



## MVMA Relaxes VCPR to Address Risks Posed by COVID-19

On November 26, 2020, the Peer Review Committee passed a resolution that it will **dismiss** (direct that no further action be taken for) **complaints that arise solely on the basis that the animal had not been seen and examined within the last twelve (12) months or that the premises when the animal(s) are kept had not been visited within the last twelve (12) months as prescribed by Rule 4-6-2 MVMA General By-Law No. 1.** The PRC will continue to review this resolution to ensure that the regulation of veterinary medicine meets the risks and challenges of the pandemic.

To be clear, under this resolution

- **A veterinarian must have previously completed a hands-on examination of the animal(s) or visited the premises where the animal(s) are kept.**
- **The veterinarian must still have sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) to provide diagnosis, treatment, and or professional recommendations.**

This resolution will remain in effect until amended or repealed by the Peer Review Committee.

### **Background**

As a result of COVID-19 and the current state of emergency, the MVMA has been reviewing its rules to ensure that the regulation of veterinary medicine is appropriately addressing the new risks that have been posed by the pandemic while continuing to uphold the provision of safe, ethical and competent care of animals in Manitoba.

In reviewing the current rules governing the practice of veterinary medicine, a key concept in the provision of veterinary medicine, the Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR), was reviewed to ensure that it is addressing the new risks posed by the pandemic.

The MVMA has listened to calls from the public, the provincial government, the federal government, members of the MVMA, regulators from other Canadian jurisdictions and the CVMA in assessing the risks posed by COVID-19. While the risks are numerous, they focus on the need for social distancing, limiting human to human contact, the increased levels of hygiene required to provide service and the use of personal protection equipment.