

3.7 Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship the Board endorses the following policy statements and guidelines of the American Veterinary Medical Association as recommended guidelines for the practice of veterinary medicine:

(a) Veterinary prescription drugs should be dispensed only by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian in the presence of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (V.C.P.R.).

(b) Orders issued by licensed veterinarians authorizing drug distributors to deliver veterinary prescription drugs to a specific client should be based on a valid V.C.P.R.

(c) Prescriptions or orders issued by licensed veterinarians authorizing pharmacists to dispense veterinary prescription drugs to a specific client should be based on a valid V.C.P.R.

(d) The V.C.P.R. exists when all of the following conditions have been met:

(1) The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's instructions.

(2) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s). This means that **the veterinarian has recently seen** and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of an examination of the animal(s) or by medically appropriate and **timely visits to the premises** where the animal(s) are kept.

(3) The veterinarian **is readily available or has arranged for emergency coverage for follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen.** Reports of violations of these policy statements and guidelines shall be investigated by the Board and may result in disciplinary action.

(e) Prescriptions from veterinarians are subject to Vermont Prescription Drug Cost Containment statutes in 18 V.S.A. Chapter 91 Prescription Drug Cost Containment.

Suggested Additional Language:

The Veterinarian of Record (VOR) is the responsible party for providing appropriate oversight of drug use on the farm operation. If more than one veterinarian or veterinary practice has a working relationship on an operation, then the VCPR agreement should establish which one has the overall responsibility for treatment protocols, drug inventories, prescriptions and feed directives, personnel training oversight and drug use on the operation. If a veterinarian who is not the VOR provides professional services in any type of consultation or advisory capacity, then it is incumbent on that veterinarian to ensure that the VOR is contacted and informed of their findings and recommendations and makes provisions for emergency follow up care. Establishment of a VCPR for the sole purpose of the sale of drugs or increased sales of a particular brand of drug product is not a valid or ethical reason for having a VCPR.