

# ADVOCACY

## 2018 Regulatory and Legislative Highlights

### *We've got you covered!*

The CVMA team does the heavy lifting in government relations, advocating for you and the practice of veterinary medicine in Colorado. Here are some of the legislative and regulatory issues CVMA dedicated its resources and efforts to in 2017-2018 to protect you and the profession. Together, we achieve what no one voice or person could effectively accomplish alone. Your membership keeps CVMA and its advocacy efforts going strong!

### **STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE (SBVM)**

#### **New CE Requirements**

New policy and criteria set forth by the SBVM and now fully in effect mean that courses are no longer pre-approved. Each veterinarian is responsible for ensuring that their CE meets the requirements set by the SBVM. As always, CVMA brings top quality CE to you year-round so you can feel confident the hours you earn with us will help you meet your licensing requirements. Learn more at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Veterinary\\_CE](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Veterinary_CE).

#### **New Telehealth Policy**

The SBVM recognizes that telemedicine provides a tremendous opportunity for veterinarians to reach more patients, improve the quality of care, and offer added convenience to clients. The new guidelines do not set a standard of care, do not alter generally accepted standards of practice or the scope of practice of any licensed veterinarian, or authorize the delivery of services in a setting, or in a manner, not otherwise authorized by law. Where an existing VCPR relationship is not present, a provider must take appropriate steps to establish a VCPR consistent with the guidelines identified in section 12-64-103(15.5), C.R.S. of the telehealth policy as set forth. Learn more at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Veterinary\\_News#Telehealth](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Veterinary_News#Telehealth).

#### **New Law on Opioid Prescribing**

On Monday, May 21, 2018, Governor John Hickenlooper signed Senate Bill 18-22 Clinical Practice for Opioid Prescribing into law. This new state law limits the number of opioid pills a healthcare provider can prescribe and affects physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive authority, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, and veterinarians. Learn more at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Veterinary\\_News#SB18-22](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Veterinary_News#SB18-22).

#### **New General Opioid Guidelines**

All six of Colorado's prescribing and dispensing boards, including the SBVM, adopted new guidelines for prescribing and dispensing opioids. Visit the Opioid Guidelines webpage at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/opioid\\_guidelines](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/opioid_guidelines).

#### **Updated Veterinary Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing Policy**

On December 14, 2017, the SBVM updated the veterinary opioid policy for the prescribing and dispensing of opioids to reflect changes from SB 17-146 Access to Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which was signed into law on April 6, 2017. Download the Veterinary Policy for Prescribing and Dispensing Opioids at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Veterinary](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Veterinary).

*Continued on reverse...*

## **New PDMP Website and Delegate Training Video**

Colorado's Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) has improved its PDMP website to be easier to navigate and use. Watch the video at [www.colorado.gov/dora-pdmp](http://www.colorado.gov/dora-pdmp).

A delegate training video shows prescribers (and pharmacists) how to set up delegate accounts for the PDMP. Any prescriber can create up to three accounts for trained individuals who can check the PDMP on the prescriber's behalf, which facilitates getting the most complete medical history possible. See the video at [www.youtube.be/OLkh1A66gFo](http://www.youtube.be/OLkh1A66gFo).

## **Changes to Disciplinary Procedures**

These changes apply to six prescribing professions, including veterinary professionals, and addresses complaint processes and deadlines for responding to requests from the SBVM. Learn more at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Veterinary\\_News#HB17-1165](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Veterinary_News#HB17-1165).

## **Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child and Elder Abuse**

Veterinarians are considered mandatory reporters along with more than 40 other professions who must report suspected child and elder abuse. For training about mandatory reporting, visit [coloradocwts.com/mandated-reporter-training](http://coloradocwts.com/mandated-reporter-training).

## **2018 LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION**

### **SB18-239 Licensed Chiropractor's Ability to Perform Animal Chiropractic on an Animal Patient**

In 2017, CVMA worked to narrowly defeat SB17-135 that would have removed the requirement for a veterinary medical clearance for licensed chiropractors who are registered to perform animal chiropractic. In response to direction from legislators, teams from CVMA and the Colorado Chiropractic Association spent many hours meeting and negotiating SB18-239. It permits licensed chiropractors who have received the required education and are registered as animal chiropractors to practice animal chiropractic on animal patients without a veterinary medical clearance from a licensed veterinarian if the licensed and registered chiropractor completes two one-time education requirements including one hour of jurisprudence, and an eight-hour course on Rabies Virus, West Nile Virus, Canine Brucellosis, Plague, Tularemia, and Equine Herpes Virus Myeloencephalopathy. In addition, in each licensing period, a two-hour course on contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases, and their incidence rates, is required. <http://bit.ly/SB18-239>

CVMA supported the successful **HB18-1041 Adding Certified Police Working Horses to the Crime of Cruelty to a Service Animal or a Certified Police Working Dog**, and **HB18-022 Clinical Practice Measures for Safer Opioid Prescribing**. In addition, CVMA monitored 15 other bills during the 2018 legislative session. You can review all the bills CVMA proposed, supported, and monitored at [colovma.org/legislative/](http://colovma.org/legislative/).

### **Denver Declaw Ban**

CVMA testified several times in opposition to the City of Denver bill 17-0709 prohibiting cat declawing. The bill was passed on November 6, 2017. The ordinance added a new section 8-141 to Chapter 8 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code on Cruelty to Animals that prohibits surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy on cats. Declawing is only permitted to protect the health of the cat. Read CVMA's position statement at [colovma.org/cat-declawing/](http://colovma.org/cat-declawing/).

### **"No Kill" 90% Live Release Rate Required in Pueblo**

The Pueblo Animal Protection Act goes into effect on January 1, 2019. It requires animal shelters to have a 90% live release rate, including Pueblo's open admission shelter. In response, CVMA continues to monitor the issue, alerted members during chapter visits, and published three articles in VOICE 2018:2 (see your printed copy or visit [colovma.org/cvma-voice-magazine/](http://colovma.org/cvma-voice-magazine/)).