

# IACP's Veterinary Compounding Fact Sheet

***Serving your Animal Patients with Customized Medications***



## About Compounding

- Meeting the unique medication needs of animals is indeed one of the fastest growing areas of pharmacy compounding. Working with your veterinarian practice, a licensed compounding pharmacist can meet the individual needs of your animal patients based on species, size and weight.
- Compounding is undertaken at the direction of the licensed prescriber, taking into consideration your clinical observations, testing and experience in making the determination whether a compounded medication is required for your patient.
- Just like their human owners, animals are unique and have individual needs for taking medicine. Compounding pharmacists can assist you with your finickiest felines, canines that require specific dosaging depending upon their breed and size, as well as exotic and large animal patients that present their own unique medication requirements – many of which are not met by commercially available medications.
- 93% of veterinarians say that compliance monitoring has a positive impact upon their practices. Compounding is uniquely suited to improve the compliance of your patients by providing flexibility in strengths and concentrations, dosage forms such as topicals, chewable treats, liquids, as well as flavoring options.



## How is Compounding Regulated?

- All pharmacies and pharmacists are licensed and strictly regulated by State Boards of Pharmacy. State Boards of Pharmacy are in the best position to inspect pharmacy operations, develop appropriate regulations and respond to problems or violations.
- In addition, standards set by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) are integrated into the practice of pharmacy compounding. The Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) has developed national standards to accredit pharmacies that perform a significant amount of compounding.
- Compounded medications are prepared from active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) purchased from FDA-registered suppliers, and are not “unapproved substances.”
- The FDA has an important role to play in ensuring that ingredients used in compounding are safe and are manufactured by FDA-registered and inspected facilities. It is important to note that there is no such thing as an “FDA-approved pharmacy.”



## Has your Practice been Impacted by Medication Shortages?

- As for many human medications, several veterinary medications also have been seriously impacted by the current shortage situation. Veterinary oncologist medications, steroidal injections, pain management meds and medications in various tablet and capsule form in particular have been affected during these shortages.
- When a commercially available medication becomes unavailable, it can be extremely disruptive for your patient's treatment and stressful for the animal's owner. In many cases, compounding pharmacists can compound preparations that are back-ordered by the manufacturer or otherwise unavailable so that your patients' treatment regimens are not interrupted.
- Collaboration between licensed compounding pharmacists and their colleagues in hospitals, institutions and private practice is a long-standing solution to back-orders and shortages.
- The expertise of a compounder with access to APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients – the pure, raw drug ingredient) can mean the difference between continued or initiation of much-needed medicines or an unnecessary delay in your patient's care.
- Thanks to continued advances in veterinary medicine, animals are living longer, healthier lives. As you know, it is no longer unusual to treat a cat that is more than 20 years old, or a dog in its late teens. These older animals, however, also develop more health conditions and require more complex pharmaceutical therapy. It is unrealistic to think that these complex therapies could be prepared using only finished, commercial products. With the diversity of species kept as pets today, and the complexity of the drug therapies needed, it is vitally important that veterinarians and the pharmacists who work with their practices have continued access to active pharmaceutical ingredients.



### IACP's CPAQ - How to Select a Compounding Pharmacy

- IACP has developed a **Compounding Pharmacy Assessment Questionnaire (CPAQ™)**, providing a comprehensive checklist of what you should look for in a compounding pharmacy practice. CPAQ is based upon United States Pharmacopeia (USP) standards – standards which compounding pharmacists are obligated to follow according to state board of pharmacy regulations or standards of practice.

- IACP's CPAQ includes evaluation points in the following areas:

**Regulatory compliance**  
**Licensing – permits**  
**Internal controls and quality assurance**  
**Testing & verification**  
**Site visits**

- To obtain a copy of IACP's CPAQ – please visit IACP's website at [www.iacprx.org](http://www.iacprx.org).
- Please email IACP at [iacpinfo@iacprx.org](mailto:iacpinfo@iacprx.org) if you have any questions regarding pharmacy compounding and/or our organization. Let us know how we can effectively serve your practice and patient needs.



[www.iacprx.org](http://www.iacprx.org)



#### ABOUT IACP

**The International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists (IACP)** is an association representing more than 4,000 licensed pharmacists, pharmacist technicians, students, and members of the compounding community who focus upon the specialty practice of pharmacy compounding. Compounding pharmacists work directly with prescribers including veterinarians, physicians and nurse practitioners to create customized medication solutions for patients whose healthcare needs cannot be met by manufactured medications.

More than 150,000 patients and prescribers also belong to our organization via the grassroots advocacy group, **Partnership for Personalized Prescriptions (P3)**. IACP's mission of protecting, promoting and advancing personalized medication solutions is critical for patient healthcare. **Visit [www.iacprx.org](http://www.iacprx.org) to learn more and to find a compounding pharmacist near your practice.**