



California

[CA AB1399](#) AMENDED 6/28 - The amendment:

- Restricts a veterinarian from prescribing a controlled substance or xylazine unless the veterinarian has performed an in-person physical examination.
- Defines “synchronous” to mean a real-time interaction between a client and patient with a veterinarian located at a distant site.
- Replaces “real-time” with “synchronous” in all sections.
- Requires a veterinarian to
 - Advise a client how to receive follow-up care or assistance in the event of an adverse reaction to the treatment or in the event of an inability to communicate resulting from technological or equipment failure before delivering care through telemedicine.
 - Be familiar with available medical resources, including emergency resources near the patient’s location.
 - Provide their name, contact information, and licensing number.
 - Secure an alternative means of contacting client if electronic means are interrupted.

Original Summary: Virtual VCPR requires a consent form that the service will meet the same standards and the client has an option for an in-person exam at any time. The veterinarian must obtain past records. Electronically established VCPR allows for prescribing drugs with no restriction on controlled substances.

(f) ...

1. “Veterinarian-client-patient relationship” means a relationship that exists if all of the following conditions are met:
 - a. The veterinarian and client agree to the veterinarian assuming responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal patient.

- b. The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal through a recent observation and examination, either in-person or using real-time video communication, of the animal or of a group of animals of which the patient is a part, or through medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal, or the group of animals of which the patient is a part, is kept.
- c. The veterinarian is readily available or has provided for follow-up care in case of adverse reactions or failure of treatment.

(2) A veterinarian-client-patient relationship shall not be established solely by audio-only communication or by means of a questionnaire.

(g) “Veterinary telemedicine” means the mode of delivering veterinary medicine via electronic communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, care management, or treatment of an animal patient, and includes, but is not limited to, real-time video and audio communication; real-time, two-way audio communication; and electronic transmission of images, diagnostics, data, and medical information.

