alicia Burns, Dr.  
Self  
Houston, TX

I stand in support of this Bill to allow chiropractic on Animals by a Licensed Chiropractor.

Jessica Faulkenberry, Dr.  
Self  
Keller, TX

Certified chiros should be able to adjust animals without referral from a vet. They are a portal of entry doctor.

Sara Holloway, Dr.  
Self, veterinarian  
Bowie, TX

As a veterinarian who is also certified in animal chiropractic, I can assure you of three things: 1) the vast number of veterinarians are unaware and unexposed to how much chiropractic adjustments can improve the quality of life of their patients, and therefore unknowingly hinder the care of their patients by not allowing referral for chiropractic. 2) My chiropractor colleges trained in animal chiropractic are far more skilled at detecting subluxations and delivering adjustments than I, having had 4 years education specifically in the discipline of chiropractic, compared to the 6 months of specialty training required for certification. 3) Lay people (those that are neither DC nor DVM) attend weekend "animal chiropractic" courses and then practice veterinary medicine and/or chiropractic without fear of loosing their hard earned license, without carrying malpractice insurance, and without requiring vet referrals, putting these animals at great risk of permanent injury. This is in addition to the fact that lay people have little to no knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, or neurology necessary to truly understand the complexity of chiropractic. Therefore requiring certification by the AVCA is a necessary step to protect both our patients and the effectiveness and reputation of animal chiropractic.

Lorraine Richards

Self  
San Antonio, TX  
I support this bill. Please preserve my rights to choose the care I seek for my dog.

Caitlyn Hannah

Chiropractors  
Tolar, TX

Pass this bill!

Eryn Mallory

Self  
Mckinney, TX

I support giving animal owners the power to seek treatment from a certified and licensed animal practitioner or animal chiropractor. Veterinarians should not be liable for this decision or be required to sign for the pet owner to seek treatment. Let's help more animals live more able bodied and easily provide a treatment option for pet parents.

Carla Swanson

Self  
Bullard, TX

John Stephens

self  
Round Rock, TX

I recently had my pet treated by a Veterinary Chiropractor. At the time I was required to get a referral from a licensed Veterinarian. I believe it would be beneficial for pets and owners, and not delay treatment, if it is not required to obtain a referral and also save the additional cost of seeing a Veterinarian for said referral.  
I believe this is a bill worthy of enacting.

Kay Proud

Animal Chiropractic/ Kitzman  
Georgetown, TX

I am a firm believer of Chiropractic Care and do not have to ask a medical DR for permission to go see my Chiropractor. I believe that I should also be able to take my pet to a Chiropractor who is certified with the AVCA without having to ask permission of my pet's veterinarian. Please, please, please pass this bill!

Karen Roberts

Self  
Plano, TX

I would like to take my pet to a chiropractor without a required referral ..

Chelsey Plunk

Self  
Argyle, TX

This would be amazing to be able to treat patients that need chiropractic care. We hinder owners by not allowing their pets to get the care they deserve. What amazing way to help animals and educate owners the importance and benefits of chiropractic care.

Robin ROSENSTOCK, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

I have dogs who have been treated by animal chiropractors. My vet was willing to sign the form, but for many people it required unnecessary vet visits, costing extra time and money. Being seen is a personal choice and should not require permission

Jessica Judge, Dr.

Animal Chiro

Justin, TX

I have personally experienced difficulty in obtaining referrals from Veterinarians for animals trying to receive Chiropractic care.

Gene Roberts

Self

Plano, TX

I would like to be able to take my pet to an animal chiropractor without a referral

Stella Edelman

Animal Chiro

Justin, TX

I support Animal Chiropractic rights.

Nathan Hites

self Cloud Specialist

Heath, TX

I support HB 3397 because people should have the right to take their animals to AVCA certified chiropractors without having to pay a DVM first and veterinarians should not have to bear the liability for another doctor.

Brittany Nicholson

Self

Whitewright, TX

I feel like it shouldn't have to jump through hoops to get care for animals! I love seeing the improvement in my animals after it!

Carolyn Tveitnes

Self

Whitewright, TX

Pet parents should have the right to choose their provider without needing the consent of their veterinarian.

Sabrina Gallardo

Vet chiropractic

Harker heights, TX

I am in favor that Texas laws allows animal owners to have access to AVCA certified animal chiropractors without a veterinary referral.

Todd Ellis  
Self  
Muleshoe, TX

I am for the passage of this bill so we do not have to go to a Vet to get a referral to see an animal chiropractor for our show animals. We have used these services in the past and plan too in the future. I should not have to pay a Vet to get a referral!

