



[www.IAAOR.org](http://www.IAAOR.org)  
(non-profit)

## Imagine...

Over the next year, you pick up the phone to make appointments for your pets or livestock. You call your saddle fitter for an appointment to help your horse's back. Your farrier is due and you look forward to his expertise in keeping your horses feet sound and healthy. Someone just recommended an animal communicator you want to call. The dog is in need of animal behavior modification through TTouch. Your hardworking horse or dog could use relief with a therapeutic massage. Your animal is suffering from arthritis, and you decide to call a recommended acupressure practitioner for additional relief. You've always been happy with the wide variety of non-medical animal husbandry care practitioners available to you, whose expertise complements your regular veterinarian's advice and diagnosis.

## This Must Be a Bad Dream...

As you call the people on your list, you get the same reply. They are sorry, but they are out of business. In fact, they explain, if they continue to offer their services, they will risk legal complications which could result in fines, arrest or possible criminal charges.

## What Happened?...

Due to the very restrictive and overly broad language (similar to the AVMA Model Proposal for Law) which was inserted into the Illinois Veterinary Medicine & Surgery Practice Act of 2004, your consumer choice rights as an owner to choose professional animal husbandry care has now been taken away. Using vague legal terminology, a new, all-inclusive definition of the practice of veterinary medicine may and/or effectively prohibit owners, trainers, barn managers, farriers and other alternative therapy animal husbandry care practitioners from providing non-medical, common sense animal care without employing a veterinarian.

## A New Day. . .

The situation described above would indeed exist today if a group of concerned individuals, recognizing that a change of law was about to pass unnoticed by the citizens of Illinois, had not formed the Illinois Alliance for Animal Owners Rights, Inc. (IAAOR). In a last minute effort, this group of animal owners, animal care practitioners and professionals began a grass roots campaign to introduce an amendment to rectify this situation. They worked closely with their lobbyist to counteract the restrictive language.

Thanks to the efforts of IAAOR, an amendment was attached to the bill protecting not only the owner's consumer choice rights to employ non-invasive natural healing therapies, wellness services, training practices and alternatives to veterinary medicine as provided by animal care practitioners, but also the right for these practitioners to legally provide these services within the state. This amendment went into effect Jan 1, 2004.

## A Constant Threat...

Unfortunately, animals and their owners in Illinois (and in states around the country) are facing continuous pressure from well-funded and powerful groups who are silently working behind the scenes to pass legislation that will take away our right to choose. In early 2010, similar legislation was once again quietly introduced, and once again, the IAAOR was there to stop this legislation. This constant threat to take away our rights must be closely monitored and acted upon. In order to be effective, it is essential Illinois animal owners support our grassroots organization by standing together as a powerful group. The lobbying efforts to stop these bills are exhausting and expensive. IAAOR cannot do this without strong membership and funding.

The IAAOR is dedicated to the proposition that the right to choose alternative care animal care practitioners, wellness service providers and training practices for their animals rests solely with the animal owner. The IAAOR supports the use of knowledgeable, professional practitioners who offer these services to animal owners in Illinois and the right of the owner to choose to utilize their services legally. This is consumer choice.

The IAAOR advises that all animals receive regular veterinary care. Veterinary medicine, diagnostics, medications and surgery have made legendary advancements in recent years due to new technologies and research. These veterinary advancements should not be ignored.

The IAAOR promotes the concept of concurrent care among veterinarians and animal care practitioners for the best wellness options for each animal.



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### **Our Mission:**

- **retain** the legal right for animal owners to choose non medical animal care practitioners for alternative healing therapies, wellness, training and other services for their animals as we humans freely choose these options for ourselves. Consumer choice.
- **encourage** and establish concurrent care between veterinarians, animal care practitioners and owners to secure the best available options for the animals involved.
- **encourage** education and high professional standards among animal care practitioners and provide resources to owners who desire more knowledge.
- **lobby** for laws and regulations that ensure animal owners will retain their consumer choice right to choose the animal care practitioners and providers of their choice and that these practitioners may continue to legally offer their services.

***IAAOR needs your support to continue to secure the best available options for animal care for YOU, the animal owners in Illinois!***

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Illinois Alliance for Animal Owners Rights, Inc.  
#9 Sangamon Bluffs  
Mansfield, IL 61854

**YES, I WANT TO JOIN! I WANT TO PROTECT MY CHOICE!**

### **Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\*newsletters are by email

Dog \_\_\_\_\_ Cat \_\_\_\_\_ Horse \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25/yr. Owner Annual Dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$25/yr. Professional Annual Dues  
Listed on IAAOR website – Your Member Website URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are also payable online at  
[www.IAAOR.org](http://www.IAAOR.org)

Or send both application and check made out to:  
Illinois Alliance for Animal Owners Rights, Inc.  
#9 Sangamon Bluffs, Mansfield, IL 61854