

Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship



A veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is a relationship between you, your livestock, and your veterinarian. It is required to use prescription drugs, such as antibiotics. It is required to use any drug extra label, even if the drug is available over-the-counter.

Prescription (Rx) drugs and extra label drug use (ELDU) are sometimes needed to maintain the health and welfare of sheep and goats. It is important for all sheep/goat producers to have a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship.

Requirements for a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship

- 1) Veterinarian accepts responsibility for animal's care and owner agrees to follow instructions of the veterinarian.
- 2) Veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal(s). Vet must have seen animal(s) recently enough. Frequency of farm visits varies by veterinary office.
- 3) Veterinarian is available for ongoing care and follow-up
- 4) Veterinarian maintains appropriate records

In some states, a VCPR may be established electronically for telemedicine.



Potential benefits of a VCPR

- Expert diagnosis of disease
- Pro-active preventative health management
- Someone you can consult with
- Access to pain meds
- Access to prescription drugs
- Access to extra label treatments
- Better access to prompt emergency care
- Proof of adherence to standards
- Prevent spread of disease
- Access to reproductive services
- Both parties enhance their knowledge



Which drugs require a Rx?

- ALL antibiotics
- Selenium and Vitamin E (Bo-Se)
- Thiamine (vitamin B1)
- Anti-inflammatories
- Anesthetics
- Oxytocin
- Extra label dewormers and coccidiostats

When is ELDU required?

- Different species than on label
- Different indication (disease) than on label
- Different dosage than on label
- Different frequency or duration of treatment
- Different route of administration
- Different withdrawal period