



The American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics

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To whom it may concern:

The American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics is opposed to the international rescheduling of ketamine, which will make it more difficult, if not impossible, for licensed veterinarians in the US to obtain and use this drug for the authorized treatment of their animal patients. The use of ketamine as a safe and effective anesthetic and analgesic in all species of animals especially dogs, cats, and horses is supported by over 5,000 scientific articles. Furthermore, there is a well-established history of the safe and effective use and handling of ketamine by veterinarians in the US. Currently there is a good balance between regulation and use, as the Drug Enforcement Agency has placed ketamine under Schedule III based on their assessment of human abuse potential. Regulatory requirements for this schedule include secure storage and accurate record-keeping. Veterinarians' ability to safely immobilize and anesthetize almost all species of animals, as well as control a wide range of painful conditions, would be dramatically altered if they were to lose the ability to access and/or use ketamine.

Sincerely,

Ronette Gehring BVSc, MMedVet (Pharm)

President, AAVPT