



## BVM Makes Determination on LVTs Performing Laser Therapy

At the request of NYSVMS, the Board of Veterinary Medicine considered two issues related to the use of laser therapy in veterinary practices; whether it is appropriate for licensed veterinary technicians to deliver laser therapy to patients of the veterinary practice and what level of supervision must be exercised over the LVTs.

NYSVMS has monitored member inquiries about this new modality, if it was appropriate for an LVT to perform it, and the level of supervision required of the LVT.

The BVM noted that an LVT must be working under the supervision of the veterinarian who has established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with the animal patient. They also determined that the veterinarian ordering the laser therapy should exercise general supervision over the LVT performing the laser therapy, meaning the veterinarian is available to communicate with the LVT under supervision, but need not be physically present on the premises.

This determination means it is legal for an LVT to travel to the home or home stable of an animal who is to receive laser therapy and provide it at the animal's residence, without requiring the veterinarian to be present. The BVM stressed that both the LVT and the veterinarian supervising the LVT must be competent in the treatment modality (laser therapy). This does not apply to lasers used during surgery.