

**Title 16 California Code of Regulations section 2032.1 (Proposed Revision)  
05/11/2010**

**Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship**

**(a) The veterinarian-client-patient relationship ("VCPR") is a three-way relationship which involves rights and responsibilities on the part of both the veterinarian and the client to enable the veterinarian to act in the best interests of the animal patient. Before a veterinarian administers, prescribes, dispenses or furnishes a drug, medicine, appliance, or treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury or disease of an animal, a VCPR shall be established, except where the patient is a wild animal or the owner is unknown.**

**(b) A VCPR is established by the following:**

**(1) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal to make a general or preliminary diagnosis of its medical condition, to assess the animal's need for veterinary care, and to formulate a proposed course of treatment or care; and**

**(2) The veterinarian has communicated with the client the animal's medical condition, the proposed course of treatment or care and its estimated cost, and any other issues which, in the discretion of the veterinarian, are relevant to the animal's treatment or care; and**

**(3) The client has authorized the veterinarian to assume responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal.**

**(c) If a well animal is presented for veterinary care (e.g., vaccinations, routine spays and neuters), the VCPR is established when the veterinarian and client agree on the nature and scope of the procedure and its estimated cost.**

**(d) The scope of an examination of herd animals or flocks is within the discretion of the veterinarian, provided that the veterinarian is acquainted with the animals or flocks by visiting the premises or area where they are kept and is personally acquainted with their condition and care.**

**(e) A drug shall not be prescribed for a duration inconsistent with the animal patient's medical condition or type of drug prescribed. The veterinarian shall not prescribe a drug for a duration longer than one year from the date the veterinarian examined the animal patient and prescribed the drug. As used herein, "animal patient" includes herd animals and flocks.**

**(f) As used herein, "drug" shall mean any controlled substance, as defined by Section 4021 of the code, and any dangerous drug, as defined by Section 4022 of the code.**

**Title 16 California Code of Regulations section 2032.1**

**Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship**

**(a) It is unprofessional conduct for a veterinarian to administer, prescribe, dispense or furnish a drug, medicine, appliance, or treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure or relief of a wound, fracture, 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, except where the patient is a wild animal or the owner is unknown.**

**(b) A veterinarian-client-patient relationship shall be established by the following:**

**(1) The client has authorized the veterinarian to assume responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal, including the need for medical treatment; and**

**(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 is personally acquainted with the 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 animals are kept.**

**(c) A drug shall not be prescribed for a duration inconsistent with the animal(s) medical condition or type of drug prescribed. The veterinarian shall not prescribe a drug for a duration longer than one year from the date the veterinarian examined the animal(s) and prescribed the drug.**

**(d) As used herein, "drug" shall mean any controlled substance, as defined by Section 4021 of the code, and any dangerous drug, as defined by Section 4022 of the code.**

**"SECOND DRAFT"**