



## ACPAT Members Professional Liability Insurance Scheme

### FAQ's

#### How do I apply for ACPAT Professional Liability Insurance?

Application forms together with details of the cover are available from the ACPAT members' page of the Physiotherapy section of the brokers' website, [www.jameshallam.co.uk/promed](http://www.jameshallam.co.uk/promed)

#### Do I need both ACPAT and CSP membership?

Yes, the cover is designed specifically for ACPAT members that also retain CSP membership. This provides members with Public Liability Insurance up to £10million and covers all work within animal Physiotherapy scope of practice.

#### Will I receive evidence of cover?

Yes, James Hallam Insurance Brokers Limited will issue each member a certificate of insurance, a copy of which must be sent to ACPAT each year to comply with membership rules.

#### What is the procedure at renewal?

Approximate three weeks prior to expiry of the current insurance certificate, James Hallam Insurance Brokers Limited will write individually to each member offering the opportunity to renew for a further period of 12 months. Please note the certificates do not carry any days of grace, and members will be uninsured if certificates are not renewed prior to the expiry date. Any uninsured member will not be permitted to practise in accordance with ACPAT rules of membership.

#### What are the main differences between the ACPAT Professional Liability Insurance Scheme and the CSP's Public Liability policy?

**Professional Liability Insurance** covers the financial losses suffered by owners resulting from the negligent treatment of animals e.g.

- Where a member treats an animal inappropriately which later dies or becomes ill or injured, a Professional Liability claim could result for the value of the animal (and the owner's stress and anxiety).
- If an animal suffers complications from negligent physiotherapy treatment a Professional Liability claim could follow based on either the reduction in animal's value and/or loss of earnings (if a competition or working animal), and/or the additional cost of care.

**Public Liability Insurance** normally relates to injuries sustained by others including damage to their property resulting from an accident which arises during the course of treatment e.g.

- If a horse breaks free whilst being treated injuring bystanders, members could be held responsible for failing to properly secure the horse or failing to take adequate safety precautions.
- If a horse kicks out and damages a car or other property during the course of treatment, a member could receive a claim from the owners for the damage sustained
- Members can also receive personal injury claims from anyone bitten/scratched by animals whilst in their care during the course of treatment.

*(ACPAT Members automatically benefit from the CSP's Public Liability Policy as a benefit of CSP Membership)*

#### What limits of cover are adequate?

The general rule on buying liability insurance is to purchase as high a limit as you can reasonably afford and appropriate to your needs. There is no financial limit on the amounts people can claim, but in relation to *Professional Liability* insurance, limits insured should relate to the maximum value of animals that members can treat together with the potential cost of care, loss of potential earnings (if a competition or working animal), and compensation for stress and anxiety to owners etc., The legal costs and expenses in defending a claim are payable *in addition* to the limit selected. James Hallam Insurance Brokers Limited offer Professional Liability limits for the treatment of animals up to £5million as standard (higher limits available on request).

In respect of *Public Liability* insurance limits, as claims can involve human death or injury as well as property damage, the limits of necessity will usually be much higher. At present the limit under the CSP Members Public Liability insurance programme is £10,000,000 any one occurrence, which applies to any individual CSP and ACPAT member working within the scope of physiotherapy practice (including animal physiotherapy).

#### International Cover

Work outside the UK is included up to a maximum of 60 days in any 12 month period (including the USA and Canada provided members do not have premises or representation in these territories)

#### What is the limit on bloodstock claims?

The ACPAT scheme has an inner limit of £500,000 in total in any one year of insurance for claims relating to bloodstock animals. These animals are defined as horses which are entered or eligible for entry in the general stud book kept by Weatherby & Sons or entered in Priors HP stud book and are either in training or maintained for the purpose of racing under the Jockey Club or National Hunt rules and registered with Weatherby & Sons for that purpose or registered with a recognised Turf Authority which is the Authority responsible for controlling horseracing in the country concerned.

### Is HCPC registration required?

HCPC is the regulatory body for certain healthcare professions. The policy will only require registration where members are working within the practice of a registered profession, such as human physiotherapy, but currently animal physiotherapy is not a registered profession.

### Is the Scheme open to Students (Category B Member)?

Yes – Students on an ACPAT recognised training course can apply for cover under the scheme, provided they are a CSP member and under the direct supervision and control of a qualified ACPAT member (Category A member), or a Veterinary Surgeon or other suitably qualified person. Students will need to record each session of training, and any techniques practiced must not fall outside that which has been taught and signed off on their course to date.

### What is the situation if I lend or hire equipment for the purposes of treatment?

There are two basic issues here, firstly loss or damage to the equipment itself and second liability if anything goes wrong and the animal or anyone else is injured.

In respect of loss or damage to the equipment, this is not included as part of the ACPAT cover. Members are advised to seek separate All Risks insurance for all of their equipment.

If animals or anyone else are injured arising from the use of equipment hired or lent, the scheme will cover the liabilities of individual members (but not those to whom the equipment has been hired or lent), provided the following conditions have been satisfied:-

- the equipment was designed for physiotherapy purposes
- the equipment supplied was in good serviceable condition
- correct use of the equipment was demonstrated by a qualified member to the intended user
- a full set of written instructions for the correct use was provided and signed by the intended user (ACPAT publish a sample of the written instructions suitable for use in these circumstances).
- the equipment was being used for animal physiotherapy purposes only.

### Will the policy cover members for accidents to students on work experience or Category B members on placement or employees?

No not automatically, but the scheme has a reasonably priced option to include Employers' Liability cover where required, covering the members liability for students and/or employees in their care.

### Am I covered for human physiotherapy?

Not under the ACPAT Professional Liability scheme which relates solely to animal physiotherapy. However, all CSP Members have access to the CSP's PLI Programme covering human treatments within the scope of physiotherapy practice (see the Physiotherapy section of the brokers website [www.jameshallam.co.uk/promed](http://www.jameshallam.co.uk/promed) for details).

### How can I get cover for non physiotherapy activities?

If you are suitably qualified to perform other treatments or therapies please contact James Hallam Insurance Brokers Limited for separate quotations.

### I am forming a limited company – what are the insurance implications?

A limited company is a separate legal entity and one that can be sued in its own right for any negligent services delivered on its behalf. If an ACPAT member is the sole owner and only practitioner employed by the company, both can be simply added to the same policy for a small extra charge (the Corporate Entity will additionally benefit from Public Liability insurance to a limit of £5,000,000). However, where more than one member/practitioner is involved or where additional therapies are provided, a separate policy for the corporate entity will be necessary. All animal therapists engaged or employed must also be ACPAT/CSP members, and if engaged on a self-employed basis maintain Professional and Public Liability Insurance in their own name.

### Where can I find more information on the ACPAT Professional Liability Scheme and the CSP's Public Liability Policy?

Please log on to the *Physiotherapy* section of the broker's website [www.jameshallam.co.uk/promed](http://www.jameshallam.co.uk/promed) for full details of both covers and the options available.

### RAMP Registrants

Non ACPAT/CSP members who are RAMP registered may also apply to us for separate insurance

