**PROVIDING VETERINARY TELEHEALTH IN CALIFORNIA -- BASIC REQUIREMENTS**

1. In accord with pre-existing law, must establish a new Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) for
   1. New animal patients,
   2. New clients, or
   3. New “medical conditions” for existing patients
2. VCPR can be established through telehealth by the use of audio-visual technology (smart phone or web-based videotelephone technology) in interaction with client and patient
   1. Visual component ***only*** required to establish the VCPR
   2. Subsequent telehealth calls for same client/patient/medical conditions do not require video component
3. Applies only to animals who are owned **and** where the client is paying for the services
   1. **No VCPR required** to practice telehealth
      1. For **emergency** situations or
      2. For **unowned** animals, or
      3. Where it is done by the owner’s agents/employees (including veterinarians), or
      4. Where it is **provided without charge** to the client.
4. Requirements for all telehealth “visits” (initial and subsequent)
   1. Must be a California-licensed veterinarian
   2. “Employ sound professional judgment” to determine telehealth is appropriate
   3. Obtain medical history and, where available, previous medical records
   4. Obtain client acknowledgment that
      1. Have received veterinarian’s name, contact information, license number
      2. Consent to use of telehealth, and has been informed about “use and potential limitations of telehealth”
      3. Same standards apply to telehealth and in-person care
      4. Have been advised how to receive follow-up care/assistance in the event of
         1. Adverse reactions
         2. Inability to communicate with telehealth veterinarian
   5. Ensure tech equipment used complies with privacy laws, and have an alternative means of communication if primary method is unavailable
   6. Maintain patient records per normal practice
   7. Be familiar with emergency resources and veterinarians in the vicinity of the patient’s location, and provide that information if requested

**PRESCRIBING THROUGH TELEHEALTH – REQUIREMENTS**

1. If the VCPR has been established by telehealth,
   1. Maximum six-month duration for *non-antimicrobial* prescriptions unless further exam (telehealth or in person) of patient
   2. Maximum *fourteen-day* duration for *antimicrobial* prescriptions
      1. Rx can only be refilled or other antimicrobial prescribed after *in-person exam* of patient
   3. *Cannot* “order, prescribe or make available” any controlled substance or xylazine – in-person exam or “medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal patient is kept” required for these medications
   4. *Cannot* prescribe any drug/medication for horses engaged in racing/training at California Horse Racing Board facilities
2. Notify client some drugs may be available at a pharmacy and upon request, submit a prescription to client’s chosen pharmacy.

**SPECIAL RULES FOR PRACTICING TELEHEALTH FROM LOCATIONS WITHOUT PREMISES PERMITS**

1. Telehealth can be provided from locations that are not registered veterinary premises is permitted *if*
   1. No in-person visits done there
   2. No “veterinary drug, medicine, appliance, or medical equipment is kept at the location”
   3. Records are safe and secure
   4. Where offers to provide telehealth are made “on any electronic publication, including any internet website”, the following information must be included:
      1. Name, contact information and California veterinary license number
      2. Contact information for getting patients’ medical records
      3. Statement that client can contact VMB with questions or complaints