

## **Professional Responsibilities:**

### **A. Veterinarians' responsibilities to animals:**

1. Veterinarians should first consider the needs of the patient: to relieve disease, suffering or disability while minimizing pain or fear.
2. Veterinarians must provide veterinary care that is appropriate and adequate. The choice of treatments or animal care should consider the needs of the patient, the welfare of the client, and the safety of the public.
3. Veterinarians must follow acceptable professional procedures using current professional and scientific knowledge. All aspects of veterinary medicine should be held to the same standards, including complementary, alternative and integrative veterinary medicine, non-traditional or other novel approaches .
4. Veterinarians must keep within their own area of competence and refer cases responsibly.
5. Regardless of practice ownership , the interests of the patient, client, and public require that all decisions that affect diagnosis, prognosis, and recommendations for treatment of patients are made by veterinarians.
6. Veterinarians should not allow their medical judgment to be influenced by agreements by which they stand to profit through referring clients to other providers of services or products, nor should their judgment be influenced by contracts or agreements made by their practice, associations or societies.
7. In emergencies, veterinarians have an ethical responsibility to provide essential services for animals when necessary to save life or relieve suffering, subsequent to client agreement (or until such agreement can be obtained when no client is present).

Such emergency care may be limited to euthanasia to relieve suffering, or to stabilization of the patient for transport to another source of animal care.

8. Veterinarians must communicate with each other to ensure the health and welfare of the animal or group of animals.

9. Veterinarians should strive to improve their veterinary knowledge and skills, and to collaborate with other professionals in the quest for knowledge and professional development.

10. Humane euthanasia of animals is an ethical veterinary procedure.

### **B. Veterinarians' responsibilities to clients:**

1. Veterinarians must be open and honest with clients and respect their needs and requirements. Veterinarians should be honest, fair, courteous, considerate and compassionate.

2. Veterinarians must provide independent and impartial محايد advice and inform a client of any conflict of interest. Communications with clients will contain no false, deceptive, or misleading statements or claims.

3. Veterinarians may choose whom they will serve. Both the veterinarian and the client have the right to establish or decline a Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR).

4. Veterinarians must communicate effectively with clients and ensure informed owner consent is obtained before treatments or procedures are carried out. The decision to accept or decline treatment and related costs should be based on adequate

discussion of clinical findings, diagnostic techniques, treatment, likely outcome and estimated costs.

5. A decision to consult or refer is made jointly by the attending veterinarian and the client. Attending veterinarians must honour a client's request for referral.

6. Veterinarians are entitled to charge fees for their professional services. Fees must be fair and based on professional services rendered. Regardless of the fees that are charged or received, the quality of service must be maintained at or above the professional standard as set by the provincial regulatory body.

7. Veterinarians must keep clear, accurate and detailed clinical and client records.

8. Veterinarians and their associates should protect the personal privacy of patients and clients.

Veterinarians should not reveal confidences unless required to by law or unless it becomes necessary to protect the health and welfare of other individuals or animals.

9. Veterinarians should address client complaints in an appropriate and timely manner .

10. Veterinarians should take all reasonable steps to prevent harm to patients. Should harm occur, this information should be immediately disclosed to the client.