

Veterinary Medical Board

Current Laws Regarding Marijuana and Animals

1. The Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has ultimate jurisdiction over controlled substances, including marijuana. The DEA has listed cannabis and cannabinoid products as Schedule I controlled substances, meaning that these substances have a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical use. The DEA has not given veterinarians the authority to possess, administer, dispense, or prescribe cannabis or cannabinoid products. Therefore, under Federal Law, veterinarians are prohibited from engaging in such activity.

2. Current California law makes it legal for human patients and their designated primary caregivers to possess and cultivate marijuana for their personal medical use with the recommendation or approval of a *California-licensed physician or surgeon*. There is nothing in California law that would allow a veterinarian to prescribe, recommend, or approve marijuana for use by animals. Veterinarians are in violation of California law if they are incorporating cannabis into their practices.

3. The Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has warned that consumers should beware of purchasing and using products containing cannabis for animals. These products have not been approved by the FDA for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of diseases. They also have not been documented as a safe and efficacious remedy by the professional veterinary medical community.