THE PRESCRIPTION OF VETERINARY LICENSED DRUGS

Here at Molecare Pet Vets, we would like to provide some information so you can understand the legislation that governs our ability to dispense certain drugs to you. These rules and responsibilities can be misunderstood by clients, particularly when their animal is on long term prescription medication.

To abide by the rules and regulations, we do ask to examine your pet approximately every 6 months in order to continue to dispense or prescribe drugs to them. Please note that in some instances if your pet is receiving a drug for a disease that is more changeable and risky to the patient (i.e. heart disease) we may ask you to bring your pet in more frequently so we can closely monitor them, this is for the safety of your pet. Most medications are classified as Prescription Only Medicines (POM-V). This means that they can only be provided under a veterinary prescription for a specific condition in a specific animal. Legally, the animal must be defined as “under our care” for us to prescribe a POM-V. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, which is the professional body governing vets, interprets this phrase in the following way.

- The veterinary surgeon must have been given the responsibility for the health of the animal by the owner/owner's agent.
- That responsibility must be real and not nominal.
- The animal must have been seen immediately before the prescription is provided, or, recently enough or often enough for the veterinary surgeon to have personal knowledge of the current condition of the animal to make a diagnosis and prescribe.
- What amounts to 'recent enough' is a matter for the professional judgement of the veterinary surgeon in the individual case. In human medicine, repeat prescription checks are normally carried out every 6 months, or more often if the severity of the condition dictates this. Consequently, we have adopted the same protocol.
- A veterinary surgeon cannot usually have an animal under his or her care if there has been no physical examination.
- A veterinary surgeon should not treat an animal or prescribe POM-V medicines via the Internet alone.
- The Veterinary Surgeon must only supply the minimum amount of medication required for the treatment of the condition.
- Each supply of prescription drugs must be authorised by a Veterinary Surgeon.

These regulations mean that we cannot provide or prescribe Veterinary Prescription Medicines if we have not personally examined your animal within a recent time frame and cannot just prescribe prescription only medications or antibiotics over the phone. Please bear with us when we ask to see your animal. We are required by law to do so and are not being difficult! We have created a Prescription Check Up protocol for the prescription of drugs in the hope that our clients will feel that what they get at these check-ups are both useful and good value for money.