



# Prescription Medication Safety for Veterinarians

- A message from the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine on safe use of opioids and other medication prescriptions -

## PROPER DISPOSAL

Improper disposal of controlled substances may be harmful to humans **and** animals.

Veterinarians are required to follow regulatory requirements for controlled substance disposal. *The Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine* can be found on the [Board of Veterinary Medicine's website](#).

<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/vet>

## FEDERAL DISPOSAL LINKS

1. [DEA Registrant Drug Disposal](#)

[https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/)

2. [DEA National Prescription Drug Take-back Initiative for consumer education](#)

[https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine](#)

<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/vet>

[U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration](#)

<https://www.dea.gov>

[U.S. Food & Drug Administration](#)

<https://www.fda.gov>

[VaAware](#)

<https://vaaware.com>

## OVERDOSE AWARENESS

For more information on reducing the risk of unintended exposure to opioids by humans and animals, visit the U.S. Food & Drug Administration online:

- [Fentanyl patches can be deadly to children](#)

<https://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm300803.htm>

- [FDA drug safety communication](#)

<https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm368902.htm>

- [Safe disposal of medicines](#)

<http://vaaware.com/>

Naloxone, an opioid reversal drug, is used to counteract the effects of opioids that have been consumed. It is proven to be effective in humans after a suspected overdose.

\*For more information on the use of naloxone, visit the [Virginia Board of Pharmacy online](#).

<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy>

## PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Alert pet owners of the dangers related to unintended exposure to prescription opioids and other medications.