

PRESCRIPTIONS

WHO REGULATES PRESCRIPTIONS?

VMD

The **Veterinary Medicines Directorate** states that, Prescription only Medicines-Veterinary (POM-V) may only be supplied if it has been prescribed by a vet following a clinical assessment of the animal(s), which must be “under their care”.

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations does not define “clinical assessment” or “under their care” , however the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) has interpreted both phrases.

A client may ask for a written prescription if they want to buy the product from a supplier other than the prescribing vet.

In either case, the prescribing vet must retain clinical responsibility for the treatment and the animal(s) under their care.

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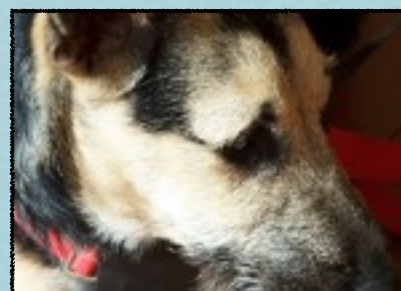
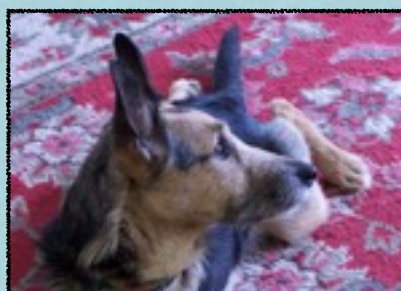
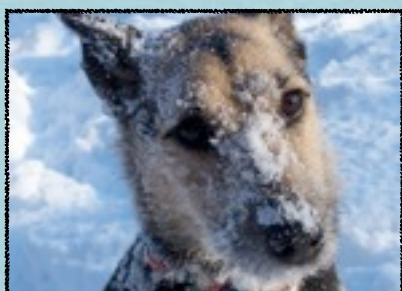


RCVS

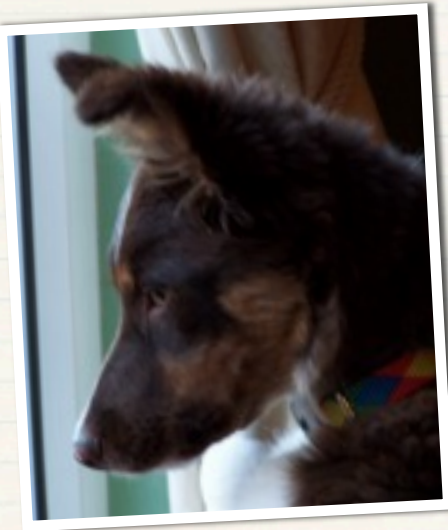
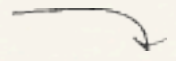
The Veterinary Medicines Regulations do not define the phrase “under his care” and the **Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons** has interpreted it a meaning that:

- a. The veterinary surgeon must have been given the responsibility for the health of the animal by the owner or the owner’s agent
- b. That responsibility must be real and not nominal

- c. The animal must have been seen immediately before prescription or
- d. Recently enough or often enough for the veterinary surgeon to have personal knowledge of the condition of the animal or current health status to make a diagnosis and prescribe.
- e. The veterinary surgeon must maintain clinical records of that individual.



About the VMD and RCVS



By **Nathalie Declunder**

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CLASSIFICATION OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

The main authorised veterinary medicines are:

- a. Prescription only Medicine - Veterinarian; abbreviated POM-V
- b. Prescription-only Medicine - Veterinarian, Pharmacist, Suitably Qualified Person (SQP); abbreviated to POM-VPS
- c. Non-Food Animal - Veterinarian, Pharmacist Suitably Qualified Person; abbreviated to NFA-VPS and
- d. Authorised Veterinary Medicine - General Sales List; abbreviated to AVM-GSL

The responsible use of veterinary medicines for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes is one of the major skills of a veterinary surgeon and crucial to animal welfare and the maintenance of public health.

CHOICE OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Vets need to consider whether the selected product is authorised for use in the UK in the species treated, for the condition being treated and need to ensure that the product is used at manufacturer's recommended dosage.

If there is no suitable authorised veterinary medicinal product in the UK for a condition in a particular species, a vet may (to avoid unacceptable suffering), treat the animal in accordance with the "Cascade".

The practice will not accept responsibility for products/medicines purchased outside of the practice by third parties, even if they have been used in accordance with manufacturer's guidance.

With the advent of medicines being available over the internet, we cannot assure our clients of their provenance. **Any issues arising as a result of using products purchased online, instead of at the practice, will be solely the client's and the third parties' responsibility. Clients requesting written prescriptions therefore agree to take full responsibility for their pets with regards to those medications.**

*Nathalie Declunder DVM, MRCVS
& the Aire Veterinary Centre team*

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN PRESCRIBING

1. Consultation to check pet

- a. Check history if available
- b. Clinical Examination
- c. Assess symptoms
- d. Diagnosis may need further investigations

e. Plan and Prescribe

2. Ongoing cases requiring long term treatment will need to be checked every 3 months (+/- blood tests)

3. Clients can forego the blood tests when recommended but will be asked to sign a disclaimer by which they take full responsibility for their actions

4. Clients can obtain a written prescription for their medication at a charge or use our web shop to set up repeat prescriptions at a discount for ongoing cases.