RESOLUTION #4 – 2012
Regular Annual Session

Submitted by
AVMA Executive Board

REVISED PRINCIPLES OF VETERINARY MEDICAL ETHICS

RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) revise the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics as noted in the attachment (deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined).

Statement about the Resolution

In April 2011, the Judicial Council submitted a number of recommendations on policies for which it has oversight. Several of these policies had an impact on the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics (PVME).

In anticipation of the Board’s approval of the various policies recommended for revision and rescission, the PVME was revised to reflect this action. The revised PVME was then submitted for Board approval as the last recommendation of the Council’s group. However, the Executive Board referred this recommendation to approve the revised PVME back to the Council with direction to obtain input from the Professional Liability Insurance Trust (PLIT).

The attached revised PVME reflects input from the PLIT, revisions suggested in April 2011, and additional suggested revisions arising from the HOD-approved Model Veterinary Practice Act (MVPA), and subsequent Council deliberation. The attached document was reviewed by the PLIT, which had no further suggested revisions.

Recommended revisions (deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined) are noted below with a corresponding explanation.

Pg. 1—recommended addition from rescinded Policy on Promoting Professionalism and Ethical Behavior
Pg. 2—editorial change; no longer print directory; specialty-related revision reflects revised MVPA
Pg. 3, 4—recommended to help limit liability, and to promote communication; addition of new principle addressing supervisory obligations—recommended in response to member request for clarification and direction
Pg. 4—revised section on impairment reflects language from revised MVPA
Pg. 5, 6—recommended for clarity and taken from rescinded Guidelines for Referrals
Pg. 7—recommended in response to request for clarification and revision
Pg. 8—recommended for clarity and taken from rescinded Guidelines for Referrals

Financial Impact: None

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