



MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 9, 2014
TO	Veterinary Medical Board
FROM	Annemarie Del Mugnaio Executive Officer Veterinary Medical Board
SUBJECT	Review and Consider Telemedicine Language

Background:

This issue of telemedicine was raised by UC Davis and ultimately included as one of the Board's strategic issues. The matter was referred to the MDC for consideration and possible action. At the April 23, 2014 MDC meeting, the MDC recommended the attached language to the Board for consideration as a regulatory amendment to CCR Section 2032.1 Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship. The matter was then discussed and voted on by the Board on April 24, 2014, wherein the Board requested legal counsel review the language to determine whether it achieves the goal of narrowly defining the manner within which a VCPR may be established. Legal Counsel has reviewed the proposed language of CCR Section 2032.1 (e) and concurs with the recommendation of the MDC in terms of the proposed language achieving the said goal.

Consideration:

Is there any other means, other than telephonic or electronic, which a veterinarian may attempt to establish a VCPR absent being physically present with the animal patient that would necessitate further revisions to the telemedicine language.

Action Requested:

Delegate to staff noticing the proposed regulatory amendment regarding telemedicine.

Telehealth Sub-Committee
Jon Klingborg, DVM and Richard Sullivan, DVM

a) Addition to 2032.1 Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship

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 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. □

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

(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, □

(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 or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animals are kept, and □

(3) The veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal and has communicated with the client a course of treatment appropriate to the circumstance. □

(c) A drug shall not be prescribed for a duration inconsistent with the medical condition of the animal(s) 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 Business and Professions code, and any dangerous drug, as defined by Section 4022 of Business and Professions code.

(e) No person may practice veterinary medicine in the State except within the context of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship. A veterinarian-client-patient relationship cannot be established solely by telephonic or electronic means.