

# Oregon Veterinary Medical Board FAQs

## Do I have to examine each animal I treat?

Yes. You must establish a Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) by conducting and documenting one yearly complete physical examination of every patient. Once the VCPR is in place, you may choose to waive other exams during the year UNLESS the animal presents with a new health problem, is scheduled for anesthesia, or is brought in for euthanasia. Remember, it the veterinarian's choice—not the client's—whether to waive exams. 

## What needs to be recorded in the patient record?

A complete list of what needs to appear in the patient record is in the Veterinary Practice Act (VPA), [http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars\\_800/oar\\_875/875\\_015.html](http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_800/oar_875/875_015.html). Scroll down to Division 15, Minimum Veterinary Practice Standards. 

## Do I have to give a copy of the patient record to a client or another veterinarian?

Yes. Unless it's an emergency, you have 72 hours to provide a copy of the patient record, including imaging, to the client or another veterinarian. A 'reasonable' fee for copies may be assessed, but you may not withhold the copy if the client refuses to pay or has an outstanding bill. 

## How long do I have to retain patient records?

For compliance with the Veterinary Practice Act, three years after the last contact with the patient. (May be longer for other purposes, e.g., IRS, insurance, etc.) 

## What if I don't have access to patient records?

If for any reason you are unable to provide copies of patient records, notify the Board immediately. Failure to provide record copies is a violation of the VPA, unless you can show good cause for inability to comply. 

## Do I have to provide a prescription?

Yes. You must provide a prescription if asked, and you may charge a fee for it. You do not have to write a prescription to a specific pharmacy. 

## Can a person not licensed as a veterinarian provide alternative treatment to animals?

Yes. A practitioner of alternative or complementary methods, i.e, chiropractic, naturopathy, massage, may work on animals if the individual is licensed in Oregon in that profession and has a referral for diagnosis and treatment from a veterinarian. Veterinarians may, but are not required to, provide a referral. 