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July 7, 2015

Bernadette M. Dunham, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Director, Center for Veterinary Medicine
Department of Health and Human Services
Public Health Service
Food and Drug Administration
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Re: FDA Veterinary Directive Final Rule

Dear Ms. Dunham:

In response to your letter of June 11, 2015 addressed to Ronald Klein: The VCPR is addressed in the Administrative Rules of the Board of Veterinary Medicine. They are posted on line at <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/profession/veterinary-medicine/statutes-rules.aspx>. The specific references come in Rule 2.1(k) and Rule 3.7.

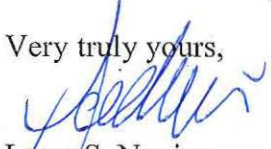
Rule 2.1 is a definition: "V.C.P.R.' means veterinarian-client-patient relationship."

Rule 3.7 provides:

Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship The Board endorses the following policy statements and guidelines of the American Veterinary Medical Association as recommended guidelines for the practice of veterinary medicine: (a) Veterinary prescription drugs should be dispensed only by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian in the presence of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (V.C.P.R.). (b) Orders issued by licensed veterinarians authorizing drug distributors to deliver veterinary prescription drugs to a specific client should be based on a valid V.C.P.R. (c) Prescriptions or orders issued by licensed veterinarians authorizing pharmacists to dispense veterinary prescription drugs to a specific client should be based on a valid V.C.P.R. (d) The V.C.P.R. exists when all of the following conditions have been met: (1) The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's instructions. (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 keeping and 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 animal(s) are kept. (3) The veterinarian is readily available or has

arranged for emergency coverage for follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen. Reports of violations of these policy statements and guidelines shall be investigated by the Board and may result in disciplinary action. (e) Prescriptions from veterinarians are subject to Vermont Prescription Drug Cost Containment statutes in 18 V.S.A. Chapter 91 Prescription Drug Cost Containment.

Very truly yours,



Larry S. Novins
Board Counsel