Cecile Allen  
Self  
Leander, TX

I support HB3397

Jason Jones, Dr  
Animal Care Committee of TX  
Dallas, TX

#### ANIMAL CHIROPRACTIC CARE BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Concerns have been raised regarding the experiences of some animal owners and veterinarians when seeking animal chiropractic care for their pets and livestock. The need for a veterinarian referral places an additional financial burden on the animal owner, and can create a barrier to treatment. For the animal, the requirement of a referral increases the amount of suffering, as finding and scheduling the veterinarian visit takes time. The period is often extended, especially in rural areas, by the inability to find a nearby veterinarian willing to make the referral. This unwillingness is a direct result of the existing law which has the animal chiropractor operating under the supervision of the veterinarian, thus exposing the veterinarian to unnecessary risk and liability. Our bill seeks to address these issues by creating a path to treatment, independent of and not requiring a veterinarian referral.

#### VETERINARIAN IMPACT

It is our opinion that this bill will create an additional opportunity and a safe environment for animals to receive animal chiropractic treatment while at the same time reducing the liability to veterinarians.

#### ANALYSIS

Our bill amends the State Occupations Code to require the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to create a new Rule that allows animal chiropractic treatment if the chiropractor is a licensed Texas chiropractor who is in good standing under the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners, and in good standing and certified by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association. Our contention is that if it is legal and safe for a parent to take a child to a Doctor of Chiropractic for musculoskeletal manipulation, it should also be permissible for an animal owner to directly seek animal chiropractic care from a provider with the approved training and certification. Current rules allowing treatment by a veterinarian or referral by a veterinarian remain unchanged.

EFFECTIVE DATE September 1, 2023

Lynette Ladd  
Vets  
Mesquite, TX

We need this bill.

Kellie Lancaster, Dr  
Self chiropractic  
Bowie, TX

I am in full support of this bill as it gives access of chiropractic to animals being administered by licensed providers and removes the impediment of patients wanting direct access to chiropractic without going through a vet.

Casey Wilson  
Equine Chiropractic  
Alba, TX

I support this bill

Karen Reed

Self - Sports dog trainer, and Volunteer Foster and rehab of rescue dogs  
Georgetown, TX

I am a sports dog trainer. I also foster and rehab rescue dogs. My own dogs are patients of a chiropractor, as have been prior fosters. I've seen very positive results from animal chiropractic work. Getting treatment for my dogs require my veterinarian's permission. I am in favor of HB 3397 for the following reasons:

1. Some dogs need help right away. Getting an appointment with a veterinarian just to get a referral is not always a quick process. It prolongs the ability to get treatment, thus often leaving the animal to suffer longer before he can be allowed to get relief.
2. Some veterinarians won't sign off at all on the Texas required referral form because it indicates that if the chiropractor makes a mistake, the veterinarian is ultimately responsible. I have ended up going to other vets who don't even know my dog, pay for an expensive office visit, just to get someone to sign a piece of paper. Again, this prolongs the dog getting treatment and incurs needless suffering.
3. My chiropractor knows more about how to help my dogs than my veterinarian. My veterinarian is often only able to give drugs to mask the symptoms and pain. Chiropractors are able to get down to the root cause and some dogs don't even need medication after treatment.  
Afterall, chiropractors spend years studying the anatomy, skeletal structure, lymph nodes, pressure points etc etc. My experience has been that chiropractors are perfectly capable of determining if an animal will benefit from chiropractic treatment would a referral.

Please consider passing Bill HB 3397. Doing so will take the pressure off of our veterinarians, free up office appointments for other pets that need medical attention, and help animals that do need chiropractic treatment to get the help they need in an efficient and effective manner.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Karen K Reed

Stephanie Colburn, Dr  
Self  
Fulshear, TX

SUPPORT

Allan T Robes  
self - retired  
Lake Dallas, TX

I fully support all efforts to minimalize unnecessary animal suffering.

Diane Stewart  
Self, Registered Nurse  
San Antonio, TX

When my dog is hurting and I have to go to a veterinarian and have him/her to tell me she is hitting before I take her to her Chiropractor is really ridiculous. Chiropractors are doctors too and should be given the same respect as any other physician.

Melissa Rutkowski  
Self  
Ponder, TX

Chiropractors trained in animal chiropractic should be allowed to treat their fur patients without the referral from a vet. Pet owners lose their freedom of providing care to their pets if vets deny permission

Colleen Lambrecht

Self

Northlake, TX

Chiropractic for my animals without a vet approval should be approved.

Julie potter

Self

Mansfield, TX

I believe horse owners and trainers should be allowed to seek chiropractic services without vet referral. Trainers and owners know their horses better than vets and shouldn't have to pay for a vet visit just to get referral. Regular chiropractic care for horses is extremely important in keeping the horse injury free.

Dennis Lambrecht

Self

Northlake, TX

I am writing to express my request that trained chiropractors be allowed to treat pets without requiring a vet's referral. Requiring me to get a referral from my vet could hinder me getting treatment for my pet if my vet won't refer it. It also adds cost to me if I am required to pay my vet and then the chiropractor for the treatment.

Sonia Rogers

Self

Forney, TX

I feel the animals are the only victims if this bill does not pass. The laws currently in place do not make sense for many reasons and this bill would benefit animals immensely. Animals are in unnecessary pain with these laws in place that delay chiropractic care. It also helps protect them from subpar chiropractic practices. Pass the bill! The animals will be forever thankful.

