



Open Letter to All Clients of Veterinary Services in Manitoba

To all clients of veterinary services:

Manitoba's veterinarians have approved legislation that requires veterinarians to see patients at least once within a twelve month period before veterinary pharmaceuticals can be prescribed or dispensed. In some situations, a patient will be required to be examined or seen more frequently. Your veterinarian has the knowledge base to determine if more frequent visits are necessary to provide your animal(s) with the best care.

The relevant by-law is provided below for your review.

All practicing veterinarians must adhere to the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association by-law that states:

The veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is the basis for interaction among veterinarians, their clients and their patients.

A VCPR exists when your veterinarian has:

- assumed responsibility for diagnosing and treating your animal(s) and you agree to follow the veterinarian's instructions
- seen your animal(s) **at least once in the past 12 months** and is aware of the keeping and care of your animal(s) by examination or through visits to where you keep your animal(s)
- offered you emergency coverage for follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen.

Dispensing or prescribing a prescription product requires the existence of a VCPR. Your veterinarian will determine the best course of treatment for your animal(s).

Be aware that your veterinarian may be required to examine your animal before he or she can renew prescriptions for medications.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Seguire".

Dr. Jon Seguire
Acting Registrar