

The Facts: Understanding the Cannabis Act and Regulations

Under the Cannabis Act, veterinarians are permitted to prescribe and dispense Health Canada approved drugs containing phytocannabinoids, whether human or veterinary label.

- ☑ *The Cannabis Act* regulates the sale and possession of cannabis.
- ☑ Health products that contain phytocannabinoids are listed on the Human and Veterinary Prescription Drug List.
- ☑ Current human prescription products containing phytocannabinoids (e.g. Sativex) are often not appropriate for veterinary use.
- ☑ *The Cannabis Act, Part 14, Cannabis for Medical Purposes* applies to human patients; accordingly, a human healthcare practitioner (physician or nurse practitioner) can provide an authorization to their patient to access cannabis for medical purposes. Part 14 does not currently apply to veterinarians and their animal patients.

Legally available recreational cannabis products are not sold as drugs and as such must not be accompanied with human or veterinary health claims.

- ☑ Canadian consumers may legally purchase recreational cannabis products from authorized provincial retail sales outlets. These products:
 - Are packaged and labelled according to strict rules set by Health Canada ¹;
 - Have packaging with a Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) excise stamp ²; and
 - Undergo quality control testing to ensure, among other things, that concentrations of CBD and THC that are indicated on the label are accurate, and that the products are free of specified contaminants (e.g. certain pesticides).

The only approved cannabis products for animals at this time are Veterinary Health Products made from hemp.

Veterinary Health Products made from hemp:

- Are exempt from the Cannabis Act as they contain <10 ppm THC;
- Are regulated by the Industrial Hemp Regulations (IHR);
- Have no concentrated phytocannabinoids, including CBD;
- Do not make health claims;
- Are sold at retail; and
- Are distinguished from unapproved cannabis products labelled for animal use by a Notification Number assigned by Health Canada ³

There are many cannabis products available that are not legal that clients may be accessing for human or animal use.

Resources:

1. Cannabis product package and label mock-up: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/drugs-health-products/summary-comments-public-consultation-regulation-cannabis.html#b1.6>

2. Cannabis Excise Stamp (CRA): <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/cra-multimedia-library/businesses-video-gallery/cannabis-consumers.html>

https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/publications/edn54/general-overview-cannabis-excise-stamps.html#_Toc512931348

3. Veterinary Health Product sample label: <https://www.lrvhp.ca/public/documents/view/exampleLabel>