Danny Rogers

Self

Forney, TX

Chiropractic care for animals is unnecessarily restricted. Animals should enjoy the freedom of care that humans do. Vets should have the ability to refer chiropractic care to ease the pain and suffering of the animals that would benefit from it, without having to accept the burden of liability for the referral. This bill has to go through, for the animals. If they could talk, they would beg for this bill to pass.

Nicole Ramburger, Dr

Self

Blum, TX

I support the change allowing Doctors of chiropractic with certification by the AVCA to treat animals in Texas without direct supervision or referral needed. We are able to carry our own malpractice Insurance as well as sitting in the same classroom as the doctors of veterinary medicine did for chiropractic.

Precious Washington

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

I support that any person performing animal chiropractic must first be a licensed chiropractor or veterinarian in good standing in their profession.

I further support that a licensed chiropractor with additional and advanced training (such as the certification from the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association) should NOT require a veterinary referral prior to treating an animal patient as these individuals have already been screened by the board and have been qualified to work on animals safely and effectively.

(I still believe the veterinary referral process is warranted and is a reasonable practice to maintain should a licensed chiropractor not have this training.)

I also substantiate and support that this would make animal chiropractic UNLAWFUL to anyone without an active chiropractic or veterinary license. Our animals deserve the same standard of care as any other chiropractic patient and I believe it is in everyone's better interest to modernize this animal chiropractic law in Texas.

Gary Fields

Self

Sudan, TX

I have raised and used horses for 40 years and I use a Chiropractor to keep them in shape. Going through a Vet is an extra expense.

Erika Eeds, Dr.

Corsicana Chiropractic

Corsicana, TX

When voting on HB 3379, please consider the unnecessary financial and emotional stress placed on the animal owner, veterinarian and chiropractor involved in the process of animal chiropractic. Those chiropractors trained in animal chiropractic receive a great deal of post graduate training in how to adjust animals. We are not required to get referrals from medical doctors to adjust human patients. Therefore, we should not be required to get referrals from veterinarians in order to adjust animals. We chiropractors are not trying to take the place of veterinary care for animals. We are providing a type of care to animals that they can't get anywhere else. Please remove the obstacles between animal owners and chiropractic care by voting in favor of HB 3379. Sincerest thanks.

Yolanda McMurtre

Self, Homemaker/Part time Office manager

Fort Worth, TX

There is no valid reason to require a pet owner to get the veterinarian's permission for chiropractic treatment. It is needless paperwork for both drs to file and can delay much needed help for the pet. That is a waste of time and money for the pet owner and a waste of time for the veterinarian. It is simply government overreach.

Jessica Galloway

Self Nurse

Springtown, TX

I support Doctors of Chiropractic that have received additional training for animal chiropractic, to be able to perform services on and for animal patients, WITHOUT having to get a Veterinarian to approve or recommend first. Thank you.

Belinda Daughtry

Self

Mansfield, TX

Chiropractic care has helped my dog more than any vet. It is my understanding that some veterinarians will not sign off for chiropractic care. I was fortunate enough to have one that would. This practice of getting vet approval first must stop now!

Joel Cooley

Self

Tomball, TX

Good morning,

My name is Joel Cooley & I'm a resident of the great state of Texas & a proud dog owner. I wish I could be there to speak in person. Around the end of November. I took my two French Bulldogs Milo & Max to a family members to stay while I went out of town for work. While getting my truck ready to leave one of my boys, Milo attempted to jump into the backseat of my truck. Miss judging the jump, he slid backward out of the truck and landed on his rump. I immediately picked him up but at the time he didn't show any signs of being in pain.

I took the boys to my family members & went back home to prepare to leave in the morning. Within 24hrs Milo was not wanting to move & could not move his rear legs. My daughter in law took him to our Vet the next day & they prescribed him multiple meds & said to keep him still as much as possible. As soon as I returned home I took him again to the Vet. The Vet told me that outside of surgery there was nothing I could do, but wait & see if he would get some or all of his movement back. After a month, of keeping him primarily confined to his kennel to limit his movement & carrying him out to go to the bathroom, I was at wits end. He could no longer play with his brother, we no longer went on our daily walks or play time with my neighbor's dogs.

I happened to need to go to my chiropractor and while there one of his employees told me that another chiropractor that worked for him Dr. Jodi Wilson also worked with animals. I spoke with her and she was confident she could provide Milo some relief., but I would need my Vet's approval. I immediately made an appointment and my vet told me that they would be willing to sign off. Yet when I returned with the paperwork to sign. My Vet became concerned about liability & the Owner of the clinic actually said they wouldn't sign off because they would not work with chiropractors. Again I was told \$5-10k surgery was my only option. Discouraged I reach out to Dr Wilson. Who contacted the Vet herself with no success. I then took Milo to a 2nd vet who was familiar with him, explained the situation & after pretty much begging him was able to get him to sign off.

