



NEW MEXICO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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April 1, 2020

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

The New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association wants to thank you for the courage and leadership that you have provided the state of New Mexico during this troubling time. As veterinarians we are obligated by professional oath to serve the NM community: animal and human. We have provided guidance for our members and the veterinary community in the following way.

Based on our current understanding, we are recommending that veterinarians use their professional judgment on what services to offer based on the needs of the patient. Services should be provided on a case-by-case basis to provide for injured or ill animals, emergencies, necessary medical dispensing and vaccination to support public health. Whether a veterinarian is providing services for companion animals, exotics, wildlife, livestock or lab animals we remember the section of our veterinarian's oath ... "I will strive to promote animal health and welfare, relieve animal suffering, protect the health of the public and environment and advance comparative medical knowledge."

With guidance from those in regulatory medicine in our state of New Mexico, we as veterinarians must continue to provide for the wellbeing of the animals of New Mexico and the humans with whom they interact. Our NM community depends on our professional and thoughtful implementation of the stay at home order.

We understand that we must protect the staff and clients that we work with each day by using proper precautions to mitigate viral spread. Proper distancing, curbside appointments, telemedicine when the state VCPR guidelines are met should allow for continuance of these essential jobs during this unusual time.

NMVMA would like to work with your office and the Department of Health to continue to guide NM veterinarians in safe and realistic essential business practice.

Please contact me if we can provide further guidance to the veterinarians who provide for our four legged family members, livestock, wildlife and public health issues in the state.

Remember to practice self-care and stay well!

New Mexico Rocks!

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