



# STANDARDS OF PRACTICE OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY PHARMACISTS

*To be accredited for Full Fellowship, pharmacists must adhere to the Standards of Practice for Fellows of the American College of Veterinary Pharmacists.*

## **Standard 1**

Before dispensing, each prescription shall be certified by the pharmacist. This certification includes the pharmacist or intern receiving the prescription and checking for incompatibilities, contraindications, proper dosage and compliance with relevant state, provincial and federal regulations.

## **Standard 2**

Before dispensing, the prescription shall be certified by the pharmacist. This certification includes supervision of all personnel in the prescription department, verification of proper contents in containers and verification of proper labels.

## **Standard 3**

The pharmacist shall be readily accessible for consultation with veterinarians and their clients on health-related problems and health-related products. The pharmacist shall be able to fully advise veterinarians and their clients on prescription and non-prescription medications.

## **Standard 4**

The pharmacist shall comply with regulations promulgated by the State Board of Pharmacy, other state and federal regulations, and legislative statutes and have copies of these documents in the pharmacy. All breeches of these regulations by others shall be reported to the proper authorities.

## **Standard 5**

The pharmacist shall attend continuing education programs and read professional publications to maintain the professional competence necessary to assure patient safety.

## **Standard 6**

The pharmacist shall have the ability to consult with prescribers about the proper drug entity and design of regimens for patients.

## **Standard 7**

The pharmacist will not be involved in agreements which provide financial incentives to prescribers to refer patients or clients for services.

## **Standard 8**

Compounded prescriptions shall be prepared according to "Good Compounding Practices." This includes assurance that the medicine is dispensed with neat labels and explicit and complete directions. Compounding equipment should be maintained commensurate with the scale of compounding performed.

## **Standard 9**

All new prescription medications shall be dispensed directly by the pharmacist to the veterinarian or their clients. Complete dosage directions, precautions, proper storage conditions and other essential information related to the medicine shall be explained at the time of dispensing.

**Standard 10**

Items of questionable quality shall not be stocked by the pharmacy. These items include out-of-date items, mislabeled or unlabeled drugs, adulterated items, recalled items and other items deemed questionable by the pharmacist based upon published reports.

**Standard 11**

A proper professional image shall be presented by the pharmacist to the public. This image shall include neat, professional attire; open display of pharmacy and pharmacist's license; and operation of the prescription department in a clean and orderly manner.

**Standard 12**

The pharmacist shall serve as a source of health information to veterinarians and their clients. The pharmacist shall maintain records which document the recommendations and counseling given to veterinarians and their clients.

**Standard 13**

The pharmacist shall maintain a sufficient library to optimally practice his or her role as drug consultant. This library shall include references on toxicology, drug interactions, compounding, pharmaceutical calculations, animal pharmacology, medicine and others. In addition to the toxicology materials, ready access should be available to the local poison control center.

**Standard 14**

The pharmacist will monitor activities to assist federal and state officials and other health professionals keep illegal drugs out of the human food chain.

**Standard 15**

The pharmacist will encourage public health officials to develop disaster plans that will include veterinary care.

**Standard 16**

Compounded medications may be dispensed to veterinarians for office use where state or provincial legislation and regulations permit. The pharmacist, using due diligence and best professional judgment, will not dispense compounded medications to veterinarians for resale.



*Making the treatment of diseases and disorders  
in animals easier and more efficient for  
veterinarians*