

Jan. 7, 2022

The Honorable Senator Robert Myers
The Honorable Representative Mike Prax

RE: SB 132 and HB 91 - Exemption for veterinarians from Alaska's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

I have been a practicing veterinarian in Fairbanks and North Pole since 2005.

PDMP does not work for pets. Each Pharmacy is putting pets in the system a different way, which may, or may not be associated with a human name. Even when I did look up my patient, I know was on an opioid pain medication, I could not find her. Not under her name and not under her owner's name. Then my report from PDMP says I did not check the system since I was unable to find a dog patient that does not have any identifier. I did, didn't work.

Dogs have multiple owners or are presented by a roommate, a teenager, a friend a house sitter and I don't have access to whoever's personal information the animal may have had a prescription under in the past. People make up pet's birthdays, they can easily change the name or birthday of the pet when presented or purposefully put the pet under someone else's name. The person who supposedly owns the pet or presents the pet is not my patient so I do not want the break in confidentiality with their medical provider put on me.

The system is NOT useable for veterinarians and animals.

Searching the PDMP database by the owner could provide medical information the owner is uncomfortable with their veterinarian knowing-such as medications for mental health, sex change or sleeping medications. 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.

As a medical provider it is important to me that the PDMP is used correctly to track trends of humans' opioid shopping. 34 states have found exemption for their veterinarians from participating in the PDMP. The PDMP's intended purpose is for accurate interpretation of data and trends in human medicine. Veterinarian exemption will allow us to continue to provide appropriate care and medical management for our patients.

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