After my first visit with Dr. Wilson, Milo was showing signs of improvement. After his second visit he was able to stand on his own & with a few more weekly visits he was walking on his own. Without Dr. Wilson's treatment and care, I don't know if Milo would have walked again. I know the care has saved my thousands of dollars, but the hundreds I spent on multiple Vet visits to just get approval is ridiculous. I don't need Dr. Approval of myself or my children or even my grand children to take them to a chiropractor. Why should I need it for my dog, that I own and am responsible for? Please approve this bill for pet owners like myself who just want the best & most affordable care for our furry family members.

Dashonda Nunn

Self

Addison, TX

Recently one of my dogs Injured one of his legs and began to limp. I noticed that he seemed to have a bit of a sway in his walk and how his spine was aligned. A immediate and first response was to think that I should take him to a chiropractor. I've seen a chiropractor for many years and it has helped me correct my gate. Chiropractic manipulations have worked wonders in my own life and help me to avoid costly surgeries.

I reached out to my vet for a referral on chiropractic care for animals. She seemed irritated that I would even suggest such a thing. On top of that she let me know rather emphatically that I would need her permission in order to have my pet seen by a chiropractor.

I was stunned to find out the hoops that I would have to jump through in order to have the care of my choice provided for my pet. It is absolutely ridiculous that the two Specialties do not work seamlessly together.

I understand that not all people will see pets as family members in the same light as children are seen. But the parallel between the two still exist. As a parent of a minor you were allowed to choose whatever health care you would like to provide for your child. Special provisions are even made for Religious purposes. The same should happen In the case of pets. As a pet owner I have to be responsible and make sure that every need is met to the best of my ability. It is already a racket to pay obscene amounts of money to simply provide my pets with proper immunizations and a proper diet.

For my two dogs it cost me approximately \$400 per year for heartworm ,flea and tick medication. So I find it absolutely ridiculous to have to pay for an Unnecessary 15 minute overpriced visit to the vet. Along with some guaranteed exorbitantly priced radiographs, and more than likely some sort of anti inflammatory medication along with a follow a visit. Just to end up where we started needing to see a chiropractor.

As a pet owner it is my responsibility to advocate for the best interests of my pet and in a lot of cases I believe that Chiropractic care is the best care for my pet. I would appreciate not having to go through so many hoops just to be able to advocate for my animals in the way that I choose. I chose a more homeopathic lifestyle for myself and I would like to be able to freely choose to do the same for my pets. It took me about two days to find a vet that was a chiropractor so that I could circumvent the visit to the vet. But thankfully I was able to find one.

Dr. Lacy was not only extremely knowledgeable and talented in her field. But she was extremely personable as well. My dog was up and running like he hadn't run in years after just one adjustment/visit with her. I would choose her Dual specialty care as a chiropractor and vet hands down. I hope that today's vote leads to more respect for the practice of Chiropractic care. Aswell as respect for the wishes of pet owners.

Scott Bufton

Self, a concerned pet owner

Spring, TX

Please support this bill to remove hurdles that currently impede animals from getting needed care.

Nita Judge, Mrs

Self

Justin, TX

I'm for qualified chriiropracters

Suzette Kramer  
self - accountant  
Cedar Park, TX

As a pet owner/pup Mom, I want to express my support to allow animal owners to have access to AVCA certified animal chiropractors WITHOUT veterinary approval/"supervision". As an owner of more than one pup that has received Chiropractic care (as well as Acupuncture and other holistic care), I can only enthusiastically attest to the results that have been afforded to my fur babies from Chiropractic. My current pup, goes routinely and the relief she feels (and yes you can tell by the way she physically responds to the treatment and the way she physically functions after that it helps tremendously) is nothing short of amazing. It has been a game changer for her with mobility and pain. I am more than irritated that I have to seek out a vet that will "allow" me to give this quality of life to my animal when their only alternative is providing prescription meds that target vital organs (and they all have the warnings clearly expressed) or astronomically expensive surgical alternatives that may or may not help at all and often make no sense for a number of reasons including ...age of dog, expense, other complications/consequences that can result including death of the animal. Placing the additional burden (financial and mental) upon owners to have to seek out a vets approval is simply unjust. It makes little to no sense to require a vet to give supervision/approval to an AVCA certified chiropractor who spends his/her life in that field - a field that the vet has little to no education on. It would be like asking a dentist to refer a heart surgeon. To us pet owners, it feels like politics of sorts, a money grab from the board of veterinary and a turf war between the western medicine that vets practice and the Holistic approach that Animal owners should have the right to pursue without ANYONE'S approval! Please put an end to the current requirements with this bill. Thank you. Suzette Kramer

Michelle Krenek, Dr.  
Chiropractic  
Colleyville, TX

Hello. I am a human Chiropractor and I fully support the right of Animal Chiropractors to make their own educated decision on what animals they see and what care is best for them. On top of completing medical school, they have an additional intense training program for Animal Chiropractic. As a pet owner, of three dogs, I also feel like it is my right to make my own decision on who and where I want to take my animals and I should not have to wait for anyone to approve that. I have witnessed the life changing benefits it has had on my dogs. Thank you for your time.

