

Important Update for Ontario Veterinarians



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Added information from the CVO

A recent discussion with Health Canada clarified for the CVO that federal rules under the *Cannabis Act* do not prohibit a veterinarian from advising clients on the use of legally available recreational cannabis for their pets. These products do not make health claims, are not considered drugs, and are legally obtained by adult Canadian consumers.

If a veterinarian chooses to advise a client on a legal product marketed through the authorized recreational cannabis retail stream, they are accountable for that professional advice. This advice can include harm reduction education. They should weigh the evidence on cannabis against other available treatment options and practice within the scope of their clinical competency. They must have a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) and obtain informed client consent. They must also be available in the case of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment.

To understand their responsibilities, further guidance for veterinarians is provided on the CVO website.