

Title 16. Professional and Vocational Regulations
Division 20. Veterinary Medical Board
Article 4. Practice

§ 2032.1. Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship.

(a) Except where the patient is a wild animal or its owner is unknown, it shall constitute unprofessional conduct for a veterinarian to administer or prescribe a drug, medicine, appliance, or application or treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, fracture or bodily injury or disease of an animal without having first established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with the animal patient or patients and the client. It shall also constitute unprofessional conduct for a veterinarian to prescribe, dispense, or furnish either a veterinary drug, as defined by Section 1747.1, Title 16, California Code of Regulations, or a dangerous drug, as defined by Section 4022 of the code, without having first established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with the animal patient or patients and the client.

(b) A veterinarian-client-patient relationship shall exist when all of the following occur:

(1) The veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, has discussed with the client a course of treatment and if applicable has instructed the client as to the appropriate directions for administering the drugs or treatments.

(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 care of the animal(s) by virtue of an examination of the animal or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animals are kept, and

(c) A dangerous drug or a veterinary drug shall not be prescribed for a duration which is inconsistent with the animal patient's medical condition or type of drug prescribed which in no event shall exceed more than one year from the date that the veterinarian has examined the animal patient and prescribed such drug, unless the veterinarian has conducted a subsequent examination of the patient to determine the patient's continued need for the prescribed drug.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4883, Business and Professions Code.