Catherine Taylor  
Self Horseback riding school owner  
Paige, TX

I'm in support of licensed and insured chiropractors for equines and animals practicing without veterinary approval or direction.

Kelsi Smith  
Self - chiropractor  
Liberty Hill, TX

I support the bill

Judith McGeary  
Self (nonprofit executive director, attorney, and farmer)  
Cameron, TX

This simple, common-sense bill will make chiropractic care more available. As not only a livestock owner, but also a horse and pet owner, I ask for your support for HB 3397.

Javier Centeno  
In Stride Chiropractic  
Carrollton, TX

My dog has shown tremendous improvement with chiropractic care but afraid that might Chiropractor will go out of business due to the challenge of getting approval from a primary vet before they can offer their services. If a vet is not willing to sign the form, my chiropractor will potentially loose this client. Current process doesn't make any sense at all

Candace Breiten  
self, QA Analyst  
Dallas, TX

Several years ago, I adopted a shelter dog. Unbeknownst to me, he had a partially torn ACL that later fully tore. In the process of managing his pain, we began visiting an animal chiropractor. Dr. Lackey helped keep his body in a better condition until we got his torn ACL corrected with surgery. You'd think it'd be smooth sailing from there, but my dog is stubborn. After surgery, he didn't want to use his leg at all. I was panicking because here we'd done this extensive, invasive procedure, and he's worse than where he started. After his first post-surgical chiropractic adjustment from Dr. Lackey, he actually started using his leg again. Much to my immense relief.

Regular visits to the chiropractor have helped my dog's quality of life immensely. When we worked for a time as a therapy dog team, his adjustments helped in ways I can't explain. We've since retired due to aging health and worsening arthritis, but my dog looks forward to his monthly adjustments. I know he will be able to age more gracefully due to additional care.

While things with our chiropractor are smooth sailing, finding a treating veterinarian who will sign off on chiropractic treatments is difficult. While I was a skeptic, I have seen how much better my dog's life has been since receiving chiropractic care. As a human, I don't need my doctor's permission to be treated by a chiropractor. If my dog's chiropractor is properly licensed and trained, why do I have to go through an extra hoop just to get him the help he needs?

Jessica Faulkenberry  
Self  
Keller, TX

Pass this bill

Heather Mozingo  
Animal Chiropractic  
Leander, TX

My working dogs have sustained injuries (such as pinched nerves) that veterinary medicine could not resolve, and could not provide relief for their pain other than internally damaging pain medication that just masks the pain. Chiropractic care has provided immediate pain relief and resolved problems that my vet could not. For regular maintenance, it has been noticeably beneficial for my dogs in their comfort and range of motion. It is unacceptable to be unable to receive pain relieving treatment, or receive services that improve my dogs quality of life, because I have to wait for a vet to fill out a form. Vets are busy, I've had to wait days while my dog is injured and in pain for them to return an irrelevant form. I have also had vets refuse to sign it because they personally don't believe in alternative practices. I have also encountered NUMEROUS vets who use this as an excuse to make more money, and force clients to wait until they have availability, and then come in and pay an office fee and irrelevant diagnostics that show nothing, before they'll sign the form. This is unethical and unacceptable. And again, my dog suffers because of it. As an owner, it is my choice and my right to provide the fastest and most efficient care to improve my dogs quality of life, and I see no benefit to me or my dogs wellbeing in a law that inhibits me from doing that. I am heavily in support of abolishing the law that requires vet approval for animal chiropractic care.

Iris Haines  
Animal Care Committee of Texas  
Forney, TX

Please remove vet referral. Our Chiropractors are professionals and ability to take care of animals

Jung A Kang, Dr  
Self. Doctor of Chiropractic  
Irving, TX

I support this bill.

Mary McClane  
Self  
Livingston, TX

Chiropractic care is an established profession in both human and livestock/pet care and does not, and should not require the services of a licensed veterinarian. .

Lesa Theurer, Vice President  
Animal Care Committee of Texas  
Lockhart, TX

I support the passing of this bill to eliminate veterinarian referrals for animal and / or livestock chiropractic care. Our licensed chiropractors in the state of Texas are certified veterinarians; and, therefore the law should not create a duplication of efforts by requiring a referral from a veterinarian that has examined the patient prior to the chiropractor providing care.

Ashley Brezina  
Self  
Whitewright, TX

Animal chiropractic has helped my crew of dogs through several different injuries and body maintenance appointments. Not as many dogs are as lucky to find a vet who will sign off on a referral form and therefore can't receive the same benefits. It's just not fair for an owner to have to sit and watch their animal suffer because they can't get a form signed off. This needs to change.

cindy platt  
Self  
Leander, TX

A pet owner should have the ability to go to Canine chiropractor with out the Referral from a veterinarian

Michelle Navratil, Ms  
In Stride Chiropractic  
Mesquite, TX

I am in support of this bill. I should not need a referral from my veterinarian to take my animal to an animal chiropractor.

