



CENTER FOR VETERINARY HEALTH SCIENCES
Healthy Animals - Healthy People

April 28, 2016

Congressman Markwayne Mullin
113 Longworth
Washington DC 20515

**College of Veterinary Medicine
Office of the Dean**
205 McElroy Hall
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078-2005
Phone: (405) 744-6648
Fax: (405) 744-6633
Dean: (405) 744-6651
Associate Dean: (405) 744-6595

Dear Sir:

I write to you today to provide input on the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade hearing titled "The Pet Medication Industry: Issues and Perspectives". I believe the intent of this hearing is to review the pet owning public's ability to shop around for their pet's medications. I strongly oppose requiring veterinarians to provide a prescription regardless of whether or not it is requested for the following reasons:

1. Any client of a veterinary practitioner already has the right to have any medication prescribed in such a way as to allow the client to take the prescription and shop around for the best price if they choose to.
 - a. The Federal Trade Commission did not find evidence that veterinarians were withholding prescriptions from their clients. To do so would violate the AVMA Medical Ethics on Clients Request for Prescriptions. Also, this would be a violation of the Practice Act in many states including Oklahoma.
 - b. In addition, many medications prescribed for these pets are only available through a veterinarian.
2. The implementation of this requirement would place an unnecessary burden on the veterinary practitioner by requiring all drugs prescribed to have written prescription which would add time and costs which could be at the expense of the pets care.
3. Having a prescription pad available during working hours, if veterinarians were required that all such prescriptions be written, could increase the risk of misuse by staff who might have access to the prescription pad during those working hours. Because it is unusual for this request to be made, prescription pads are often kept under lock and key along with controlled substances.

Therefore, the reason for which this requirement has been proposed is already in place. Also, requiring a prescription be written would add an unnecessary step to dispensing these medications to owners who most often would hand it back to the same clinic to be filled. This service is offered as a convenience to the clients. It is the opinion of the leadership within the Oklahoma State University, Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, that such a requirement would not resolve a problem as one does not exist. It also will create an undo documentation burden on veterinary practitioners. This opinion is in alignment with the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association and The American Veterinary Medical Association.

A better solution would be for the pet owning public to be better educated about existing practices that are available to them upon request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean E. Sander".

Jean E. Sander
Dean, Center for Veterinary Health Sciences
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078