

**Title 16. Professional and Vocational Regulations
Division 20. Veterinary Medical Board**

2032.1. Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship

(a) ~~Except where the patient is a wild animal or its owner is unknown, it shall constitute~~ It is unprofessional conduct for a veterinarian to administer, ~~or prescribe,~~ a drug, medicine, appliance, or application ~~dispense, or furnish a drug, medicine, appliance,~~ 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, except where the patient is a wild animal or the owner is unknown. ~~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~~ be established by 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~~ has communicated with the client a course of treatment appropriate to the circumstance; 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 ~~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(s) patient's medical condition or type of drug prescribed. ~~which in no event shall exceed more~~ The veterinarian shall not prescribe a drug for a duration longer than one year from the date ~~that~~ the veterinarian ~~has~~ examined the animal(s) 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.

(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.

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