

**TITLE 15 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Subtitle 14 BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS Chapter 01 Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics for the Practice of Veterinary Medicine in the State**

**Authority: Agriculture Article, §§2-103, 2-304, and 2-310, Annotated Code of Maryland:**

**.03 (14)** "Veterinarian-client-patient relationship" means that all of the following conditions exist:

**(a)** The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the animal and the need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's instructions;

**(b)** The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal because the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal through either: **(i)** A physical examination; or **(ii)** Medically appropriate and timely visits to the location where the animal is kept; and

**(c)** The veterinarian is readily available or has arranged for emergency coverage or follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or the failure of the treatment regimen.

**12-1 Prescriptions.** A. A veterinarian may issue a prescription only under the following conditions: (1) A veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists; and (2) The veterinarian is willing to dispense the drug for the patient.

A legal definition and detailed description of the VCPR follows:

*Code of Federal Regulations TITLE 21--FOOD AND DRUGS  
CHAPTER I--FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (CONTINUED)  
PART 530\_EXTRALABEL DRUG USE IN ANIMALS--Table of Contents*

*(i) A valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship is one in which:*

*(1) A veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of (an) animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, and the **client (the owner of the animal or animals or other caretaker) has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian;***

*(2) There is sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) by the*

veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s); and

(3) The practicing veterinarian is readily available for followup in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy. **Such a relationship can exist only when the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of examination of the animal(s), and/or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept.**