

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board Newsletter

2013—2014

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Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) By: Dr. Gurdas Singh Dass

Many times owners ask for clarification as to why their Veterinarian requires their animal to have a health exam prior to prescriptions being filled, a vaccine being administered, or health services being performed. The Veterinarian's part of the VCPR involves making those judgments, accepting the responsibility for providing the pet with medical care, advising the client about the benefits and risks of different treatment options. A Veterinarian keeps a written record of the pet's medical care, and helps client's know how to get emergency care for the pet if the need should arise.

The Veterinarian knows the client and the patient and this is critical to keeping the pet healthy. For example, the veterinarian can customize a vaccination program to give the pet the best protection from disease and make sure that it is not getting a vaccine it does not need. Sometimes, vaccine and drug reactions, although

uncommon, can occur, and the veterinarian is trained to recognize and treat them to minimize the chance that the reaction will become severe or even life-threatening.

There are websites on the internet that give advice, treat the pet, and prescribe medicine without a VCPR which is against the law according to the Ohio Veterinary Medical Practice Act. Clients should not get opinions and treatments for their pets from the internet. A hands-on physical examination is incredibly valuable to the pet and cannot be replaced by a phone conversation, web-based conversation, or email description. Emergency treatment does not come from a website. Veterinarians need to be creative in educating their clientele regarding the necessary VCPR.

Chapter 4741.04 of the Ohio Revised Code fully explains that VCPR exists when all of the following conditions have been met:

A) A Veterinarian assumes responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of a patient and the need for medical

treatment, medical services, or both for the patient, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's instruction regarding the patient.

- B) A Veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate, at least, a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the patient. In order to demonstrate that the veterinarian has sufficient knowledge, the veterinarian shall have seen the patient recently and also shall be acquainted personally with the keeping and care of the patient, either by examining the patient, or by making medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the patient is kept.
- C) The Veterinarian is readily available for follow up evaluation or has arranged for emergency coverage, in the event the patient suffers adverse reactions to the treatment regimen or the treatment regimen fails.

Permissible Activities of Registered Veterinary Technicians and Animal Aides

The following page contains an important document regarding the permissible activities of an RVT and an Animal Aide and the type of supervision required that was developed in collaboration with the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association. This is not an inclusive list, but designed to provide a quick reference for veterinary practitioners. The list is for general guidance only and should only be referred to in concert with applicable sections of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) —4741.01, 4741.04, 4741.19, 4741.20; and Administrative Code (OAC) - 4741-1-01, 4741-1-13, 4741-1-14, 4741-1-23. The types of supervision are defined in Section 4741.01 ORC:

ORC 4741.01(D) defines general "Veterinary Supervision" to mean instruction and direction by a licensed veterinarian on the premises or by a licensed veterinarian who is readily available to communicate with a person requiring supervision.

ORC 4741.01(K) defines "Direct Veterinary Supervision" to mean a licensed veterinarian is in the immediate area and within audible range, visual range, or both, of a patient and the person administering to the patient.

