

Veterinary Oversight of Antimicrobials

Background

Bees are a food producing animal

- disease threats: bacteria, fungi, viruses and parasites

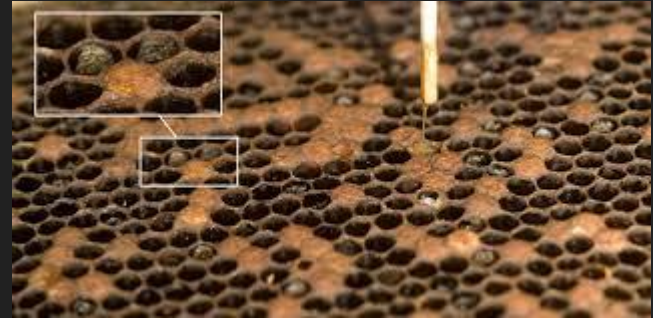
Historically:

- Producers
- Provincial and Federal employees engaged in the field
- Veterinarians minimal



American Foulbrood - Bacterial Disease

- Significant impact
 - Wide spread - up to 25% of colonies infected in some areas.
- Not eliminated by treatment because spores are not affected.
- Prevention is common practice even in uninfected colonies
- Treatment:
 - Tetracycline fed to the colony in fall and spring
 - Tylosin



Changing Environment - Health Canada

Health Canada: **Medically Important Antimicrobials (MIA)** in food producing animals shall be under veterinary oversight

- Fully implemented by the end of 2018
- Tetracycline, Tylosin or any other MIA **must have a veterinary prescription**
- Impact!



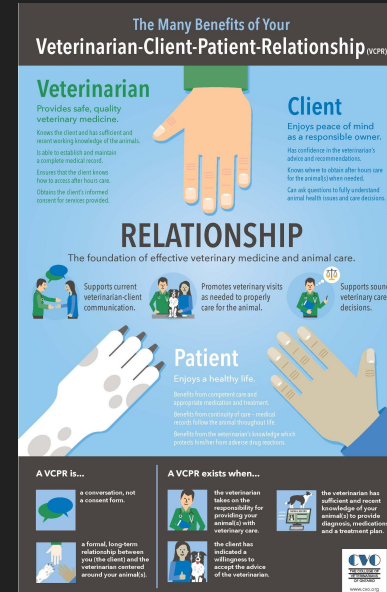
Health
Canada

Veterinary Client Patient Relationship - VCPR

Veterinary oversight of all species requires the establishment of a legitimate VCPR

What is a VCPR?

- V - Veterinarian
- C - Client - bee producers
- P - Patient - bees
- R - Relationship



Veterinary Client Patient Relationship - VCPR

- Responsibilities of the Vet

- Veterinarians must become familiar with the honey industry
- Treatment requirements of honey bees
- Establish a VCPR - which allows vet to:
 - Establish medical need
 - Prescribe and dispense MIA

Nova Scotia Bee Course for Veterinarians

- Specialized Training for NS Veterinarians
 - NSVMA
 - Jason Sproule
- http://nsbeekeepers.ca/provincial_health_advisories.php
 - 20 veterinarians qualified



Veterinarians to Service Beekeepers

(Copied from http://nsbeekeepers.ca/provincial_health_advisories.php)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| • Annapolis County | Dr. Jody Cunningham |
| • Antigonish | Dr. Darryl Ward |
| • Brookside/Prospect | Dr. Becky Brewster |
| • Cape Breton | Dr. Donna Buckley |
| • Colchester County | Dr. Alexander Burrows, Dr. Lori Parsons, Dr. Jennifer McKay, Dr. Ed MacAulay |
| • Cumberland County | Dr. Bonnie Harrison |
| • Dartmouth/Cole Harbour | Dr. Don Slaunwhite |
| • East Hants and HRM | Dr. Krista Simonson |
| • Halifax | Dr. Emma Slater, Dr. Elizabeth Croft, Dr. Alex Hare, Dr. Anie Levesque, |
| • Halifax | Dr. Rob Doucette |
| • Lunenburg County/South Shore | Dr. Lisa Welland |
| • Musquodoboit Harbour | Dr. Francine Fleming |
| • Unspecified | Dr. Jeff Goodall, Dr. Kristina Hughes |

How do we make a traditional VCPR?

Following have to be met:

1. Veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making clinical assessments and recommendations regarding the health of the animals in need of medical treatment
2. Veterinarian has sufficient knowledge
 - Education
 - Recently seen and is acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal
3. Client has agreed to follow veterinarian's recommendations
4. Veterinarian is available for follow-up
 - Adverse reactions or failure of treatment

Beekeeping VCPR Specific Requirements

Veterinarian

- Express willingness to engage
- Access to resources
- Continuing education in the field
- Access and review disease surveillance information
- Knowledgeable about provincial and federal legislation as it relates to production of honey

Beekeeping VCPR Specific Requirements

Veterinary - Honey Producer Relationship: Veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making clinical assessment

- Veterinarian must document:
 - Producer name
 - Address and location of production sites
 - Confirmation of registration of operation with the province
 - Premises Identification
 - Number of colonies and number of hives
 - Annual production
 - Reasonableness of access to production units by vet
 - Evidence of in person consultation - visits to site or real time video
 - History of health management practices of the operation

Beekeeping VCPR Specific Requirements

Veterinarian - Bee Relationship:

- Records of colony health
- Previous disease history and treatments for all diseases
- Documentation of site visits by provincial apiculturists, including report and recommendations
- Clinical evidence of disease based on visual inspection by the veterinarian or qualified provincial apiculturist
- Lab reports confirming presence of disease
- Culture results regarding resistance to American Foulbrood
- Results of antibiotic residue testing

Follow - up

As with all VCPR and prescriptions, the veterinarian must be available or have arranged for follow-up evaluation, especially in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen.



VCPR Summary

In all cases where the veterinarian is asked to provide oversight of the use of antimicrobials (issue a prescription) for honey bee production, the registered veterinarian is required to:

1. Establish and meet conditions of a valid VCPR in regard to bees
2. Make an evidence-based determination of medical need
3. Complete appropriate documentation in the medical record, and
4. Provide oversight to use and follow up



Veterinary Oversight of Antimicrobial Use in Canada:

Regulations are Changing... We Want You to Be Prepared!

A valid veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) must exist before a veterinarian can prescribe or dispense a medication.



Thank you for your time.