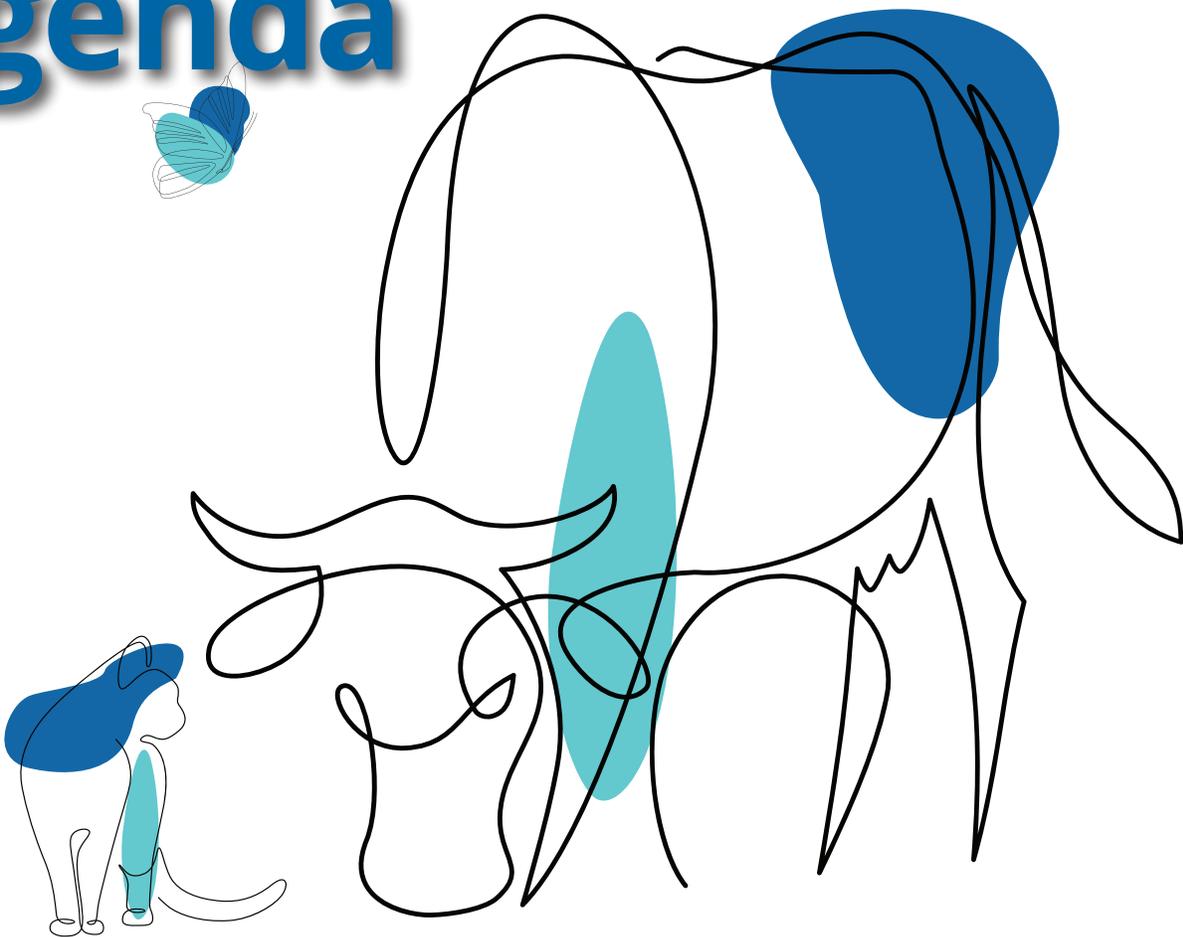


New York State Veterinary Medical Society's

2022 Legislative Agenda



The NYSVMS mission is to lead New York State veterinarians through education, advancement and protection of animal wellness, public health, and the veterinary medical profession and we work to make sure that New Yorkers have access to the highest caliber veterinary care available in the most cost-effective way.

Strengthening a Veterinarian's Ability to Treat Patients in a Timely Manner

NYSVMS strongly supports legislation sponsored by Senator Skoufis (S.4247-A) and Assemblymember Zebrowski (A.6704) that would permit a veterinarian to keep compounded drugs in stock for office use and sale pursuant to a non-patient specific regimen. NYSVMS continues to have discussions with the State Education Department and bill sponsors to discuss the importance of this legislation; we have made suggested changes to the bill language in response to comments and concerns that have arisen and hope to continue these discussions through the legislative session with the goal of finalizing a bill that works for veterinarians.

