

## QUALITY ASSURANCE: CODE OF ETHICS

All Equine Touch Practitioners are required to abide by the Code of Ethics during their work. As a professional association we need to have in place a system to investigate any reported transgressions from the Code of Ethics or any claims of behaviour that is detrimental to the credibility of the Equine Touch and its Practitioners. This system should be seen as a benefit to protecting the reputation of the Equine Touch and as such a benefit to the individual Practitioner and their business.

### 3.1 Code of Ethics

The International Equine Touch Association UK (IETA-UK and Ireland) is the professional body for the Equine Touch (ET), Vibromuscular Harmonisation Technique (VHT) and Canine Touch students and practitioners. Members of IETA-UK and Ireland commit themselves to be governed by a Code of Ethics. This Code ensures that practitioners and students of all techniques are committed to high standards, professionalism and the care of their client either animal or human. Every ET, VHT and CT Practitioner in the UK and Ireland must be a member of IETA-UK and Ireland to practice. From January 2014 all students registered on Practitioner Route must also be members.

IETA-UK and Ireland's Committee oversees adherence to the Code and, should a complaint be received about a member, has the ultimate power to remove that person from membership.

Each individual member of IETA-UK and Ireland, whether student or practitioner must:

- Have a sincere commitment to provide the highest quality of care to those who seek their professional services.
- Represent the Equine Touch/VHT/CT and their qualifications honestly, including their educational achievements and professional affiliations and will provide only the services which they are 'qualified' or trained to provide.
- Never diagnose or use the word diagnosis, or intimate that they are diagnosing in relation to any problem presented by an equine unless they are a qualified veterinary surgeon.
- Never give advice or instructions to any owner as to the care or care management of their horse, which would be contrary to that given by a licensed veterinary surgeon or which they are not trained to give.
- Under no circumstances use any title or description which gives the impression that they are a practitioner of veterinary medicine unless they are so qualified.
- Refrain from using the title 'equine therapist' unless they are legally qualified to call themselves such.
- Never use the words heal or cure, or intimate by word or by any other medium to any person that by using the procedures taught by the Equine Touch Foundation (ETF) they can heal or cure any problem, real or imagined.
- Accurately inform clients, animal health care professionals and the general public of the scope and limits of their discipline.
- Acknowledge any contraindications of the disciplines that they practice.
- Practice the procedures only where there is a reasonable expectation that it will be advantageous to the equine.
- Consistently maintain and improve professional knowledge and competence, striving for professional excellence through regular assessment of personal strengths and weaknesses and through ongoing education and training.
- Conduct their business and professional activities with honesty, integrity and respect with inherent worth to all, animals and humans.
- Not by word, deed or in writing cast a shadow on the character of any other student, practitioner or instructor of Equine Touch, VHT or Canine Touch regardless of their status, to any member of the public; which, regardless of intent, may cause that person harm professionally, personally or in any manner whatsoever.
- Not actively solicit another practitioner's clients.

Any Practitioner breaching the ETF Code of Ethics can ultimately lose their right to be a member. As membership is compulsory for practitioners of all disciplines, the Practitioner can lose their right to practice under the name of Equine Touch, Vibromuscular Harmonisation Technique or Canine Touch, this final decision resting with ETF.