RESOLUTION 10 — 2013
Regular Annual Session
Submitted by
AVMA Executive Board

Policy on Complementary, Alternative, and Integrative Veterinary Medicine

RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) adopt the policy on Complementary, Alternative, and Integrative Veterinary Medicine as noted below.

Complementary, Alternative, and Integrative Veterinary Medicine
The AVMA believes that all aspects of veterinary medicine should be held to the same standards, including complementary, alternative and integrative veterinary medicine, non-traditional or other novel approaches.

- The foremost objective in veterinary medicine is the welfare of the patient.
- Diagnosis and treatment should be based on sound, accepted principles of veterinary medicine and the medical judgment of the veterinarian.
- Veterinarians should have the requisite knowledge and skills for every treatment modality they consider using.
- A valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship must exist.
- Owner consent should be obtained prior to initiating treatment.
- Medical records should include outcomes of treatment.
- Veterinarians should be aware of and abide by local, state, and federal statutes.

Statement about the Resolution
AVMA received input from 28 members on the current policy on Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine at the recently launched policy comment section of the AVMA website. This input was analyzed via key words to determine commonalities. As a result of this analysis and discussion by the Council on Veterinary Service, the policy was rewritten as noted above. It was determined that all aspects of veterinary medicine, regardless of classifications such as “traditional” or “complementary,” should be held to the same standards for safeguarding patient health and welfare. Veterinarian medical judgment, skills and knowledge, a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship, owner consent, medical records, and adherence to applicable regulations should apply to all aspects of veterinary medicine.

Once approved, the policy noted above will supersede the policy on Guidelines for Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine.

Financial Impact: None

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