



**State of Wisconsin**  
**Veterinary Examining Board**

Governor Tony Evers  
Dr. Hunter Lang, DVM, Chair

**Telehealth Advisory Committee**

Thursday, March 25, 2021, 9:00AM

Meeting to be held via Zoom.

To attend the meeting by telephone, call 1-551-285-1373, with meeting ID 160 484 0525, and passcode 259529, or via internet at: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1604840525?pwd=SEFIRXFrVFE4Mmg2Z2I3eDk4RUVaZz09>

**Agenda**

- I. Introductions
- II. Discuss Telemedicine Proposal
  - A. Definitions
  - B. Location of Practice
  - C. Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)
  - D. Prescribing
  - E. Record Keeping
  - F. Continuity of Care
  - G. Delegated Medical Services
- III. Wrap up and next steps

## Telemedicine Framework for discussion

### **Definitions:**

Attending Veterinarian: means the veterinarian who holds the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship and is responsible for the medical care and treatment of the animal.

Consulting Veterinarian means the veterinarian who gives advice or assistance, whether in-person or by any method of communication, to the attending veterinarian, for the benefit of an animal patient.

Consultant means a person whose subject matter expertise, in the opinion of the attending veterinarian, will benefit an animal patient, and who gives the attending veterinarian advice or assistance, whether in-person or by any method of communication.

Consultation means the advice or assistance given by a consulting veterinarian or other consultant to the attending veterinarian where the responsibility for patient treatment, prescriptions, and welfare remain with the attending veterinarian.

A consulting veterinarian or other consultant may not do any of the following:

- a. Visit the patient or client or communicate directly with the client without the knowledge of the attending veterinarian.
- b. Take charge of a case or problem without the consent of the attending veterinarian and the client.

Informed Consent means the veterinarian has informed the client or the client's authorized representative, in a manner understood by the client or representative, of the diagnostic and treatment options, risk assessment, and prognosis, and the client has consented to the recommended treatment.

General Advice means any advice provided by a veterinarian or certified veterinary technician, via any method of communication within or outside of an established VCPR, which is given in general terms and is not specific to an individual animal or group of animals, diagnosis, or treatment.

Telehealth is the overarching term that encompasses all uses of technology geared to remotely deliver virtual medical, health, and education services. Telehealth is not a specific service, but a collection of tools allowing a veterinarian to enhance care and education delivery.

Telemedicine is the remote delivery of healthcare services, such as health assessments or consultations, over the telecommunications infrastructure, allowing a veterinarian to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients without the need for an in-person visit.

Tele-triage means emergency animal care, including animal poison control services, for immediate, potentially life-threatening animal health situations, including poison exposure

mitigation, animal CPR instructions, and other critical lifesaving treatment or advice which may be performed within or outside of a VCPR.

**Location of Practice:** The practice of veterinary medicine takes place where the animal is located at time of practice.

See. 89.05 (1) Practice; penalties.

(1) Except as provided under sub. (2) and ss. 256.155 and 257.03, no person may offer to practice, advertise to practice or practice veterinary medicine, or use, in connection with his or her name, any title or description which may convey the impression that he or she is a veterinarian, without a license or temporary permit from the examining board. For purposes of this subsection, a person who makes extra-label use of a drug on an animal without a prescription or in any manner not authorized by that prescription is considered to be practicing veterinary medicine.

See. 89.02 (6)

To “practice veterinary medicine” means to examine into the fact or cause of animal health, disease or physical condition, or to treat, operate, prescribe or advise for the same, or to undertake, offer, advertise, announce, or hold out in any manner to do any of said acts, for compensation, direct or indirect, or in the expectation thereof.

## **VCPR:**

Note: AVMA and WVMA do not recommend the establishment of a VCPR via telemedicine technologies, and a majority of states do NOT allow for a VCPR to be created by purely telehealth technologies.

A VCPR must meet the statutory definition:

**89.02(8)** “Veterinarian-client-patient relationship” means a relationship between a veterinarian, a client and the patient in which all of the following apply:

- (a) The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the patient and the patient's need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to accept those medical judgments and to follow the related instructions of the veterinarian.
- (b) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the patient because the veterinarian has recently examined the patient or has made medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises on which the patient is kept.
- (c) The veterinarian is readily available for follow-up treatment of the patient if the patient has an adverse reaction to veterinary treatment.

## **Suggested language for discussion:**

### **Option 1:**

In order to practice veterinary medicine in WI a veterinarian must be licensed in WI and have an established VCPR with the client. A VCPR must be established via a in person physical exam, or timely

medically appropriate visits to the premises on which the patient is kept. It may not be established by telehealth technologies.

**Option 2:**

In order to practice veterinary medicine in WI a veterinarian must be licensed in WI and have an established VCPR with the client prior to treating a patient. A VCPR may be established by utilizing telehealth technologies to examine the patient as medically appropriate to the circumstance.

**Option 3:**

In order to practice veterinary medicine in WI a veterinarian must be licensed in WI and have an established VCPR with the client prior to treating a patient. To establish a VCPR the veterinarian must meet the requirements of Wis. Stat. s. 89.02 (8). A licensed veterinarian may satisfy the exam requirement under 89.02 (8) (b) for the establishment of the VCPR via telehealth technologies through the use of instrumentation and diagnostic equipment where images and medical records are able to be transmitted electronically or a physical in person exam.

**Additional considerations.**

The VCPR, once established, extends to other veterinarians within the group in which the veterinarian practices, that has access to, and has reviewed, the medical history and records of the animal.

