

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND  
THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT OFFICE,  
OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH,  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION,  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO).

**Parties and Purpose**

The purpose of this MOU is to continue a partnership between the AVMA and the NSGO that began in November 2011. This MOU serves as the framework for future collaborative efforts on targeted projects and activities, set forth below, related to outreach and education of veterinary clients on proper disposal of unused medications dispensed for animals.

**Authorities**

NSGO has authority to participate in this project with AVMA under:

33 USC 1121 et seq., which states that NOAA is authorized to issue grants in support of solving coastal problems and developing marine resources;

33 USC 1123(c) (4) (D), which states that the Secretary of Commerce may enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, and other transactions without regard to section 5 of title 41;

33 USC 893a, which states that the Administrator of the NOAA shall conduct, develop support, promote, and coordinate formal and informal educational activities at all levels to enhance public awareness and understanding of ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, and atmospheric science and stewardship by the general public and other coastal stakeholders..."

**Background**

Improper disposal of unused medicines impacts human, animal and environmental health, and is of concern to Federal and state governments, the veterinary medical community, the health care industry, water treatment facilities, solid waste management, law enforcement, drug abuse prevention community and a host of other organizations. Improper disposal of unused medicines can pose a risk to people, animals, and the environment. For example, medicines placed in the trash without taking precautions to secure the container, make the medication unpalatable, or disguise the contents, are potentially accessible to humans and animals, sometimes resulting in unintentional poisonings.

Additionally, medicines that are flushed enter our sewage systems and find their way into the environment and our water. Studies have identified a wide range of pharmaceutical

chemicals in rivers, streams, groundwater, and drinking water nationwide. It has been shown that some of these compounds are potentially harmful to aquatic organisms, affecting reproduction and development even at very low concentrations. The long-term impacts on human, animal, and environmental health are unknown at this time.

The Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program (IISG) is one of 33 National Sea Grant College Programs. Created by Congress in 1966, Sea Grant combines university, government, business and industry expertise to address coastal and Great Lakes needs. Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant combines research, education and outreach to empower communities to secure a healthy environment and economy.

Until 2011, the AVMA and IISG had been working separately to educate people about proper disposal of medicines. In November 2011, the AVMA and the NSGO signed an MOU to develop a joint outreach and education campaign for veterinary clients on this topic. The collaborative effort with the AVMA has continued with IISG on behalf of, and with the consent of, the NSGO.

### **Key Messages**

In materials jointly developed, the AVMA and IISG agree to continue using the following messages:

#### *Key Message*

1. Do Not Flush (prescription medication);

#### *Supporting/ Secondary Messages*

1. Veterinary Prescription Safety and Compliance for Animal Owners

- a. Properly store medicine

- 1) Use locked cabinets or cabinets inaccessible to children or animals
    - 2) Do not leave medications readily accessible to youths or animals

- b. Follow the veterinarian's directions.

- 1) Following the prescription/label directions gives the best chances of successful treatment and helps avoid treatment failure.
    - 2) Unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian, make sure to finish the full course of medication as prescribed, even if your animal(s) appears to be recovered. This also helps to ensure the best chances of successful treatment, reduces the risk of treatment failure, and reduces unnecessary waste that can contaminate the environment.

- c. Proper Disposal Options

- 1) Follow disposal instructions provided by the dispensing veterinarian or pharmacist.
    - 2) Be aware of disposal options and rules of the local area.
      - a. Dispose of unused medication via permanent collection programs or one-day collection events where available.
      - b. Properly dispose of via trash when collection programs are not available.

- c. Special rules apply to disposal of unused controlled substances. If disposal instructions were not provided at the time the medication was dispensed, please call your veterinarian for disposal guidance.
2. Animal owner collaboration with the veterinarian is key in establishing the optimal prescription quantity and number of refills for each situation to minimize leftover medication and reduce potential pharmaceutical waste.

### **Proposed deliverables**

1. Distribute co-branded brochures and other educational materials at exhibit booths to be hosted by IISG at State Fairs, AVMA conferences, regional veterinary conferences, School/College of Veterinary Medicine Open House events, and other public outreach events to be determined by IISG and AVMA.
2. Continue to distribute the "Prescription for Safety: How to Dispose of Unwanted Medicine" brochure to veterinarians to give to their clients when medication is dispensed.
3. Develop a co-branded video on proper storage and disposal of medicine.
4. Continue to provide links to each partner's relevant website; specifically, the AVMA websites [www.avma.org/drugdisposal](http://www.avma.org/drugdisposal) and [www.avma.org/wastedisposal](http://www.avma.org/wastedisposal) and the IISG website <http://www.unwantedmeds.org>.
5. Develop brochures on proper disposal of expired or unused medications for small-scale livestock producers and aquaculture producers.
6. Develop and disseminate other products as discussed and jointly agreed to by both partners in the future.

