

COLLEGE VILLAGE ANIMAL CLINIC, INC.

JON BASLER, DVM • ALISON CAPITAN, DVM • PETER NICHOLSON, DVM • PAM TUOMI, DVM • ALICE VELSKO, DVM



March 8, 2021

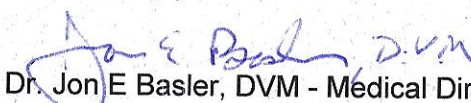
Dear Honorable House Representative Zack Fields,

As a long-term owner of one of the largest privately owned veterinary clinics in Anchorage, I am contacting you since you are the co-chair of the committee reviewing House Bill 91 and strongly urge you and your fellow committee members to support House Bill 91. I have been a veterinarian practicing in the State of Alaska since 1985 and have owned College Village Animal Clinic in Anchorage since 1998. We have four fulltime veterinarians who routinely practice out of our clinic along with a lead technician who logs and monitors all controlled drugs which are used internally or are dispensed directly to clients from our office. We complied early with the requirements of the Alaska PDMP and have been reporting regularly since 2017. We have been extremely frustrated with the system especially since it is designed for people who have very definitive identification information and is not designed for pets owned by a person (or couples with different last names) nor do animals have as specific identification information as an individual person would.

While we do regularly use and dispense controlled drugs for our animal patients, the drugs we use are generally not high-risk drugs for human abuse and the veterinary profession has NEVER been shown to be an important channel for diversion of controlled drugs into the human population. Multiple other states already have exempted the veterinary profession from reporting requirements. In over thirty years of practice and in overseeing the dispensing practices of our four fulltime doctors, we have only had two instances where we were concerned about inappropriate usage of a dispensed controlled drug (one instance the need and use level was verified as appropriate; the other client we stopped dispensing any controlled drugs). I can safely speak for all of the doctors at our clinic and for my lead technician that complying with the Alaska PDMP reporting system is burdensome, provides little benefit for monitoring actual patient use and is unlikely to identify any actual source of diversion of controlled drugs which might contribute to the opioid epidemic. As required by this law, compliance requires each doctor to take time to log in and search prior to dispensing drugs, both reporting and search forms are not designed for use for animal patients and often searches do not return a positive hit even for patients on chronic medications who have had multiple prescriptions dispensed and were reported by us. We have never had a positive hit on a patient who has had medications dispensed elsewhere (even if reflected in prior medical records). In addition, our doctors need to log in daily and "zero report" controlled drugs whether they are working, on vacation or on maternity leave.

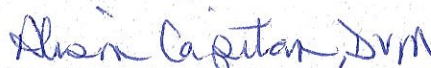
My colleagues and I respectfully request that you pass House Bill 91 out of committee and encourage your support for its passage when voted on in the house floor. Please feel free to directly contact me either by email, at my office or by my personal cell (907-382-7053).

Respectfully yours,


Dr. Jon E Basler, DVM - Medical Director

Dr Peter Nicholson, DVM




Dr Alison Capitan, DVM


Dr Alice Velsko, DVM

2036 E. NORTHERN LIGHTS BLVD. • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508
(907) 274-5623 • FAX (907) 272-9114
www.collegevillageanimalclinic.com