

PRESS RELEASE

Veterinary Board states Equine Podiatry is an Evolution of the Farrier practice.

A Graduate of the Institute of Applied Equine Podiatry stands up for her right to practice her profession.

Hartford Ct. April 25: Department of Public Health passes down decision to dismiss all charges against Chris Huppe, DAEP (Degreed Applied Equine Podiatrist) concerning her practice of Equine Podiatry.

On December 20, 2012 the Department of Public Health filed charges, with the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine against Christine Huppe. The charges allege that Chris Huppe by holding herself out as being capable of performing and actually performing equine podiatry, was practicing veterinary medicine, although she does not hold a license to practice veterinary medicine.

On February 20, 2013, the Veterinary Medicine Board held an administrative hearing regarding the charges being held against Chris Huppe. All parties availed themselves of the opportunity to present witnesses and arguments, all board members received copies of the entire record. The Board's decision was based entirely on the record and the Board's specialized, professional knowledge in evaluating the evidence.

The Allegations were that Chris Huppe, DAEP in or around 2011 and/or 2012 practiced veterinary medicine in that she performed and/or held herself out as being able to perform Equine Podiatry. The act constituted a violation of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding the practice of veterinary medicine.

The Boards Findings: The practice of Equine Podiatry is not the practice of veterinary medicine.

1. ***Equine Podiatry is an evolutionary branch, or subset, of the traditional farrier profession***, which made and installed metal shoes on horses.
2. ***The practice of Equine Podiatry is different from the practice of veterinary medicine.***
3. ***Because Equine Podiatry is not regulated, Chris Huppe, DAEP did not need a license to practice as an Equine Podiatrist.***

Pursuant to the Veterinary Medicine Board's findings, the State of Connecticut passed down a decision to dismiss all charges against Chris Huppe, DAEP. The Board of Veterinary Medicine also established that Equine Podiatry is an Evolution of the centuries-old farrier profession.

Comments from K.C. & Robyn La Pierre Co-Founders of the Institute of Applied Equine Podiatry.

We are pleased with the Board's findings and are grateful for the efforts set forth by Chris Huppe in standing up for her rights to practice Applied Equine Podiatry. Chris Huppe presented evidence that included the principles and philosophies of Applied Equine Podiatry as set forth by the Institute, the Institute's code of ethics, and a concise description of the Institute's curriculum. Her testimony and the evidence that she presented prompted the Board of Veterinary Medicine to clearly define the scope of Equine Podiatry. The Board found her testimony to be credible and the evidence she presented made it clear that she did not work beyond the scope of an equine podiatrist.

Chris Huppe, DAEP is a dedicated Applied Equine Podiatrist who has continued to support the practice of Applied Equine Podiatry. After meeting the requirements for achieving a diploma in Applied Equine Podiatry from the Institute, Chris continues her education as a student enrolled in our advanced level program. She is also working towards becoming an IAEP licensed Instructor. Chris Huppe exemplifies the dedication and skill all of our active graduates possess. She, like all of our active graduates are helping to improve the quality of life of today's horse. Chris Huppe is a true professional and by her standing up for her rights to practice Applied Equine Podiatry she has set precedent in establishing Applied Equine Podiatry as a viable alternative to the traditional farrier practice.

For further information on Applied Equine Podiatry and the Institute of Applied Equine Podiatry visit our website at www.appliedequinepodiatry.org