



# The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

77 South High Street, 16th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108



July 10, 2015

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

Re: Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship Requirements

Dear Dr. Dunham:

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board received your request for information regarding whether the Ohio Veterinary Medical Practice Act contains language regulating a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR). Enclosed is a copy of 4741.04 of the Ohio Revised Code related to the statutory requirement for a VCPR and Rule 4741-1-05 of the Ohio Administrative Code which requires a valid VCPR before prescribing, administering or dispensing a drug or biologic.

I hope this is helpful information in your research. Do not hesitate to contact me at 614-644-9040 or [Theresa.stir@ovmlb.state.oh.us](mailto:Theresa.stir@ovmlb.state.oh.us) if you need additional information.

Respectfully,

Theresa Stir, Esq  
Executive Director

Enclosure

## **4741.04 Veterinary-client-patient relationship defined.**

A veterinary-client-patient relationship serves as the basis for interaction between veterinarians, their clients, and their patients. A veterinary-client-patient relationship 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 instructions regarding the patient.

(B) The 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 a 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.

Effective Date: 10-12-2006

## **4741-1-05 Prescribing, administering, and dispensing drugs.**

(A) As used in this rule, "drug" is defined in accordance with Chapter 4729. of the Revised Code.

(B) A licensed veterinarian may prescribe, administer or dispense a drug or biologic only in those cases in which he or she has a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR).

(C) The licensed veterinarian must comply with all applicable state and federal rules and regulations in the prescribing, administering and dispensing of drugs.

R.C. 119.032 review dates: 07/05/2012 and 07/05/2017

Promulgated Under: 119.03

Statutory Authority: 4741.03(C)(9)

Rule Amplifies: 4741.04, 4741.22(H)

Prior Effective Dates: 02/01/1980, 11/30/2001, 11/15/2007