



## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) is the interaction between veterinarians, their clients, and their patients.
- The producer must have a VCPR in place to receive prescription drugs for their animals.



# Establishing a Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)

## What is a VCPR?

A Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) is a formal relationship between a producer and a veterinarian who serves as a primary contact for all veterinary services and is familiar with the producer, livestock, and the operation. By law, Minnesota requires a VCPR for a veterinarian to diagnose or treat an animal and to prescribe or dispense medications. The VCPR also plays an important role for farms in improving treatment outcomes, preventing residues, and effectively addressing animal health and management issues.

## What are the requirements for a legal VCPR?

In Minnesota, the following conditions must be met to have a legal VCPR:

- The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the animal patient and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's instructions.
- The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary

diagnosis of the medical condition of the patient. This means that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient by virtue of a timely examination of the patient by the veterinarian, or medically appropriate and timely visits by the veterinarian to the operation where the patient is managed.

- The veterinarian is readily available for follow-up evaluation or has arranged for veterinary emergency coverage, and continuing care, and treatment.
- The veterinarian provides oversight of treatment, compliance, and outcome.
- Patient records are maintained.

## Does a VCPR need to be a written form?

A written form is not required to have a valid VCPR. However, some veterinarians may use a verification form to help them maintain a record of clients with whom they have a VCPR. This can also be helpful in the event a residue does occur; it provides more information to support the producer's and veterinarian's efforts in using veterinary drugs appropriately and working to prevent residues in milk and meat.

For further information go to [www.mda.state.mn.us/residue-preventionmn.us/residue-prevention](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/residue-preventionmn.us/residue-prevention)

## How do you establish and maintain a VCPR?

- **Reach out!** Contact your veterinarian to set up a meeting to discuss how you will implement the legal VCPR requirements.
  - Review animal health treatment protocols, drug lists, and labeling requirements.
- **Implement!** Together with your veterinarian, decide how you want to meet the requirements and set up a timeline for implementation.
- **Maintain!** Schedule annual visits with your veterinarian to review procedures that were put into place. Use these follow-up visits to do the following:
  - Update animal health treatment protocols, drug lists and procedures to meet current recommendations.