

## Prescription Portability for Pet Medications

Veterinarians are the primary advocate for the owner and patient. They are the best trained and most qualified professionals to handle veterinary prescriptions due to the unique biochemistry and physiology of animals. Most pharmacists understand the effects of medication in the human and applying the same understanding to drug effects in animals can be deadly. Ultimately, the pet stands to suffer the most as a result of the greed of pharmaceutical retailers.

The need for HR 1406 is absolutely unnecessary. In the event of a client's request for a portable prescription, given a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship, most veterinarians do provide this prescription, assuming it is in the best medical interest of the patient. This policy, supported and suggested by the AVMA, has been long standing. Most of my clients are already aware of this option and choose to purchase meds from our clinic due to convenience and their trust and confidence in our expertise. HR 1406 would create an unnecessary burden on the veterinarian due to the prescription processing. HR1406 handcuffs the veterinarian by not allowing fair compensation for their expertise and creates a double standard by not allowing liability release for a prescription handled by a third party.

There is no logical explanation or reason for federal legislation requiring veterinarians to provide written prescriptions to their clients, especially when the client chooses to purchase the prescription through the veterinarian. There is no logical explanation for federal legislation that requires veterinarians to publicly notify clients that they have the right to fill prescriptions at the pharmacy of their choice, given that most clients already know of this option and that the majority of veterinarians honor this client option. Further, there is no logical explanation for denying the veterinarian the right to income for their professional expertise while still holding them accountable and liable for prescriptions obtained outside of the veterinarian's control.

HR1406 and similar federal legislation concerning the veterinary pharmaceutical market are driven by one thing only --- the desire of large human pharmaceutical retailers, primarily Wal-Mart, to obtain revenues from the growing animal pharmaceutical market, which has in large part been created by the efforts of veterinary professionals to advance the level of veterinary care available to pets and owners. Their desires to profit from this industry are unfortunately at the expense of the pets and their owners, not the benefit as purported by pharmaceutical retailers. This legislation is simply detrimental to the pet's safety and the efforts of the veterinary industry, the animal's only true and legitimate advocate.