APBC
ASSOCIATION OF PET
BEHAVIOUR COUNSELLORS

APBC
50 Princes Street
Ipswich
Suffolk IP1 1RJ

T: 07483 429997
www.apbc.org.uk

Veterinary Behaviourists - Working on Referral

- RCVS have confirmed that Veterinary Behaviourists must see cases on veterinary referral only (as also stated in APBC guidance to members) unless they are also the first opinion vet for that client. This is the case for any veterinary surgeon working within any specialist discipline and is applicable to cases seen either in-person or remotely.

- The referring practice should be kept informed by the veterinary behaviourist of the outcome and any developments of the case including the prescribing of any medication, under recognised standard referral protocols. Such communications may be written or verbal as appropriate.

- This should be a reciprocal arrangement so that any drugs prescribed or treatment relevant to the behaviours are shared with the behaviourist.

- Prescription of medication as part of the behavioural modification programme may be either by the veterinary behaviourist or by the referring veterinary practice. This should be decided following discussion between both parties. It is pertinent for the Veterinary behaviourist to be available to the client and referring practice to discuss any side effects or outcomes from the medication that may be less familiar to the referring practice.

- Where medication is prescribed by a veterinary behaviourist, either working in-person or remotely, this is at the discretion of the individual concerned. Particularly where working remotely, attention is drawn to existing RCVS guidance relating to what is classed as “animals under our care” and the responsibilities of remote prescribing of POM-V medications without first physically examining the patient.

- Remote prescribing comes with the responsibility to ensure the provision of 24hr emergency care, which can be by the veterinary behaviourist if facilities are in place. However, common practice is for emergency care to remain the responsibility of the referring veterinary practice, who would be expected to be geographically accessible to the client in an emergency and have access to the patient’s medical records.

- In such cases the responsibility for emergency care provision should be clarified to ensure the veterinary behaviourist, referring veterinary surgeon and the client understand the arrangements. This should ideally be confirmed as a written agreement.

For further information please contact info@apbc.org.uk

The Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors Ltd is a Company Registered In England And Wales.
Registered Address: 50 Prince Street, Ipswich, England, IP1 1RJ. Company Number: 09075813. Vat Number 366417775.