



**Persatuan Doktor Veterinar Haiwan Kesayangan Malaysia  
Malaysian Small Animal Veterinary Association (MSAVA)**

Reg. No.: PPM-009-10-30011991

## **MSAVA Position Statement on the Role of Registered Pharmacists in Providing Pet Care Advice**

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

The Malaysian Small Animal Veterinary Association (MSAVA) wishes to clarify its position regarding the role of Registered Pharmacists in providing pet care advice, following developments in March 2026 involving publicly available programmes and collaborations between organizations including Alpro Pharmacy, Veterinary Advanced Learning Center (VALC), KokoroPet, and Empire Vet Clinic.

This matter had been brought to the attention of the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) and the Malaysian Veterinary Council (MVC). During these discussions, DVS expressed strong support for maintaining clear recognition of the respective roles, responsibilities, and professional boundaries of veterinarians and pharmacists, ensuring that neither profession encroaches upon the scope of practice of the other.

As the only national representative body for small animal veterinary practitioners, MSAVA stands firm that the recognition, assessment, and management of animal health concerns—including the identification of minor ailments, provision of pet health advice, and recommendations relating to basic animal care—fall within the professional scope and responsibility of registered veterinary surgeons. Activities such as accepting animal health-related queries, conducting history-taking, performing triage, identifying clinical red flags, and issuing written referrals by registered pharmacists may constitute the practice of veterinary medicine, particularly where such activities involve the assessment, interpretation, or diagnosis of an animal's health condition.

We recognise and appreciate the genuine intentions of many stakeholders who seek to improve accessibility, convenience, and coverage of healthcare services for pets and companion animals. However, any initiative, programme, training course, or service model involving animal health should be developed in consultation with the relevant regulatory and professional bodies, including DVS, MVC, and MSAVA, to ensure compliance with existing legislation, professional standards, and ethical obligations.

Animal healthcare, particularly in the field of small animal medicine, must be approached with due respect for the expertise, training, and responsibilities of the veterinary profession. Veterinarians undergo extensive professional education and clinical training to diagnose diseases, prescribe treatments, provide medical advice, and safeguard animal welfare. This responsibility is especially significant in companion animal practice, where patients are unable to communicate their symptoms directly and clinical decisions rely on professional veterinary assessment and judgement.

Affiliated to:  
*Malaysia Veterinary Medical Association (MAVMA)*  
Member association of:  
*World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)*  
*Federation of Asian Small Animal Veterinary Associations (FASAVA)*

Email:  
*Honorary Secretary : [secretary@msava.org](mailto:secretary@msava.org)*  
*MSAVA Secretariat : [info.msava@gmail.com](mailto:info.msava@gmail.com)*

H-G-5, H-1-5 & H-2-5, Pusat Komersil Parklane, Jalan SS 7/26, Kelana Jaya, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

**M:** +60 18-347 2276 **W:** [www.msava.org](http://www.msava.org)



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MSAVA therefore calls upon all stakeholders to respect the distinct roles of the veterinary profession and to avoid activities that may inadvertently blur professional boundaries. Veterinary practice in Malaysia is governed by established legislative and regulatory frameworks, including the **Veterinary Surgeons Act 1974**, the **Animals Act 1953**, and the **Animal Welfare Act 2015**, all of which provide clear guidance on the delivery of animal healthcare services and the protection of animal welfare.

MSAVA further encourages members of the profession, industry stakeholders, and the public to seek clarification from DVS and MVC regarding any programme, course, service, or activity where there may be uncertainty regarding its legality, appropriateness, or compliance with professional regulations. Any concerns regarding potentially unauthorized veterinary activities should be reported to the relevant authorities for review.

MSAVA reiterates our position that clear professional boundaries must be maintained and respected in order to safeguard animal welfare, uphold public confidence, and ensure that all animal healthcare services are delivered by appropriately qualified professionals in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1974 and established professional standards.

Best regards,

Dr Goh Lai Har  
MSAVA President

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Email:  
*Honorary Secretary : secretary@msava.org*  
*MSAVA Secretariat : info.msava@gmail.com*

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