



**NORTH POLE
VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

March 7, 2021

The Honorable Representative Wool
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau AK, 99801-1185

RE: Exempt Veterinarians from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program - Vote YES on HB 91

The North Pole Veterinary Hospital's staff support the exemption for veterinarians from Alaska's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) for the following reasons.

- Animals are lacking a permanent identifier: There is no permanent identifier for an animal. Animals can have different names and owners throughout their lifetime. The animal can also have different owner names from within the same household.
- Potential privacy violations: Searching the PDMP database by the owner could provide medical information the owner is uncomfortable with their veterinarian knowing. Secondly, veterinarians are not trained in human medication doses much like physicians are not trained in the dose ranges for dogs, cats, birds, elephants, etc.
- Veterinarians already adhere to controlled substance regulations: Veterinarians who prescribe or dispense controlled substances are licensed through Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). There is already a significant level of accountability, record keeping, and medication storage requirements that these veterinarians adhere to.
- Cost: PDMP review and reporting constitutes a disproportionate impact on veterinarians as small business owners. Veterinary clinics lack the standardized software used in human health care facilities, so reporting is more labor-intensive and costly. Additionally, the cost to investigate veterinarians who fail to use the database correctly is a waste of very limited resources.

As a medical provider it is important to the North Pole Veterinary Hospital that the PDMP is used correctly to track trends of humans opioid shopping. Many states have allowed for a veterinarian exemption to their PDMP, allowing veterinarians to continue to provide appropriate care and medical management for their animal patients. Most importantly, the exemption of veterinarians from the PDMP will increase the efficacy for the systems intended purpose, by allowing for accurate interpretation of data and trends in human medicine.

Sincerely,

North Pole Veterinary Hospital: Denali Lovely DVM, Dawn Brown DVM, Melissa Rouge DVM, Mercedes Pinto DVM, McKayla Dick DVM, Josh Link DVM, Bentley Richards DVM, Greg Pietsch DVM, Katrina Backus DVM, Suze Nolan LVT, Alli Pearmine LVT, Krystal Todd LVT, Brent Moors LVT, patty McCall LVT, Sheena Batac LVT, and Lauren Billard LVT.

2942 HURST ROAD
NORTH POLE, AK 99705
(907) 488-2335