

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Licensed Veterinarians

**From:** The Mississippi Board of Veterinary Medicine

**Re:** Telemedicine during COVID-19 Pandemic

The Board has received numerous inquiries concerning the veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) requirements and the use of telemedicine to address animal health needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The VCPR is the professional relationship between the veterinarian, client (animal owner or caretaker) and the animal patient. The Mississippi Veterinary Practice Act (“the Practice Act”) definition requires that veterinarians physically examine animal patients and/or make medically appropriate and timely visits to the location where the animals are kept.

During the COVID-19 pandemic veterinarians may utilize telemedicine including cyber and electronic means to address animal health issues provided that a valid VCPR exists which was not initially established through telephonic or electronic means.

A veterinarian is still ethically and legally responsible for any diagnostic and treatment decisions that are made during this time either, by in person visit or by telemedicine.

The Board will revisit this policy on September 1, 2020.