| General Guidance for Permissible Activities | Registered Technician | | | Animal Aides | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | Tasks | General Supervision | Direct Supervision | Not Permitted | General Supervision | Direct Supervision | Not Permitted |
| Anesthesia - Induction, endotracheal intubation, maintenance - Monitor Vital Signs | | | X X | | | | X X |
| IV Catheter | X | | | | | | X**** |
| Cut down (with needle) | | | | X | | | X |
| Central Line (without cutdown) | | | X | | | | X |
| Dental Prophylaxis | | | X | | | | X |
| Dental Extractions/Not involving bone resection or sectioning of teeth | | | X | | | | X |
| Deciduous Extractions/Not involving bone resection or sectioning of teeth | | | X | | | | X |
| Gingival Resection | | | | X | | | X |
| Administer Chemotherapy | | | X | | | | X |
| Suture Skin Incisions | X | | | | | | X |
| Removal of Sutures, Drains, Staples | X | | | | | X | |
| Microchip Implant | X | | | | X | | |
| Perform Local Nerve Blocks | | | X | | | | X |
| Male Urinary Catheterization/sample collection | X | | | | | | X |
| Female Urinary Catheterization/sample collection | X | | | | | | X |
| Fine Needle Aspiration-limited (see***) | X | | | | | | X |
| Puncture Abscess with a needle | X | | | | | | X |
| Euthanize an Animal | X* | | | | | | X* |
| Decapitate for Rabies Test submission | X | | | | X | | |
| Clamp Calves' Tails | X | | | | X | | |
| Dock Sheep/Pig Tails | X | | | | X | | |
| Float Teeth | | | X | | | | X |
| Castrate Calves, Pigs, Lambs | X | | | | | | X |
| Dehorn Calves (non-surgical) | X | | | | | | X |
| Castrate companion animals | | | | X | | | X |
| Trim Normal hooves (excluding equine) | X | | | | X | | |
| Necropsy-Tissue Sample collection | X | | | | X | | |
| Radiological Images-Acquire/Process | X | | | | X | | |
| Venipuncture | X | | | | | X | |
| Obtain Objective Patient Data without diagnosis | X | | | | X | | |
| Cystocentesis | X | | | | | | X |
| Collect Specimens | X | | | | X | | |
| Process laboratory samples | X | | | | X | | |
| Bacterial Streak and Culture | X | | | | X | | |
| Administer Non-Rabies Vaccines | X | | | | ** | | ** |
| Intramuscular Injections | X | | | | | | X |
| Subcutaneous Injections | X | | | | X | | |
| Intravenous Injection into uncatheterized vein | X | | | | | | X |
| Intravenous Injection into Catheterized vein | X | | | | | | X |
| Administer oral and topical medications as directed | X | | | | X | | |
| Administer controlled substances | X | | | | | | X |
| Prep for surgery excluding anesthesia/controlled substance | X | | | | X | | |
| Apply wound dressings, casts or splints | X | | | | | | X |
| Laser Therapy | X | | | | | X | |
| Laser Surgery | | | | X | | | X |

* Permissible with a euthanasia technician designation and VCPR; ** Animal Aides are permitted to administer topical, oral and subcutaneous; *** Peripheral lymph nodes, dermal and subcutaneous masses only; **** Placement not permitted, may attach, disconnect and reattach fluid bags.
Always refer to ORC 4741.01, 4741.04, 4741.19, 4741.20 and OAC Rules 4741-1-01, 4741-1-13, 4741-1-14, and 4741-1-23)

Proposed rules:

The Board has drafted a new rule providing guidelines for Vaccination Clinics , for Home Veterinary Visits for companion animals, and Livestock Ambulatory Units. The Board developed the rules in response to inquiries from practicing veterinarians seeking guidance. Additionally, the Board is reviewing several other rules in accordance with the “five-year” rule review. It is anticipated that there will be amendments to the Stationary facility rule (4741-1-03 OAC) so that electronic internet access will meet the requirement for having a library within the office. The Record-keeping rule will require the documentation that there was monitoring performed when anesthesia was administered. The Board is also adding language “must be of good moral character” to requirements for licensure of the registered veterinary technician and the veterinarian which mirrors the language in the law. It is anticipated that the proposed rules will be available on the Board’s web site by January 15, 2014 so that feedback can be provided.

Change of Employment Reminder

ORC 4741.171 requires a licensed veterinarian to notify the Board, in writing, of any change in the veterinarian’s office or employment within ninety days after the change has taken place.

ORC 4741.19(C) requires a registered veterinary technician to notify the Board, in writing, of any change in the RVT’s office address or employment within ninety days after the change has taken place.

Veterinary Renewal: All regular veterinary licenses expire on March 1, 2014. Which means, that according to the Veterinary Practice Act, anyone who is practicing on an expired license on March 2nd is in violation of the law. A late fee of \$70.00 is charged in addition to the \$155 for the licensure renewal until April 1st. On April 2nd, the fee increases by \$295 to make the total cost \$450. Therefore, please provide any changes of address in writing to the Board office by email, fax or via mail ASAP to make sure that you receive your renewal application in a timely manner. Renewal forms will be mailed out the first week of January, 2014.

