

Legal Considerations for Veterinarians

- **Not allowed to recommend, prescribe or dispense Cannabis**
- **Can talk about it, but only if the client brings it up**
- **Veterinary industry responsibility is Harm Reduction Education**

CBD vs THC

- CBD competes with THC. Therefore, if a product contains both CBD and THC, the THC doesn't get broken down and hangs around longer. THC is more toxic to animals so even the smallest amount can be a problem.
- CBD is not intoxicating
- **Main uses** include arthritis, seizures, IBD, anxiety (can make it worse) and cancer
- **Side effects** include lethargy (which should improve in days) or stimulation, vomiting, diarrhea, elevated liver values, and appetite stimulation or suppression
- **Drug interactions** - Stimulates the same system (Endocannabinoid system) as other drugs such as NSAIDs, opioids, steroids, anti-depressants, sedatives, anesthetics, anti-seizure medications and others, meaning that CBD can increase the effects of these drugs.

Selecting the right product

- 2 recent studies provide evidence that 70% of online products re mislabeled. 6 out of 7 CBD products from Amazon had NO CBD in them, and 12 of 13 online products had higher levels than advertised, or legally allowed.
- Always select a reputable source for any supplement you give to your pets.

Things to look for

- Label should clearly state the strength of CBD in mg/ml
- Label should have the THC/CBD ratio
- Organic, non GMO are better choices
- Certificate of Analysis / 3rd party independent analysis listing
 - Cannabinoids and terpenes
 - Contaminants
 - Raw or solvent extracted
 - Heavy Metals
- National Animal Supplement Council
- Canadian Association of Veterinary Cannabinoid Medicine

Dosing - Start Low, Go Slow

- 0.5 - 2.0 mg/ml SID to BID (Dosage anecdotal)
- If dosage is too high, it can cause stimulation vs sedation, appetite suppression vs stimulation and vomiting.
- Is dependent on individual, product and other diseases.
- If using long term, wean off product slowly, rather than stopping suddenly.

EDIBLES

These should only be for human consumption. They often contain ingredients that are harmful to pets such as Xylitol (can cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), seizures, liver failure or even death in dogs), raisins, and chocolate.