

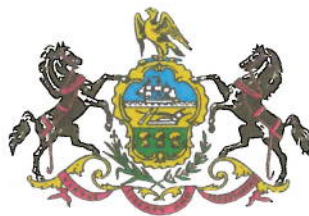
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TO: All Senators

DATE: December 21, 2010

FROM: Senator Michael J. Stack 

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation

In the near future, I will **reintroduce legislation** to provide greater disclosure and protection to pet owners. The first bill, **Senate Bill 1225 of the 2009-10 Session**, requires veterinarians to provide client information sheets to pet owners when the veterinarian dispenses a prescription drug for outpatient use. A client information sheet is a paper produced by drug manufacturers that lists vital product safety information that pet owners should review prior to giving a drug to their pet. Client information sheets are dispensed with each package of prescription drugs sold to veterinarians. Client information sheets are produced for drugs that could seriously or fatally harm animals.

The second bill, Senate Bill 1226 of the 2009-10 Session, amends the Veterinarian Medical Practice Act. The amendment adds to the list of events, which are grounds for disciplinary proceedings, failure of a veterinarian to prescreen an animal prior to the use of a drug, when prescreening is recommended by a drug manufacturer. The Veterinarian Board may consider the withholding of consent for any prescreening by the animal owner, when determining if a veterinarian should be disciplined.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide greater disclosure and protections to pet owners. Many pets have died due to a lack of information and communication about the potential dangers of prescription drugs, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as Rimadyl. Client information sheets and pre-screening of animals will ensure pet owners have the information they need to make an informed choice about their pet's medical care.

Last session, Senate Bills 1225 and 1226 were co-sponsored by Senators Boscola, Browne, Costa, Ferlo, Fontana, Hughes, Leach, Logan, and Mary Jo White.

If you would like to co-sponsor one or both bills, please contact my office at 7-9608.