As a reminder, the name of the veterinarian must be on the check submitted when submitting the renewal by mail. This reminder is especially important for those veterinary entities that submit a check for multiple veterinarians.

This is likely the last renewal that paper renewals will be sent out. As promised, a new state system is currently in the process of being implemented. Once the new state system is enacted, all renewals will be via electronic means with a few exceptions. Unfortunately, the current Continuing Education reporting section remains difficult until the new system is in place. It would be helpful to make sure the Board has a current email address for you.

When renewing online, remember to only hit the submit button once and DO NOT hit the “back” button. Every time that you hit the back button, your credit card is charged. If you accidentally get charged more than once, the Board tries to catch it and credit your account within 24-48 hours. However, if a double billing appears on your statement, let the Board staff know and the Board staff will try to get it fixed promptly.

Reprinted from 2007 Newsletter **Specialist—What does it mean?**

The term “specialist” refers to a licensed veterinarian who is certified by a veterinary specialty board of a professional veterinary association recognized by rule of the state veterinary medical licensing board. This is the official definition of a specialist as listed in Ohio Revised Code 4741 (Veterinary Practice Act). It is illegal and unethical for veterinarians to identify themselves as members of an American Board of Veterinary Specialties recognized specialty organization if such certification has not been awarded. These specialties are listed in the AVMA directory.

In order for a “specialist” to use that designation and practice a specialty in the state of Ohio, a specialist certificate is required [[ORC 4741.19\(D\)](#) and [4741.17\(A\)\(11\)](#)]. For the procedures to procure a certificate of registration as a “specialist”, refer to OAC Rule [4741-1-02](#). An application can be found online under [Veterinary Licenses](#).

Veterinarians are permitted to use the designation “practice limited to...” when referring to a specific area of practice in which the individual has shown a high degree of interest and/or is spending a greater amount of energy or time. It does not imply or certify that this individual has met the requirements of a specialty board or college in a specific discipline of practice. Referred clients should be aware of the qualifications and degree of expertise implied by this designation.

Individuals who have completed a residency training program in a specialty area often consider themselves to be “board-qualified” when waiting to be examined for certification. They may not use the designation of “specialist” or “board-certified” until certification has been awarded.

Disposal of Controlled Substances: Any person in possession of any controlled substance and desiring or required to dispose of such substance may request assistance from the DEA Agent in Charge of the Administration in the area in which the prescriber is located. The following link will provide the instructions: http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/21cfr/cfr/1307/1307_21.htm

The following DEA link details the recordkeeping requirements: <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/manuals/pract/section4.htm#disposal>

Ohio DEA Agents:

Cincinnati Resident Office
36 East 7th St., Suite 1900
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Columbus Resident Office
500 South Front St., Suite 612
Columbus, OH 43215

Cleveland Resident Office
Courthouse Square
1375 East 9th St., Suite 700
Cleveland, OH 44114
Diversion: (216) 274-3600

Diversion: (513) 684-3671

Diversion: (614) 255-4200

Fax: (513) 694-3080
Jurisdiction: Southern Ohio

Fax: (614) 469-5788
Central and Southern Ohio

Fax: (216) 664-1307
Northern Ohio

Pharmacy Board Reminder:

“Dangerous Drugs” means a drug that is dispensed only upon a prescription or that is administered by injection. The Pharmacy Laws requires all dispensers of dangerous drugs to be accountable, both in storage and record keeping. Therefore, **all prescription drugs must be stored and logged** as all controlled drugs are. Please review Rule 4729-9-11 OAC entitled *Security and Control of Dangerous Drugs*.

“Compounding” Questions

There seems to be some confusion regarding the compounding law and rules of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy. It is highly recommended that any prescriber who wants to compound review the “Compounding in Ohio” fact sheet on the Pharmacy Board’s web site at www.pharmacy.ohio.gov under the “Terminal Distributor” heading. Additionally, Mr. Kyle Parker, the Pharmacy Board Director, has written an article distinguishing the difference in “manufacturing” vs “compounding” in their November, 2012 newsletter which can also be found on the Pharmacy Board’s website.

