

General Principles:

1. A veterinarian should be dedicated to providing competent veterinary medical care, with compassion and respect for animal welfare and human health.
2. A veterinarian should maintain independence, impartiality and accountability in carrying out their professional duties. They shall follow acceptable professional procedures using current professional and scientific knowledge and obtain consultation or referral when indicated.
3. A veterinarian should, in the provision of appropriate patient care, be free to choose whom to serve. The veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is the basis for interaction among veterinarians, their clients and their patients.
4. A veterinarian should respect the rights of clients, colleagues, and other health professionals, and shall maintain the confidentiality of medical information within the confines of the law.

5. A veterinarian should obey all laws of the jurisdictions in which they reside and practice veterinary medicine. They shall also recognize a responsibility to seek changes to laws and regulations which are contrary to the best interests of the patient and public health.
6. Veterinarians, individually and collectively, shall uphold the integrity of the veterinary profession and must maintain the trust of their clients and society through exemplary standards of clinical practice and conduct including competence, accountability, honesty, fairness, compassion and confidentiality.
7. A veterinarian should continue to study, apply, and advance scientific knowledge, make relevant information available to clients, colleagues, the public and maintain a commitment to veterinary medical education.
8. The responsibilities of the veterinary profession extend beyond individual patients and clients to society in general. Veterinarians are encouraged to make their knowledge available to their communities and to provide their services for activities that protect public health and environmental health.