Ashley Schwemer  
Bridge chiro  
Fort worth, TX

Chiro has helped my dog not be in terrible pain and crying all the time. She is now comfortable. I think it should be the owners decision to do treatment just like it is the parents decision to bring their child.

Ingrid Ableidinger  
Pet owner  
Austin, TX

I support this bill. Just like humans don't need approval for chiropractic care, pets should not require veterinary approval to get chiropractic care.

Lut Nguyen  
Self  
arlington, TX

We as chiropractors should treat animals without referral from a vet.

Paula Hill  
847  
North Richland Hills, TX

Chiropractic helped 2 of my dogs (1 which is a service dog for my veteran husband) with injuries that a vet wanted to do a surgery on that would have cost thousands of dollars we didn't have. We would have had to put our family member down because of a simple injury that a chiropractor was able to rehab in 3 months time span & changed my dogs life & ability to move more. We continued with the service which helped with behavior and mobility every month. I struggled to keep Chiropractic because of vets that don't want and/or believe in Chiropractic. It would be beneficial to the pet as well as the family member to be able to have a choice and not leave it in a person's hands that doesn't believe in the same thing as you. Ultimately my dogs/family members life is someone else's hands when they don't agree with you and then you're left to sacrifice your sweet baby and that is not what life is about.

Kari Franscini  
Self - teacher  
Arlington, TX

I am in favor of this bill and ask that this bill be passed. It does not make any sense that animals have to have a referral to receive chiropractic care, when humans do not need the same. This causes unnecessary steps and barriers to providing care for animals. As a pet owner, we should be able to determine what care our pets need without having to receive a referral or approval from the vet. Some vets will not complete a referral form so that animals can receive chiropractic care due to their own personal biases.

Chania Whitaker, Dr  
self  
carrollton, TX

In support of this bill

VICTORIA ANDERSON  
Animal Chiropractors in Texas  
Fort Worth, TX

As a pet parent, I have uses chiropractic care with my dog with great success. I shouldn't have to go to another veterinarian to get their permission on how to treat my dog. I should be allowed to make that decision as the health and care of my dog is my responsibility. There are too many veterinarian's who are so stuck in their past ways that you have to fight them just to have your dog treated in the way you want to. This bill must pass.

What if you were required to get permission from your child's primary care physician to take your child to the dentist or to see a specialist and they didn't agree that it was necessary or that it wouldn't help??

The majority of pet parents consider their pets as family, I know I do. I want the opportunity to choose the care I feel is necessary to keep my dog healthy and feeling the best she can.

Linda Larson  
Self - Retired  
Rockwall, TX

I have two performance Dogs. Chiropractors have been an important part of their lives. I starting using two while living in MI and another in FL. My oldest Standard Poodle will be 15 years old 5/4. He is still very active and I owe that to having access to my Chiropractor. I'm requesting that you consider making the use of Chiropractors a simple process. Stop requiring Vets to issue approval for animals to receive chiropractic care. It's an unnecessary expense. Chiropractor care increase animals "quality of life"! It should be readily available to all pet parents!

Jeri Leigh Miller  
Self, Attorney  
Duncanville, TX

My Australian Cattle Dog Ricochet developed a limp shortly after turning two. He saw his normal vet, Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center - Orthopedics, A&M Neurological, and A&M Orthopedic over the course of the next year, but despite thousands spent on imaging and exams, no one could figure out what was wrong with him. His pain was obvious to everyone who examined him, so ultimately I was sent home with a now nearly three year old, high energy sport dog to watch him deteriorate. He could no longer compete in agility or go on hikes longer than 3 miles and was put on anti inflammatory medicine and pain meds for the foreseeable future, which I was told can have long-term negative effects on his organs. Despite the meds, I watched his mobility slowly decrease over the next 2 years until he acted like a grumpy old man and took little joy from our daily adventures. We ended up discovering Katie at a barn hunt trial for one of my other dogs and I took Ricochet to her because it couldn't hurt. The adjustments have brought him noticeable pain relief and increased mobility over the last year and a half, such that he's actually going on limited hikes and playing with his siblings again. This option should be available to all pet parents and not just those who have vets who will sign off.

Alyssa Cotton, Ms  
self, shift manager at Starbucks  
Dallas, TX

Veterinary chiropractic saved my dog's life. Many veterinarians are skeptical of this alternative practice and will push invasive surgeries as the only option. It was not an option I could afford for my IVDD pup who had suddenly lost the ability to walk and use his back legs due to a slipped disc.

There aren't many out there who are even aware of other options, so when you come to a veterinarian with a release form, the odds of approval may be slight due to a lack of knowledge.

I personally was told my dog's only chance was surgery, and one vet even recommended the possibility that I may have to put my pup to sleep.

He was 11 years old and it would have been a high risk surgery due to his age. Many animals who present with spinal and neurological issues are too old for surgery.

