

Contracted Clinical Veterinary Services

Office of the Attending Veterinarian University of Kentucky

PURPOSE: This document establishes requirements and provides guidance regarding contractual relationships between animal care units and licensed clinical veterinarians providing veterinary medical care for animals used in research, teaching, and testing at the University of Kentucky.

BACKGROUND: The veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is the basis for interaction among veterinarians, their clients, and their patients and is critical to the health of animals owned by the University of Kentucky. The Veterinarian of Record is the party establishing the VCPR with the University of Kentucky (client) and an animal or group of animals.

APPLICATION: This document applies to all units at the University of Kentucky housing animals used in research, teaching, and testing that obtain clinical veterinary medical services through licensed veterinarians not employed by the University of Kentucky. Each animal care unit shall have a designated Veterinarian of Record responsible for the veterinary medical care program.

VETERINARY-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP^{1,2,3}:

- A. The veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is the basis for interaction among veterinarians, their clients, and their patients. A VCPR means that all of the following are required:
1. The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the patient and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarians' instructions.
 2. The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the patient. This means that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient by virtue of a timely examination of the patient by the veterinarian, or medically appropriate and timely visits by the veterinarian to the operation where the patient is managed.
 3. The veterinarian is readily available for follow-up evaluation or has arranged for the following: veterinary emergency coverage, and continuing care and treatment.

4. The veterinarian provides oversight of treatment, compliance, and outcome.
 5. Patient records are maintained.^{2,6}
- B. When a VCPR exists, veterinarians must maintain medical records.
 - C. Dispensing or prescribing a prescription product requires a valid VCPR.
 - D. Issuing a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) requires a valid VCPR.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ATTENDING VETERINARIAN:

The Attending Veterinarian for the University of Kentucky has the authority to develop and implement an effective program of veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of the Program including appropriate medical care consistent with established standards of veterinary medical practice⁴. As such, communication between the Attending Veterinarian and the Veterinarian of Record is an essential component of the Veterinary Care Program.

The Veterinarian of Record shall provide to the Attending Veterinarian the following documents:

1. A copy of the routine Veterinary Medical Care Program for each species including:
 - a. the preventive medicine program
 - i. animal procurement and biosecurity
 - ii. quarantine and stabilization requirements
 - iii. routine vaccinations and treatments
 - iv. frequency of routine facility visits
 - b. drug storage and control procedures to include residue avoidance if applicable
 - c. quality assurance programs
 - i. food animal industry programs
 - ii. disease surveillance programs
 - d. euthanasia methods
2. Copies of veterinary medical treatment records.
3. Copies of all reports generated as a result of routine or special facility visits.

The Attending Veterinarian shall ensure that the Veterinarian of Record receives copies of all deficiencies identified by the IACUC during semiannual facility and program evaluations. The Attending Veterinarian shall also ensure that the Veterinarian of Record has access to copies of approved animal use protocols involving animals under their care and oversight.

REFERENCES:

1. Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the AVMA,
<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/VCPR.aspx>, accessed January 31, 2014.
2. KRS 321.185 Veterinarian-client-patient relationship, effective June 25, 2009,
<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Statutes/statute.aspx?id=31376>, accessed February 3, 2016.
3. Laws and Regulations Relating to the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners, March 2012 Edition,
<http://bve.ky.gov/Laws%20and%20Regulations/Laws%20and%20Regulations%20Booklet.pdf>, accessed January 31, 2014.
4. Institutional Program for Animal Care and Use, University of Kentucky Administrative Regulation 7:5, January 29, 2009.
<http://www.uky.edu/reg/files/ar/ar7-5.pdf>
5. Establishing and Maintaining the Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship in Bovine Practice, American Association of Bovine Practitioners, November 2013.
http://www.aabp.org/resources/AABP_Guidelines/VCPRGuidelineFinal11-2013.pdf, accessed February 11, 2014.
6. Veterinary Medical Records, Office of the Attending Veterinarian,

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