



The Veterinary Virtual Care Association (VVCA) Principles of Veterinary Telemedicine:

1. Telemedicine does not prevent or compete with in-person visits.
2. Telemedicine is a tool for veterinarians to provide care to animals and owners unable to come to a clinic or secure an appointment at a clinic. It's not meant to be a replacement for in-person care. Rather than either/or, it's a both/and.
3. Telemedicine does not involve prescriptions of controlled substances without an in-person examination.
4. Telemedicine is voluntary and subject to the consent of both the animal owner and the veterinarian.
5. Telemedicine is only permitted if the veterinarian is licensed in the jurisdiction in which the animal resides.
6. *Telehealth* is not the same as telemedicine. *Telehealth* is general advice about animal care, not necessarily provided by a veterinarian, but does not involve providing a diagnosis, prognosis, or prescription for an individual animal. Telemedicine is only provided by a veterinarian.
7. Practices may provide telemedicine/telehealth services to new clients and existing clients. These services may be provided by practice employees, independent contractors, or outsourced to veterinary professionals with telemedicine/telehealth platform companies. These third parties are subject to the same veterinary laws and regulations as in-person veterinary professionals.
8. Telemedicine services should be documented in medical records in the same manner and detail as in-person veterinary services.