STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

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Order Waiving Restrictions on Telemedicine and Extending Time to Refill Prescriptions

On March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization as a result of a broader spread of COVID-19.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-39-20, during the State of Emergency, the Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs may waive any statutory or regulatory professional licensing requirements pertaining to individuals licensed pursuant to Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, including requirements related to the practice and permissible activities for licensees.

Accordingly, to enable the use of telemedicine to diagnose and treat animals in cases where a veterinarian-client-patient relationship is already established, the Director waives California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2032.1, subdivisions (b)(2) and (3), to the extent they require veterinarians to perform an in-person examination of the animal in order to diagnose a new or different medical condition, and communicate with the client a course of treatment appropriate to the circumstances.

In addition, for prescriptions that may not be refilled between June 1, 2020, and August 1, 2020, due to the one-year time limitation on prescriptions, the Director waives California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2032.1, subdivision (c), to the extent it prohibits a veterinarian from prescribing a drug for a duration longer than one year from the date the veterinarian examined the animal and prescribed the drug, subject to the condition that any such prescription may be refilled for a total period not to exceed 18 months from the date the veterinarian last examined the animal(s) and prescribed the drug.

As it pertains to California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2032.1, subdivisions (b)(2) and (3), this order terminates 60 days from the date of the order, unless further extended.

This order is effective immediately but may be amended as circumstances require.

Dated: June 4, 2020

Signature on File

Kimberly Kirchmeyer
Director