



Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Veterinary Telemedicine Summary

Summary of Veterinary Telemedicine Law

After roughly a year and a half of deliberations, negotiations, and discussions, veterinary telemedicine will soon become law in Ohio. Governor Mike DeWine recently signed HB 96, which contained the entirety of SB 60, first introduced by Senators Shane Wilkin and Steve Huffman. This means that, on September 30, 2025 you will be able to utilize telemedicine in your practice for the first time. This document will provide you with an overview of the new law, help you stay in compliance, and provide resources for you to navigate this new area of veterinary medicine.

Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship

The new Ohio law allows for the establishment of a VCPR through virtual means in most cases. This means that licensed Ohio vets, and non-Ohio vets that are licensed in Ohio, can care for and prescribe most medications using telemedicine, without first having to see the patient in-person.

There are some limitations to the virtual VCPR which are covered below, but by and large, a virtual VCPR will soon be the law of the land in Ohio. In order to utilize telemedicine in your practice, these steps must be taken first:

- All veterinarians using telemedicine to care for patients (either to establish or maintain a VCPR) must first be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Ohio. *(Note: there is not a dedicated "telemedicine" license. Your existing license must simply be active and approved by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board.)*
- A veterinarian wishing to use telemedicine must obtain the informed consent from the client, including an acknowledgement that the standards of care prescribed by the law

governing veterinarians equally apply to in-person and telehealth visits. The veterinarian must maintain documentation of the consent for at least three years after receiving the informed consent.

- The veterinarian provides the client with the veterinarian's name and contact information and secures an alternate means of contacting the client if the telehealth visit is interrupted. Following the telehealth visit, the veterinarian must make available to the client an electronic or written record of the visit. The record must include the veterinarian's license number.
- Before conducting an evaluation of a patient via a telehealth visit, the veterinarian advises the client of all the following:
 - o The veterinarian may ultimately recommend an in-person visit with the veterinarian or another licensed veterinarian;
 - o The veterinarian is prohibited under federal law from prescribing certain drugs or medications based only on a telehealth visit;
 - o The appointment for a telehealth visit may be terminated at any time.

Prescription Limits and Controlled Substances

The new law **prohibits** (as does federal law) from prescribing controlled substances utilizing telemedicine. The law also allows a licensed veterinarian to prescribe drugs or medications after establishing a veterinary-client-patient relationship via telehealth services (see below), except that all the following apply:

- The veterinarian may issue an initial prescription for up to **14 days**. The veterinarian may issue **one refill** for up to **14 days** if the veterinarian sees the patient for another telehealth visit. For additional refills, the patient **must visit the veterinarian in person.**
- The veterinarian must notify the client that certain prescription drugs or medications may be available at a pharmacy and, if requested, the veterinarian will submit a prescription to a pharmacy of the client's choosing.

Livestock Exemption

The new law prohibits the establishment of a VCPR using virtual means for certain food production operations. Specifically, a licensed veterinarian whose client is engaged in the raising of livestock for human food products may not use telehealth services for those livestock unless the veterinarian has established a veterinary-client-relationship (see below) in person with respect to the livestock prior to the use of telehealth services.

However, a licensed veterinarian whose client is engaged in the raising of livestock for **human food products** may conduct *tele-advice* services for those livestock prior to the veterinarian establishing a veterinary-client-patient relationship in person with the client.

The new law also defines all of the following terms:

- “Human food product” means livestock raised for human consumption or livestock whose products are used for human consumption;
- “Livestock” means porcine animals, bovine animals, caprine animals, ovine animals, and poultry; and
- “Tele-advice” means the provision of any health information, opinion, or guidance by a veterinary professional that is not intended to diagnose, treat, issue certificates of veterinary inspection, or issue prognoses of the physical or behavioral illness or injury of an animal or issue.

Conclusion

The law will become effective on September 30,2025. Until then, veterinary telemedicine remains not allowed under current Ohio law.