DCA Director's Order Waiving Restrictions on Telemedicine and Extending Time to Refill Prescriptions

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-39-20, on June 4, 2020, the director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) issued the Order Waiving Restrictions on Telemedicine and Extending Time to Refill Prescriptions (Order), which contains two waivers regarding the veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR), described below.

Telemedicine for New or Different Medical Conditions: As long as the other VCPR requirements have been met to establish the VCPR, including an initial in-person examination of the animal patient, the Order temporarily authorizes a veterinarian to use telemedicine to diagnose and treat an animal patient for a new or different medical condition. This waiver expires 60 days after the director's order was issued.

Prescription Refills: The Order temporarily authorizes a prescription issued following an in-person examination last performed between June 1, 2019, and August 1, 2019, to be refilled by the veterinarian, without another in-person examination, for up to 18 months from the date of the last examination and issuance of prescription.

For discussion of the intent of these waivers and how these temporary waivers can be used in the practice of veterinary medicine, please see the Guidance document here.