

Module 10 Prescriptions

Objectives

After you complete this short module, you will be able to:

- Describe the type of drugs that require a prescription and the parts of a veterinary prescription
- Explain the use of, standards for and parts of the feed prescription.

Drug Prescriptions

A prescription is a written or verbal order for a medication from a licensed veterinarian. Veterinarians are only licensed to prescribe medications for animals if they have a proper veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR). Medications requiring prescriptions include:

- Schedule F, Part I drugs
- G (controlled substances)
- N (narcotics).

Schedule G and N drugs should never be sold over the counter. They may be dispensed by a veterinarian under a valid VCPR and prescription.

Schedule F, Part I drugs require a prescription for sale and are provided to a producer by the veterinarian following a diagnosis. Their sale is controlled in a regulated environment as defined by provincial pharmacy legislation. Schedule F, Part II drugs are less strictly regulated and do not require a prescription.

Veterinarians must have a VCPR before prescribing medications for animals.

A veterinarian prescription is required to use drugs in an extra-label manner.

If drugs are given in a manner that is extra-label, a veterinary prescription is required from a licensed veterinarian under a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship. It is the veterinarian's responsibility to ensure there are scientific grounds to use the medication in an extra-label fashion and it is the veterinarian's responsibility to ensure that the prescription contains an appropriate meat and milk withdrawal that will not result in drug residues.

Veterinary prescriptions should be written clearly and completely. Abbreviations should not be used when writing drug names. When writing prescriptions, veterinarians should avoid the following:

- Writing scripts for large quantities of drugs
- More than one order on the same prescription.

Veterinarians should:

- Include their name printed under the signature
- Write prescriptions in ink.

Parts of a Veterinary Prescription

- Name and address of client/owner and name and species of patient – required by law
- Date prescribed
- Inscription – includes the drug name, strength or concentration
- Subscription – number of doses supplied
- Signa – directions for use, including withdrawal period. This should be written as completely and clearly as possible and include all the necessary information the producer needs to administer the drug to the animal.
- Renewal instructions – authorizes producer to obtain additional supplies of medication without going back to see the veterinarian.
- Signature of veterinarian – required by law and written in ink.

Feed Prescriptions

Prescription feeds are medicated feeds that are manufactured according to a written prescription by a licensed veterinarian. Veterinarians may prescribe levels or combinations of medications different from those approved in the CMIB. Veterinarians are only permitted to prescribe (feed) medications for therapeutic purposes (i.e., for the treatment or prevention of disease). Prescribing for other reasons (e.g., improvement of performance or feed efficiency) is not permitted (Food and Drugs Regulations C.08.012.1). The general standards in the feed regulations must be met, and the withdrawal period must be stated on the feed prescription to prevent harmful drug residues. The veterinarian must provide the feed mill, prior to preparation of the feed, a copy of the signed feed prescription. The feed manufacturer, veterinarian and producer are responsible to follow the Feed Regulations.

Labeling Requirements for Veterinary Prescription Feeds

- Name and address of the manufacturer
- Name of the client for whom the feed is manufactured and used
- Name of the veterinarian who issued the prescription (keep veterinary feed prescriptions on file for two years)
- Name of the feed including the amount of medicating ingredients
- Directions for use, including duration of feeding
- Warning and caution statements
- Weight of the feed.

A copy of a veterinary feed prescription form is given in Appendix 2, along with what information should be included in the feed prescription. Your veterinarian should provide you with a copy of the signed veterinary feed prescription and ensure that you understand it, including how to mix and feed the prescription medicated feed and appropriate withdrawal periods.

Summary

This short module provides you with the requirements for drug and feed prescriptions and the role of your veterinarian in dealing with both of these.



More Info

Refer to Appendix 2 for details on feed prescriptions.