

Veterinarians and Prescription Drugs

- A veterinarian may dispense or administer a prescription drug **only** to a client-patient that the veterinarian maintains a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship with.
- The procurement of prescription drugs from a prescription drug wholesaler by authority of an individual veterinarian license may **only** be used for the purpose of dispensing or administering to animals that the veterinarian maintains a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship with.
- A veterinarian may **not** :
 - dispense prescription drugs to another veterinarian's patients, or
 - further distribute prescription drugs to other veterinarians, persons or entities.
- A prescription drug wholesaler may **only** distribute prescription drugs into or within Colorado if it is registered by the Colorado State Board of Pharmacy as a prescription drug wholesaler.

The Colorado State Board of Pharmacy has become aware of unregistered businesses dispensing prescription drugs to animals. Upon review of procurement records for these businesses, it has been determined that a veterinarian is obtaining the prescription drugs for the business. A veterinarian cannot distribute prescription drugs to the business without first being registered with the Colorado State Board of Pharmacy as a prescription drug wholesaler.

The Pharmacy Board can, and in fact has, issued Cease and Desist Orders against individual veterinarians who have either dispensed prescription drugs to another veterinarian's patients or who have further distributed prescription drugs to other veterinarians. The Colorado State Board of Veterinary Medicine, in turn, has disciplined the licenses of veterinarians based in part on the issuance of these Cease and Desist Orders, which have included fines of up to \$1,000 for each act that resulted in a violation.

If you have questions regarding these requirements, please call the Colorado State Board of Pharmacy at (303) 894 – 7800.