### **Ownership**

Each party represents that any materials contributed by it pursuant to this MOU will not infringe on the copyright, trademark, or trade secret rights of any third party. All rights, title, and ownership to all materials developed jointly between the parties under this MOU ("Joint Materials"), including copyright and other intellectual property rights, shall be held jointly by the parties without the right or obligation of compensation or an accounting to each other. Both parties shall have the right to use the Joint Materials in any manner consistent with this MOU. Both parties agree that any use of the Joint Materials outside the scope of this MOU shall require the consent of the other party, which shall not be unreasonable withheld.

### **Terms and Conditions**

This MOU establishes the general parameters of the agreement between the AVMA and the NSGO. Both the AVMA and the NSGO (represented by IISG) agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. The AVMA logo and the appropriate Sea Grant program logos will be used on jointly developed outreach materials. Logos may not be used without prior written consent of the owner.

2. The AVMA and the NSGO (represented by IISG) will inform the other partner when using jointly developed materials and will report on the audiences reached and the impacts of the outreach. The AVMA will cooperate with the NSGO and its component parts in adhering to the U. S. Department of Commerce's regulations and policies regarding the use of Federal logos, and the NSGO agrees to inform AVMA of such regulations and policies.
3. Other Sea Grant colleges and institutes, at the request of the NSGO, may participate in the program.
4. Each party agrees to cover the financial obligation for the materials it will use. Each party agrees to participate in financial support of development of materials as their funding permits.
5. The participation of the AVMA, NSGO and any of its component parts, including IISG, is based on the availability of funding.

### **Contacts**

1. The contacts for coordinating activities under this MOU are:

#### **American Veterinary Medical Association**

Kristi Henderson, DVM  
Director, Division of Animal & Public Health  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100  
Schaumburg, IL 60173  
Phone: 847-285-6651 or 800-248-2862 x 6651  
Fax: 847-925-9329  
[KHenderson@avma.org](mailto:KHenderson@avma.org)  
[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

#### **National Sea Grant Office (represented by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant)**

Laura Kammin  
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Pollution Prevention Program Specialist  
1101 W. Peabody Dr., 370 NSRC  
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[lkammin@illinois.edu](mailto:lkammin@illinois.edu)  
<http://www.iiseagrant.org>  
<http://www.unwantedmeds.org>

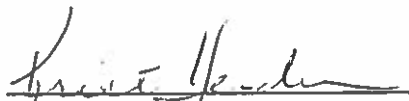
2. The parties agree that if there is a need to amend this MOU, the party making the change will notify the other party in writing. No amendment or modification to this MOU will be valid unless it is signed by both parties. Should disagreement arise on the interpretation of the provisions of this MOU, or amendments and/or revisions thereto, that cannot be resolved at the operating level, the area(s) of disagreement shall be stated in writing by each party and presented to the other party for consideration. If agreement on interpretation is not reached within thirty days, the parties shall forward the written presentation of the disagreement to respective higher officials for appropriate resolution.

**Duration of MOU**

1. This MOU will become effective on the date of last signature and shall remain in effect for five years.
2. This MOU may be amended at any time within the scope of the agreement, through the written mutual consent of the parties.
3. This MOU may be terminated by: 1) mutual written consent; 2) for any reason upon 60-days advance written notice by either party; 3) completion of the terms and conditions of the MOU.

**Approvals**

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED FOR THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



Dr. Kristi Henderson  
Director, Division of Animal & Public Health  
American Veterinary Medical Association

5/3/16  
Date



Dr. Dr. Gail Golab  
Chief Advocacy & Public Policy Officer  
American Veterinary Medical Association

5/5/16  
Date

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED FOR THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT OFFICE



Dr. Nikola M. Garber  
Deputy Director, National Sea Grant College Program  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

4/18/16  
Date

Jason Donaldson

4/13/16

Jason A. Donaldson

Date

Chief Financial Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration