Guidance for Pharmacists Regarding  
The Labeling of Prescriptions Written for Animals

New Jersey laws currently do not differentiate between prescriptions for human use and those for animals. N.J.A.C. 13:39-1.2 provides the following definition for “Drug or medication:”

2. Articles intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease in human beings or animals;

Also, N.J.A.C. 13:39-7.12 addresses the requirements for all information to be placed on the label of prescription medications dispensed. All prescriptions, whether the patient is a human or an animal, must contain the information required in this citation.

The New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (NJPMP) is partnering with the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy to standardize the reporting of prescription information for animals. By creating a uniform standard for all New Jersey permitted and registered pharmacies, the NJPMP will become a more valuable tool for Veterinarians to monitor their patient’s prescriptions and identify signs of possible medication diversion by the pet owners.

In light of this fact, the Board is recommending that the following be added to the “Name” information printed on each label on all prescription medication dispensed to owners to treat their animals:

- The name of the animal, (its species), and the owner’s last name (i.e., "Tabatha (feline) Smith).

The Board is also recommending that the following information be recorded on the prescription, and/or on the patient profile for the animal:

- The animal’s date of birth if known, otherwise “January 1” plus the estimated year of birth.
- Owners name
- Owners address

The Board appreciates your cooperation is attempting to bring uniformity to the way prescriptions for animals are labeled, recorded in pharmacy information systems, and reported to the NJ Prescription Monitoring Program.

Thank you