



WVC Legacy Veterinary Services January 2019 Cattle Newsletter

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Our annual cattle producer meeting is coming up! It will be held in Lynnville, IN on Friday, March 8th with registration at 5:30pm CST and meeting starting at 6pm CST. We will have two speakers. Dr. Mike Catangui will be speaking on pest control in cow/calf herds and feedlots. Dr. Mark Hilton will be speaking on prevention and treatment of scours in calves. I have had the pleasure of working with both of these veterinarians before and they are both excellent speakers with great information. Feel free to invite fellow producers that would benefit from this information even if they are not current clients. There is more information on the meeting on the flier included in this newsletter. Please call the clinic to RSVP by Feb. 15th.

Calving season has started and with it comes the busiest emergency season here at the clinic with difficult calvings, prolapses, and sick calves. It also means that more medications are being prescribed and dispensed to keep cows and calves healthy. This is an important time to make sure that our Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) is still valid. A VCPR is present when all of the following requirements are met:

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.

A VCPR is established only when your veterinarian examines your animal in person, and is maintained by regular veterinary visits as needed to monitor your animal's health. If a VCPR is established but your veterinarian does not regularly see your animal afterward, the VCPR is no



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longer valid and it would be illegal and unethical for your veterinarian to dispense or prescribe medications or recommend treatment without recently examining your animal.

A valid VCPR cannot be established online, via email, or over the phone. However, once a VCPR is established, it may be able to be maintained between medically necessary examinations via telephone or other types of consultations; but it's up to your veterinarian's discretion to determine if this is appropriate and in the best interests of your animals' health.

Our clinic policy for a valid VCPR is having seen your animals within the last year, whether that is a visit to your farm to discuss preventative and treatment plans or bringing some of your animals to the clinic for evaluation. *As described above, we can not legally or ethically prescribe medications without seeing the animals within the last year. We also reserve emergency services for those clients with which we have a valid VCPR in order to better make ourselves available for those emergency situations.*

We all have a tremendous responsibility in providing a safe food source for our consumers and basic necessities for the animals entrusted in our care. We will work with you to make sure that both objectives are done in an ethical and legal manner.

If you have questions about our VCPR policies or would like to make sure your VCPR is still valid, please call the clinic for more information.