I believe the lengthy process of finding a vet who will allow release is harmful to the health of the animal, and I personally saw chiropractic practice help my dog walk again.

Steve Pratt  
Dog Owner  
Coppell, TX

I support the passage of this bill.

Jennifer Meyers  
Self  
Bertram, TX

I support the change to allow me the choice of care for my pet without a vet referral. Chiropractors are certified in their specialty & should not need a vet's referral to practice alternative care on my pet just as I do for myself & my family.

I experienced a delay in my dog's care after an injury because I had to wait on my vet to complete the referral form & during that time my dog was in extreme pain due to a pinched nerve requiring pain meds until her adjustment could be scheduled. If I could've brought my dog the day her back got injured to a chiropractor we could've avoided long term impacts to her nerve & reducing the amount of drugs in her system. Please consider allowing human guardians to choose the best care for their animals. Thank you

Austin Dula

Self

Austin, TX

If chiropractors are allowed to work on humans without a doctor's referral list that certainly be able to work on animals without a veterinary referral. The standard should not be higher for animals and for humans. I've seen first hand the benefits of chiropractic for animals and it is pretty outstanding. The service should be available to those who needed without having to jump through entirely unnecessary regulatory hoops.

Stephanie Cook, Mrs

Chiropractors

Allen, TX

I believe that a licensed chiropractor should be able to treat an animal without a referral from a veterinarian. Our senior dog benefited significantly from chiropractic treatment but it was a pain having to ask the vet every time he needed it. Please vote yes to pass this bill!

Thank you!

Gene Giggleman, Dr.

self

Pittsburg, TX

I am pro passing this bill. It will remove the liability of making a referral and the possible exclusion of client access to chiropractic care for the animal patient.

Lauren Millen

Self - future chiropractor

Leander, TX

Back when my dog was injured, we wanted to get her adjusted with the chiropractor right away. Our dog, Lady had been a regular chiropractic patient but when we moved, we had not established her with a new and closer to us chiropractor. Lady was unable to stand up and was trembling in pain. We found the chiropractor we wanted to treat our dog, but had to wait 3 days to get her seen by the vet to sign off on the form needed to approve the chiropractor to adjust my dog. Multiple days of immobility could be life and death for some animals. Chiropractor are trained doctors who know when they can treat and when to refer their patients out.

Micheline Pennington

Self

Justin, TX

I completely 100% support this bill

Tes Ingebritson

Www.royalstandardpoodles.com

flatonina, TX

I personally have used chiropractic care for over 20 years taking my spinal s curve to a straightened spine, only a few degrees off the hips now. A medical doctor gave me no hope and I was already using a walker to get around in my 50s. I started breeding standard poodles after a decade of chiropractic care and getting rid of the walker. As soon as I could find a small animal chiropractor I had, and have, my breeding poodles adjusted every month for corrections and maintenance. I had a vet tell me my stud would never service again from his accident in splaying his back legs. After every week, then several months of intense chiropractic care he was studding again. My point is chiropractic care works and MOST veterinarian doctors Do Not understand the technology and true need of the practice for our pets. Please assure veterinarian referral is dropped from needing to see a pet chiropractor.

Cari Wroblewski

Self

Georgetown, TX

We currently use a doggie chiropractor for our three dogs and have used one for the past 20 years. We moved to Texas from Arizona. In Arizona, you don't have to have a referral from your primary vet to take your dog to a dog chiropractor as long as the chiropractor has the proper credentials. I don't understand the reasoning behind why that is required in Texas. As long as the chiropractor has the right certifications, you shouldn't have to waste more time and money to get a referral.

Paige Schlender

Self, Revenue Integration Manager

San Marcos, TX

Hello, I support HB 3397. Statutory requirements for veterinary control of animal chiropractic treatment is government overreach. The hoops I am required to jump through to obtain chiropractic care for my 5 working dogs is an undue burden on my finances, time, and general resources. In my experience, veterinarians opposed to chiropractic treatment have been unfamiliar with its theory, methods, and administration.

Licensed, certified animal chiropractors have the credentials and experience to independently treat their clients' livestock and companion animals without veterinarians' approval. Just as I may obtain chiropractic care for myself without the permission of a physician, it's time to allow similar freedoms in the care of animals.

Hannah Burnham

Self

Kyle, TX

I'm in support of direct access to animal chiropractic care by certified, licensed, and insured doctors.

Beverly Greenwood

Self, horse owner

Bryan, TX

Support direct access to veterinary chiropractic by licensed and insured doctors.

Jimmy Allgood, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

I am for the direct access to Animal Chiropractic in Texas for certified, licensed, and insured Doctors.

