



## POSITION STATEMENT

### CAHI SUPPORTS THE PURCHASE OF ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS THROUGH A VETERINARIAN

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Canadians are shopping online more and more. When it comes to the purchase of animal health products, there are a number of unknowns related to the source, quality, safety, effectiveness and correct handling that can be encountered when buying online. This practice can also compromise the [veterinarian-client-patient relationship](#), which is critical to the proper diagnosis and prescribing of animal health products to keep animals healthy.

Online pharmacies provide genuine benefits to consumers, such as door-to-door delivery, cost savings and prescription refill reminders. Given this, many veterinary clinics are adopting online tools to help animal owners. Talk to your veterinarian about what services are offered at your clinic.

#### **Did you know?**

Veterinarians and pharmacists are provincially regulated and must meet specific requirements in their practice related to prescribing and dispensing. This is to ensure safe, effective products are offered to animal owners based on an animal's needs. Because of limitations in oversight, recourse and potential complications it is recommended that internet pharmacies outside of your province not be used.

Outside of Canada, other countries may not use the same formulation, strength or manufacturing processes as those approved by Health Canada. Not only can this mean ineffective animal health products, it puts animals at risk for adverse reactions and introduces unknown food safety risks into the Canadian food supply. A veterinarian is the trained professional best positioned to provide the care and expertise needed to treat animals, to inform animal owners of potential risks for adverse drug reactions, and to provide farmers and ranchers with appropriate withdrawal times.

Visit the CAHI website at <https://www.cahi-icsa.ca/we-are-strictly-regulated> to learn more about how Canadian animal health products are regulated.