

Guidance for Canadian Veterinarians: Understanding the Cannabis Act and Regulations

Since legalization, Canadian veterinary regulators have been supportive of veterinarians having informed discussions with clients about the potential use and toxicity of cannabis products in animals.

Veterinarians may advise and caution clients on the use of legally available recreational cannabis products for their pets.

Legally available cannabis products will not be labelled with animal safety in mind.

Veterinarians who choose to provide advice should seek up to date information on cannabis use in animals through, for example, the scientific literature or continuing education.

- ☑ It is important that veterinarians recognize that legally available cannabis products are not indicated for animal use; they are not classified as drugs (and so cannot be prescribed) and no health claims are made.
- ☑ The scientific evidence with respect to the safety and efficacy of the use of cannabis products in animals is growing but remains limited.
- ☑ Veterinarians are accountable for any professional advice they provide to a client about their animal.
- ☑ Due to third party distribution of products in the recreational market, veterinarians should be vigilant in making recommendations and confirm the product obtained is appropriate for use.
- ☑ Veterinarians are not obligated to advise on use of cannabis products if they do not believe it is clinically appropriate.
- ☑ If a veterinarian chooses to advise on the use of a legal recreational cannabis product in an animal, they:
 - Must practice within the scope of their clinical competency;
 - Must weigh the evidence against other available treatment options;
 - Must consider the known or suspected risks associated with its use in animals;
 - Must obtain informed client consent;
 - Must monitor patients and be available in the event of an adverse reaction or failure of treatment; and
 - Must be aware of the potential for abuse, diversion and misuse of cannabis.
- ☑ Veterinarians may recommend and/or sell Veterinary Health Products with hemp that are approved by Health Canada.