**Prescribing:**

Medication may not be prescribed without either a physical examination or medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal or group of animals is kept.

**Record keeping:**

Records must include how the encounter occurred, via telemedicine or physical exam, visits to the premises.

Records must include copies of all patient related electronic communications, including prescriptions, laboratory and test results, imaging, evaluations and consultations, and instructions obtained or produced in connection with the utilization of telehealth.

Informed consents obtained in connection with an encounter must also be filed in the medical record.

Records related to a telemedicine encounter must be readily available upon request by the client.

**Continuity of Care:**

In accordance with 89.08(c) an animal owner must be able to easily seek follow-up care or information from the veterinarian who conducts an encounter while using telehealth technologies.

The veterinarian must ensure that the client is aware of the veterinarian's identity and location.

**Delegated Medical Services – Yellow highlighted would currently be allowed to be delegated using telehealth technologies.**

**[See VE 7.02](#)**

**VE 7.02 Delegation of veterinary medical acts.**

- (1) The following acts are limited to those holding a license under s. [89.06 \(1\)](#), [89.06 \(2m\) \(a\)](#), or [89.072](#), Stats.; a permit under s. [VE 3.05](#), [5.03](#) or [6.02](#); or active status as a student at a college of veterinary medicine approved by the board, and may not be delegated to or performed by veterinary technicians or other persons not holding such license or permit:
  - (a) Diagnosis and prognosis of animal diseases and conditions.
  - (b) Prescribing of drugs, medicines, treatments and appliances.
  - (c) Performing surgery.
- (2) Except as provided under s. [95.21 \(2\)](#), Stats., veterinarians may delegate to veterinary students the provision of veterinary medical services under the direct supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided.
- (3) Except as provided under s. [95.21 \(2\)](#), Stats., veterinarians may delegate to certified veterinary technicians the provision of the following veterinary medical services under the direct supervision of the veterinarian:
  - (a) Nonsurgical veterinary treatment of animal diseases and conditions, including administration of vaccines, including rabies vaccines.
  - (b) Observations and findings related to animal diseases and conditions to be utilized by a veterinarian in establishing a diagnosis or prognosis, including routine radiographs, nonsurgical specimen collection, drawing of blood for diagnostic purposes, and laboratory testing procedures.
  - (c) Administration of sedatives and presurgical medications.
  - (e) Nutritional evaluation and counseling.
  - (f) Except to certified veterinary technicians who are also licensed professionals governed by the provisions in s. [VE 7.025](#), the provision of any complementary, alternative, or integrative therapy, as defined in s. [VE 1.02 \(3m\)](#).
- (4) Veterinarians may delegate to certified veterinary technicians the provision of the following veterinary medical services under the direct supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided:
  - (a) Administration of local or general anesthesia, including induction and monitoring.
  - (b) Performing diagnostic radiographic contrast studies.
  - (c) Dental prophylaxis and simple extractions that require minor manipulation and minimal elevation.
  - (d) Sample collection via a cystocentesis procedure.

- (e) Placement of intravenous and arterial catheters.
  - (f) Suturing of tubes and catheters.
  - (g) Fine needle aspirate of a mass.
  - (h) Performing amniocentesis, embryo collection and transfer, follicular aspiration, and transvaginal oocyte collection and recovery on livestock.
- (5) Veterinarians may delegate to unlicensed assistants the provision of the following veterinary medical services under the direct supervision of the veterinarian:
- (a) Basic diagnostic studies, including routine radiographs, nonsurgical specimen collection, and laboratory testing procedures.
  - (b) Monitoring and reporting to the veterinarian changes in the condition of a hospitalized animal patient.
  - (c) Dispensing prescription drugs pursuant to the written order of the veterinarian.
- (6) Except as provided under s. [95.21](#), Stats., veterinarians may delegate to unlicensed assistants the provision of the following veterinary medical services under the direct supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided:
- (a) Nonsurgical veterinary treatment of animal diseases and conditions, including administration of vaccines, and administration of sedatives and presurgical medications.
  - (b) Observations and findings related to animal diseases and conditions to be utilized by a veterinarian in establishing a diagnosis or prognosis, including the drawing of blood for diagnostic purposes.
  - (c) Dental prophylaxis.
  - (d) Nutritional evaluation and counseling.
- (7) Notwithstanding subs. (1) to (6), a veterinary student, certified veterinary technician or unlicensed assistant employed by a veterinarian may, under the direct supervision of the veterinarian and pursuant to mutually acceptable written protocols, perform evaluative and treatment procedures necessary to provide an appropriate response to life-threatening emergency situations for the purpose of stabilizing the patient pending further treatment.
- (8) In delegating the provision of veterinary medical acts to veterinary students, certified veterinary technicians and others, the veterinarian shall do all of the following:
- (a) Delegate only those tasks commensurate with the education, training, experience and demonstrated abilities of the person supervised.
  - (b) Provide the supervision required under subs. (2) to (7).
  - (c) Where the veterinarian is not required to be personally present on the premises where the delegated services are provided, be available at all times for consultation either in person or within 15 minutes of contact by telephone, by video conference or by electronic communication device.

- (d)** Observe and monitor the activities of those supervised on a daily basis.
- (e)** Evaluate the effectiveness of delegated acts performed under supervision on a daily basis.
- (f)** Establish and maintain a daily log of each delegated patient service which has been provided off the premises of the supervising veterinarian.
- (g)** Notify the client that some services may be provided by a veterinary student, certified veterinary technician or an unlicensed assistant.