



AKVMA

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January 15, 2023

Alison Osborne, Regulations Specialist
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
PO Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806
Via RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov

Re: Proposed section 12 AAC 68.215. Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR)

Dear Ms. Osborne,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed professional regulations and add a new section, 12 AAC 68.215. I am providing comments on behalf of the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association (AKVMA). AKVMA is a professional organization for veterinarians that represents the broad spectrum of veterinary medicine, including, but not limited to small animal, food supply, exotic, aquatic, and equine practice, and those veterinarians working in research, academic and government capacities in Alaska.

The AKVMA supports the proposed new section encompassing the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship. AKVMA is very supportive of the need to include a VCPR regulation for Alaska and establish parameters surrounding the VCPR. Requiring a physical examination or a timely visit to the premises where animals are kept for establishing the VCPR has served the public well in ensuring proper veterinary care and treatment. It also is essential to comply with the Food and Drug regulations concerning the veterinary feed directive.

The proposed regulations also provide reasonable regulations that allow for emergency or urgent care as well as provisions whereby care can be provided to clients in remote areas when owners cannot bring the animal for an in-person physical exam, or the licensed veterinarian is not able to travel to the premises of the animal. The parameters surrounding this type of situation are also very specific.

Thank you for your work towards protecting the public health of animals and for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Katrina Backus, President AKVMA