RESOLUTION #8—2015
Regular Annual Session

Submitted by
Board of Directors

Policy on Veterinary Pharmacology Education for Pharmacists

RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) adopt the Policy on Veterinary Pharmacology Education for Pharmacists as noted below.

Veterinary Pharmacology Education for Pharmacists
To increase pharmacists’ understanding of aspects of animal physiology relevant to the pharmacological and toxicological properties of drugs, the AVMA supports inclusion of veterinary pharmacology courses within professional pharmacy curricula and within continuing education programs for licensed pharmacists.

The AVMA also encourages pharmacists to consult with prescribing veterinarians individually to discuss any information needed regarding a prescription to be filled, including verification with the veterinarian should the pharmacist have any questions about the medication or dosage. Licensed pharmacists should have a solid understanding of their roles and responsibilities for counseling and educating clients when filling a veterinary prescription, including referral of clients back to the veterinarian with questions related to patient care or over-the-counter drugs. In compliance with state pharmacy and veterinary practice rules, veterinarians should avoid unclear abbreviations on prescriptions and should consider including statements such as “no substitutions” or “dispense as written” on prescriptions to help avoid unintended medication substitutions or alterations of dosages.

Statement about the Resolution
The policy advocates three main concepts to be communicated through regular AVMA communication channels:

- Veterinary pharmacology education, through professional pharmacy curricula and continuing education, is encouraged,
- Pharmacists are reminded to verify the order with the prescribing veterinarian should any questions arise, and to refer the client back to the veterinarian if there are questions about patient care and/or use of over the counter drugs in the patient, and
- Veterinarians are reminded to deliver clear prescriptions in line with state rules, to help avoid medication errors.

Aligned with 2012 House of Delegates Resolution 8 “Guidance to Pharmacy Stakeholders,” the AVMA has historically engaged pharmacy stakeholders to underscore the importance of interaction between individual pharmacists and veterinarians for the benefit of patients—especially given the increase in pharmacies filling veterinary drug prescriptions.

Additionally, the findings of several state VMAs have noted numerous medication errors reported by their members (“Substitution Errors,” reported in September 1, 2014 JAVMA News).

Financial Impact: NONE
Reference Committee #7 recommends that the HOD vote to refer the resolution back to the Board of Directors for consideration of the following:
- Strike the first paragraph and remove “also” from, the first sentence of the 2nd paragraph
- Revise title to reflect the content of removing 1st paragraph
- Consider policy directed towards vets and potentially a second policy for education of pharmacists who dispense veterinary prescriptions
- Refer to COBTA and other relevant entities for further feedback

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RECOMMEND APPROVAL</th>
<th>RECOMMEND DISAPPROVAL</th>
<th>RECOMMEND REFERRAL TO ...*</th>
<th>NO RECOMMENDATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Advisory Committee</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Committee #7</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOD ACTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROVED</th>
<th>DISAPPROVED</th>
<th>REFERRED TO . . .*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOD ACTION</td>
<td></td>
<td>X-BOD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>