

1 Providing Pharmacy Services for Animals Policy

2 *Together with the relevant legislative requirements and standards, policies articulate the College's*
 3 *expectations of registrants for the practice of pharmacy, the provision of patient care, and the operation*
 4 *of pharmacies. Additional information to assist with policy implementation can be found in the*
 5 *accompanying Supplemental Guidance document.*

6 **Approved: TBD**

7 **Effective: TBD**

8 **Version #: 1.00**

9 Purpose

10 To articulate the expectations of registrants when providing pharmacy services for animals, in
 11 accordance with the relevant legislation and Standards.

13 Scope

14 This policy applies to all registrants in Part A of the register, in community pharmacies and non-
 15 accredited facilities.

17 Definitions

18 **Client:** The owner of an animal, an authorized representative of the owner, or an individual the
 19 veterinarian reasonably determines is acting in the animal's interest.¹

20 **Drug:** As defined in the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act* and includes a compounded preparation,
 21 a veterinary biologic, and any product that has a Drug Identification Number (e.g., medicated feed, a
 22 drug premix).

23 **Extra-label drug use (ELDU)**²: The use in animals of:

- 24 • A Health Canada approved drug (prescription or non-prescription), in a manner not in
 25 accordance with the label or the package insert
- 26 • A compounded preparation
- 27 • An unapproved drug or Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API)

28 **Medically Important Antimicrobials:** Antimicrobial active pharmaceutical ingredients that are
 29 important in human medicine and subject to federal regulations when used in animals to reduce the
 30 development of antimicrobial resistance.³

31 **Pharmacy services (animals only):** Compounding, dispensing and selling drugs.

32 **Prescription:** A direction from a veterinarian directing the dispensing of any drug or mixture of drugs to
 33 a designated animal or group of animals.^{4,5}

34 **Sell:** To offer for sale, expose for sale or have in possession for sale, and distribute⁶ but does not
 35 include dispensing pursuant to a prescription.

36 Policy

37 *Relevant legislation*

- 38 • The *Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024*, governs the practice of veterinary medicine⁷ in Ontario.
 - 39 ○ Pharmacy professionals have an exemption under this Act to perform the authorized
 - 40 activities of compounding, dispensing and selling drugs pursuant to a veterinary
 - 41 prescription.
- 42 • The *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act, 1990* (DPRA) governs the compounding, dispensing
- 43 and selling drugs for animal patients by pharmacy professionals to the same extent as for
- 44 human patients.

45 *Selling or dispensing to clients*

46 Pharmacy professionals **must**:

- 47 • Practice within the limits of their knowledge, skills and judgment
- 48 • Have veterinary references and resources available to provide pharmacy services to animals
- 49 safely

50 Pharmacy professionals **must** sell or dispense a drug exactly as prescribed:

- 51 • Modification of any component of the prescription must be approved by the veterinarian prior to
- 52 provision to the client
 - 53 ○ This includes the drug, the brand of drug, dose, dosage form, strength, or directions for
 - 54 use.
- 55 • Consult with the appropriate veterinary professional when there are questions about the
- 56 animal's condition or treatment plan

57 Pharmacy professionals **must** only dispense or sell a drug for ELDU pursuant to a prescription

58 following the same decision-making cascade as veterinarians:

- 59 • When a drug approved for veterinary use is not available, dispense or sell a drug approved by
- 60 Health Canada for human use
 - 61 ○ When a client presents a prescription for a non-prescription drug product, it may be
 - 62 dispensed or sold
- 63 • When an approved drug is not available, and a therapeutic need exists, dispense a compounded
- 64 preparation

65 *Selling to veterinarians*

66 Pharmacy professionals may sell a drug to a veterinarian, pursuant to a written order, for the purposes

67 of administering or dispensing to a client within their practice^{8,9}:

- 68 • The quantity of drug sold must be in an amount and occur at a frequency that is reasonable for the
- 69 veterinarian-client-patient relationship
 - 70 ○ Maintain a record of these orders and sales for a minimum of two (2) years

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Compounding

Pharmacy professionals **must**:

- Adhere to Health Canada’s Policy on Manufacturing and Compounding Drug Products in Canada (POL-0051)
- Compound a preparation, pursuant to a prescription, from a drug approved for veterinary use, or if that is not possible, from a drug approved for human use, or, if that is not possible, from an active pharmaceutical ingredient¹⁰
- Ensure the formulation and dosage form is safe and appropriate for use in the animal species, and for use in animals that may enter the food chain, ensure all ingredients are safe for subsequent human consumption

Prescription Requirements

Pharmacy professionals **must**, in addition to the requirements when dispensing for human patients:

- Include the animal species on the dispensing record and prescription label after the name of the animal or the name identifying a group of animals
 - For a group of animals, include the number of animals¹¹
 - For a targeted substance, include the client’s name on the label¹²
- Include the withholding time provided by the veterinarian on the prescription label or an auxiliary label, when dispensing for a food-producing animal¹³
- Document client information in the dispensing or patient record
- Meet Health Canada’s annual reporting requirements for the sale of any drug on the List of Certain Antimicrobial Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients¹⁴

Pharmacy professionals **must**:

- Charge fees in accordance with the pharmacy’s usual and customary dispensing fee¹⁵ and fee for professional services schedule not included in the dispensing fee¹⁶(i.e., compounding)
- Provide a receipt that includes the dispensing fee, the drug cost and the total price of the prescription dispensed¹⁷

Legislative References

- Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024
- Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.4
 - O. Reg. 264/16: GENERAL

External References

- College of Veterinarians of Ontario – Professional Practice Standards & Policy

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Revision History

Version #	Date	Action
1.00	Month Day, YYYY	New Policy Published

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¹ CVO: [Establishing, Maintaining, and Discontinuing a VCPR](#)

² Health Canada: [Extra-Label Drug Use \(ELDU\) in Animals](#)

³ Health Canada: [About List A and medically important antimicrobials](#)

⁴ [Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act, R.S.O. 1990, s 1\(1\)](#)

⁵ [Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024, s 1\(1\)](#)

⁶ [O. Reg. 264/16, s 1\(1\)](#)

⁷ The “practice of veterinary medicine” means the assessment of the physiological or behavioural status of an animal or group of animals, other than humans, and the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, or control of any condition, disease, disorder or dysfunction. ([VPA, s1\(1\)](#))

⁸ [Food and Drug Regulations](#), C.01.043 (1)

⁹ [Controlled Substances: Purchase & Sales Record Requirements \(Federal\) Fact Sheet](#)

¹⁰ CAHI: [Therapeutic Decision Cascade for Animal and Public Safety](#)

¹¹ CVO: [Prescribing a Drug](#)

¹² <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2000-217/page-8.html#h-660869>

¹³ CVO: [Dispensing a Drug](#)

¹⁴ Health Canada: [Veterinary antimicrobial sales reporting](#)

¹⁵ [Drug Interchangeability and Dispensing Fee Act, R.S.O. 1990, s 6\(1\)](#)

¹⁶ [Fees for Professional Pharmacy Services Policy](#)

¹⁷ [R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 936, s. 4 \(1\)](#).