Position Statement: NYSVMS will continue to advocate for the passage of a compounding bill in the Senate and Assembly to ensure that compounded medications are available for "office use."

Protecting a Veterinarian's License to Practice Veterinary Medicine

- Senator Gianaris (S.1125) and Assemblyman Zebrowski (A.2012) continue to sponsor legislation that would prohibit bark softening in dogs unless performed by a veterinarian where the procedure is medically necessary for a dog. NYSVMS strongly believes bark softening is a medical decision which should be left to the sound discretion of fully trained, licensed, and state supervised veterinary professionals operating within appropriate standards of practice. Further, NYSVMS already discourages bark softening unless the procedure is medically necessary for a dog, is a last alternative to euthanasia, or when the animal will be surrendered by the owner if the procedure is not performed. Therefore, NYSVMS believes the determination to perform

bark softening should be done on a case-by-case basis where specifics of the situation can be reviewed and evaluated, rather than having a ban placed on the procedure altogether.

- Legislation that would restrict the use of medically important antimicrobials in food-producing animals is sponsored by Senator Kavanagh (S.2871-A) and Assemblymember Rosenthal (A.3493-B). This bill has the potential to restrict the practice of food-animal veterinarians in a manner that could have a detrimental impact on animal welfare. The bill would also establish an onerous set of reporting requirements. NYSVMS looks forward to continued discussions on this bill and the opportunity to continue to educate legislators about the use of medically important antimicrobials in food-producing animals and the guidelines followed by veterinarians to ensure use only as necessary.
- A bill to mandate informed consent for euthanasia and limit the use of intracardiac injection sponsored by Senator Serrano (S.6209) requires extensive conversation with a client whose pet requires euthanasia, including discussion of all alternatives available, the benefits and risks of each method, and the negative impacts on an animal. NYSVMS has explained the challenges of this legislation to the sponsor and proposed amendments to the language that should be adopted if the bill moves forward. NYSVMS will continue to monitor this bill and ensure that conversations with the sponsors continue.

Position Statement: NYSVMS urges the legislature to work carefully to balance the interests of animals with legislation that implements mandates on the performance of medical procedures. Medical decisions should be left to the sound discretion of fully trained, licensed, and state-regulated professionals operating within the appropriate standards of practice.

Protecting Veterinarians from Liability

Animal Guardianship

Legislation carried by Assemblymember Glick (A.5779) and Senator Brisport (S.6027-A) would establish a cause of action for the wrongful injury or death of a companion animal and provides for injunctive relief and compensatory and punitive damages. While NYSVMS understands and supports the protection and quality

care of animals and believes that those intentionally harming an animal should be subject to punishment, the concern with this legislation is that it could unfairly penalize veterinarians for routine care, treatment, or invasive procedures with unintended negative results. NYSVMS strongly opposes this legislation based on its potential detrimental impact on veterinarians and the increased costs that could result from lawsuits filed pursuant to this proposed cause of action.

Position Statement: NYSVMS opposes any legislation regarding animal guardianship.

Buoy's Law

Buoy's Law sponsored by Senator Brooks (S.1289) and Assemblymember Englebright (A.4978) codifies the information which veterinarians need to provide about the side-effects of the medications they prescribe. NYSVMS originally opposed this legislation, but after a period of discussion and negotiations the bill was redrafted to reflect the concerns we raised. The result of these amendments is that the requirements of the bill mirror current best practice.

Position Statement: NYSVMS opposes legislation mandating overly burdensome disclosure requirements that are duplicative of the standards and practices already followed in the veterinary profession.

Increasing Savings to the Cost of Practicing Veterinary Medicine

NYSVMS supports legislation that would establish an exemption from sales tax for drugs and medical equipment used in the practice of veterinary medicine. The costs of running a small veterinary practice add up, and NYSVMS supports all efforts by the State of New York to reduce the tax burden on practicing veterinarians.

Position Statement: NYSVMS supports the reduction of the cost of practicing veterinary medicine in New York State through tax exemptions and other savings. ●

