

## Use of Telemedicine

The California Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) released [a statement](#) on April 8, 2020 regarding the use of telemedicine.

The Veterinary Medicine Practice Act permits the use of telemedicine if veterinarians have a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) established for the condition being treated. Therefore, if a veterinarian has physically examined an animal patient within the last year for a given condition, telemedicine may be utilized for management of that condition. Read the law [here](#).

Although there are provisions in the law that allow veterinarians to provide services and medications to the public during declared states of emergency without a VCPR (see section on [“Providing Medications to Clients or the Public”](#)), **this limited exemption does not permit the use of telemedicine to establish a VCPR.**

Specifically, the limited exemption allows veterinarians to, *“Render necessary and prompt care and treatment to an animal patient without establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship if conditions are such that one cannot be established in a timely manner.”*

This limited exemption specifically states that the VCPR requirement may be bypassed only if conditions are such that it cannot be established in a timely manner. In the case of the current stay-at-home order, veterinary practices are listed as essential critical infrastructure, which means that they may remain open. Therefore, it is possible for clients to bring animals in for care.