Sheila Pruitt

Self

Garland, TX

I am in support of this bill. I currently have 4 personal dogs and 2 fosters, and have been involved with rescue for over 5 years fostering over 70 dogs in that time. We deal with many dog health issues and have been to many vets and specialists. While vets may know medicine the best, I believe that the pet owner knows his pet the best. My experiences with vets are all over the place - some very qualified, caring and knowledgeable and others I would never see again, very lacking in concern. Pet owners are knowledgeable and do their research on different modalities for their family members and are the most suited to determine which animal specialist they should see. My current foster has been under chiropractic care because I mentioned my interest in it during a vet appointment. He had been through 3 orthopedic surgeries, several laser therapies, and on pain medications. As skilled as the surgeon was, he didn't live with the dog and see him day after day. And it's possible one of those surgeries could've been avoided had we had a chiropractic consultation for that continued pain. Chiropractors are licensed and skilled at what they do, they need to be allowed to seek and treat patients without vet referrals. My foster made tremendous improvement with the chiropractic care, and he was a very complicated case. We are our pets best advocate and cannot depend on anyone else to have their best interest at heart. Please vote for pet owner direct access to licenses and certified animal chiropractic care.

Stephanie Huang

self

Liberty Hill, TX

Support for HB 3397 to increase accessibility to chiropractic care for animals

Elizabeth Fraser

Self

Austin, TX

I support creating a path to animal chiropractic care that limits barriers and removes veterinary liability and responsibility.

Chris Scheets

Animal care committee of texas

Fort Worth, TX

To increase accessibility to animal chiropractic care in TX.

Laura Hill, Mrs.

Self. Horse owner

Seagoville, TX

I believe Veterinary Chiropractic to be extremely important in equine health.

Elizabeth Raines

self

Dallas, TX

We adopted our elderly blue heeler, Buddy, almost a year ago. He came to us with severe arthritis in his hips, shoulders, and spine. Buddy was panting with pain and barely moving, from stiffness. After looking at Buddy's spine stiffness, our regular vet recommended having Buddy seen by an animal chiropractor: Kaitlyn Lackey. Upon Kaitlyn's first visit, Buddy immediately felt better. His spine became "bouncy" and so was he! With regular visits, every couple of weeks, the pain is kept away. That's ok with us, as he is an older dog, but with a puppy spirit (often getting himself into trouble, slipping and falling on the hard wood floors). Kaitlyn puts him back together and he always feels better after.

Along with chiropractic adjustments, we also rely on Dr. Susan Hites, for additional support. With Dr. Hites' acupuncture, low-level laser treatment, and recommended diet + supplements, Buddy feels so much better! The panting is a rarity, he has a perky spirit for his walks, and overall, he seems content and happy.

Looking at Buddy now, in comparison to a year ago, our dog is doing very well for an old guy! Even his regular vet was surprised, not only to see that he's still around, but she especially took notice at how well he's doing. We are incredibly grateful to have this kind of care for our dog!

Wendy Stover

Stover Polo

Lexington, TX

I want to see animal chiropractic easily available across Texas by licensed practitioners.

Suzanne OBrien

Self Animal Massage Therapist

Dallas, TX

I'm in support of bill hb3397 Rep Kitzman.

Carrie Atkinson

Self

Dallas, TX

My dogs have benefited from chiropractic care but it needs to be more accessible. I support HB 3397

John Byington Jr

Self retired

Round Rock, TX

I fully support direct access to animal chiropractic care in Texas by certified, licensed, and insured doctors. I've witnessed the difference chiropractic care in animals can make. Please make the necessary changes to allow the access as stated above.

Sheryll Massey

Self/ retired

Leonard, TX

Vote for this bill!

Samantha Rostek

Self - financial services professional

Austin, TX

This is so important for our animals to always have access to.

Baron Kanter, DC

self - chiropractor

Dallas, TX

I absolutely support this bill! Let animal Chiropractors help Texas animals and veterinarians.

Stephanie Scott

self

Huntsville, TX

I believe an animal owner should be able to seek out chiropractic care from a provider who is a licensed chiropractor who has the approved certifications without going through a veterinarian for a referral. I do not believe it is fair to limit someone's choice when seeking confident care for their own animal.

BJ Cadwalader

Just an interested pet owner

Carrollton, TX

People are able to seek chiropractic care without a referral so why not our animals?

Dawn Blake

Dawn Blake

McKinney, TX

Please continue to make this possible to get the help a pet owner needs to help treat our pets.

Eric Blake  
Business Card  
McKinney, TX

Please continue to make this possible to get the help a pet owner needs to help treat our pets.

Sam Massey  
Self  
Leonard, TX  
Vote for HB 3397

Leigh Fulkerson  
Self  
Austin, TX  
Support direct access to animal chiropractic care

Jessica Tiller  
Self  
New Braunfels, TX

I support the bill relating to regulation of veterinary chiropractic. It should not be necessary to get a vet referral for a licensed animal chiro to perform treatment. Thanks.

Lisa Rodriguez  
Self  
Mansfield, TX

We would like to be able to get care for our performance dogs and pets but because of the current regulations we have to find a vet that will sign off on the form each year to seek treatment. If we can't find a vet then we cannot get treatment for our pets.

Amy Calhoun  
Self horse traiber  
Liberty Hill, TX  
Discontinue referrals