Examples of questions submitted to and responses by Mr. Parker:

Q: Can a veterinarian dispense compounded drugs that are ordered specifically for a patient and sold in the original package?

R: Patient specific prescriptions for compounds is absolutely allowed for veterinarians to receive. These products may not be used for other patients. The veterinarian may also receive a short supply of compounds for “office use” to be administered while the animal is there. It is not legal however for veterinarians to send a list of products to compounding pharmacies that they need, without patient specific prescriptions, because this changes the practice of pharmacy from compounding to manufacturing-which is illegal. See [ORC 4729.01\(C\)](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4729-01(C)) and <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4729-9-25>

Q: If a pharmacy has a manufacturer’s license, can the veterinarian dispense their compounded product to the patient?

R: You can administer the patient specific compounded drug, then hand off the prescription to the client for continuation. This is handled by the Pharmacy Board’s “pick up station” rule which inherently allows someone other than the patient to be delivered the prescription from the pharmacy when certain parameters apply. See <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4729-5-10> . The pharmacy would have to submit a pick up station approval which requires the veterinarians signature and the pharmacy. This allows the pharmacy to ship these patient specific scripts to the veterinarian’s office. The form is available on the Pharmacy Board’s website under the “Terminal Distributor” tab.

Animal Poison Control Center

888-426-4435

www.aspcapro.org

Zoonotic Disease Program
Ohio Department of Health
3995 E. Main St.
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

614-752-1029

Zoonoses@odh.ohio.gov

Rabies Information

According to the Ohio Department of Health's *Dealing with Rabies: Answers for Ohio Veterinarians* found at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/~media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/dis/rabies/dealingwrabies.ashx> Ohio law gives local governments authority to enact vaccination regulations at their discretion. A 2011 survey conducted by the ODH Zoonotic Disease Program, found that 48 percent of the 128 surveyed local health jurisdictions require vaccination of dogs, 38 percent require vaccination of cats, and 25% require vaccination of ferrets. There are maps at the website depicting which counties have mandatory vaccination.

Ohio law requires that dogs that bite someone must be currently vaccinated against rabies before they are released from quarantine (<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-3-29>). Ohio law also requires that dogs and cats that are staying in Division of Parks and Recreation and Division of Forestry campgrounds must be currently vaccinated and display proof of rabies vaccination. (<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/1501%3A41-9-10>) Similarly, state parks with designated dog exercise areas require dogs to wear a tag as proof of current rabies vaccination. Dogs and cats entering Ohio must be vaccinated against rabies prior to entry . (<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/901%3A1-17-05>)

Persons residing in Ohio are permitted to purchase and administer rabies vaccine to their own animals. However, parenteral animal rabies vaccines should be administered by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, and owner vaccination should be discouraged. Proof of vaccination is confirmed by a valid rabies vaccination certificate that is signed by the veterinarian responsible for the proper storage and administration of the vaccine. Most communities with mandatory rabies vaccination ordinances require that vaccination be given by or under the supervision of a veterinarian.

The document has a lot of information that addresses questions that the board sometimes receives, such as, vaccinating wolf hybrids, not knowing an animals vaccination history, and reporting of suspected rabies exposure.

This link will provide access to various contact numbers for the ODH Rabies Division:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/~media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/dis/rabies/rabaninfo.ashx>

Veterinary Student Loan Program

The student loan program was developed to provide large animal veterinary services in veterinary resource shortage areas. \$10.00 of each veterinary license renewal fee is deposited in the loan repayment fund. In May, 2013, the Board awarded \$5,000 to Dr. Shawn Ryan, Dr. Mark Imhoff, and Dr. Bryan Hirschbach for a service commitment of one year.

Applications for 2014 can be found on the Board's web site and are due by May 1st to the Board office. To qualify for consideration, applicants must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident;
2. Be enrolled or have graduated within three years of application from a veterinary college approved by the Board;
3. Be eligible for Ohio licensure as a veterinarian;
4. Intend to practice in a veterinary shortage area in large animal veterinary medicine, veterinary services necessary to implement or enforce the law, or in veterinary services necessary to protect public health.
5. Not have received student loan repayment assistance pursuant to federal law.