

“Paws Off Those Meds”

Partnering with your Local Veterinary Community to Reduce Diversion

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This project is funded under a grant contract with the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council.



Introduction

- Enhance understanding of the problem of diversion of medications prescribed for animals, to human use
- Provide an overview of a collaborative diversion prevention project that went from community level to national-level in 3 years
- Discuss strategies to implement a local diversion prevention in your community

Current Understanding

- Have you had an animal prescribed a controlled substance by a veterinarian?
- Have you heard of someone seeking to access controlled substances for personal use by utilizing an animal?
- Is this kind of diversion a problem in your community?
- Are there any ongoing local efforts to address it?

Scenario to Consider

8 veterinary
clinics

Dispense
and store
controlled
drugs

2 clinics offer
mobile services

You struggle with
opioid addiction

Prescriptions
are more
difficult to
obtain

You are planning ways to gain access to
drugs...

What are 5 things you might try?

Drugs on the
street are
hard to get
and
expensive





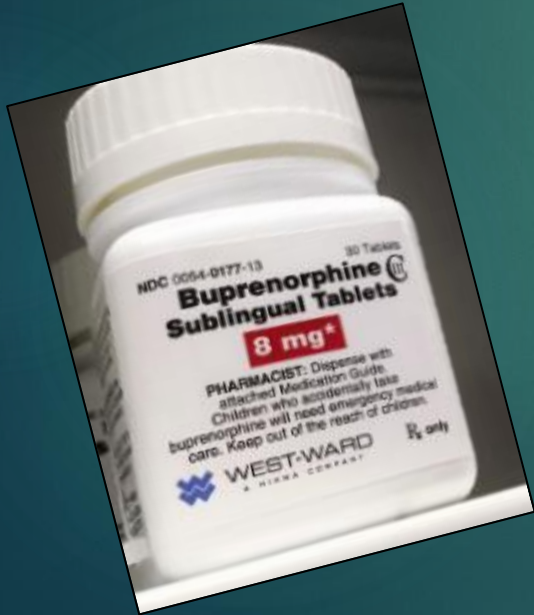
Problem Overview

Drug diversion is a kind of drug misuse involving the unlawful deviation of medicines from legal distribution and dispensing channels to an illicit marketplace (Anand & Hosanagar, 2021).

Vet shopping is the solicitation of veterinarians to obtain a controlled substance prescription for their animal with no intent of administering to their animal (Patel et al, 2020).

Why Do People “Shop” at Veterinary Clinics?

Are the drugs for animals the same as human drugs ? YES!

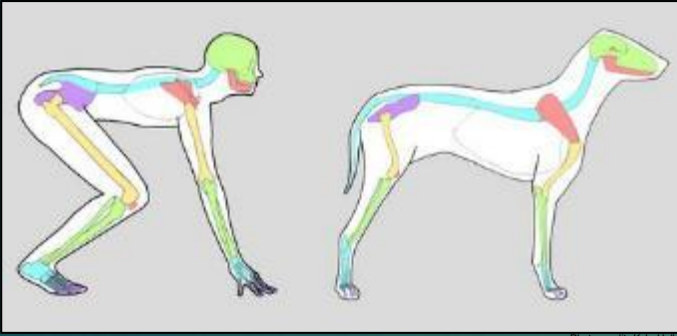


Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA)

- To use a drug “on-label” requires that the drug be used in the species for which it is approved, for the indication, by the route, at the dose and for the duration indicated in the labeling
 - For all extra-label drug use, there must be a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship



Differences in Pets and Humans



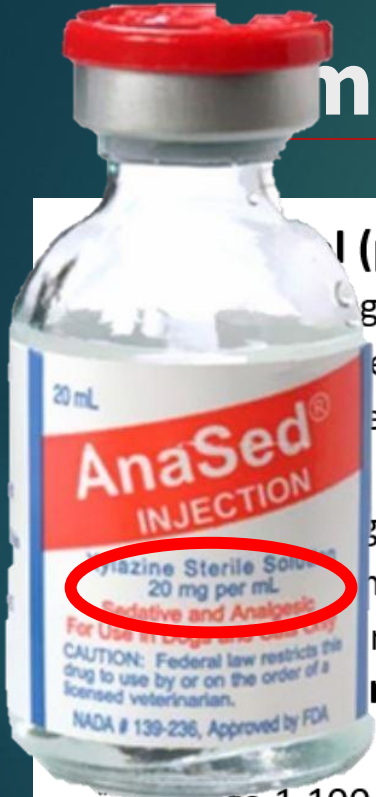
Gerrard Gethings

Differences cause variations

Absorption
Distribution
Metabolism
Bioavailability
Elimination



mples




XYLAZINE:
Sedative
“tranq dope”

Combining multiple
drugs is even MORE
dangerous!

(pain)
g oral
every
ery 12
3
ng
mg
n (

180 to 1,100 m
1,200 to 9000 r



Anecdotal Evidence

Prosecutors detail latest scary drug trends in Staten Island

Published: Jan. 12, 2022
[Joseph Ostap](#)
STATEN ISLAND
drug supply and
worryingly high

The New York Times Account

Tranq Dope: Animal Sedative Mixed With Fentanyl Brings Fresh Horror to U.S. Drug Zones

A veterinary tranquilizer called xylazine is infiltrating street drugs, deepening addiction, baffling law enforcement and causing wounds so severe that some result in amputation.

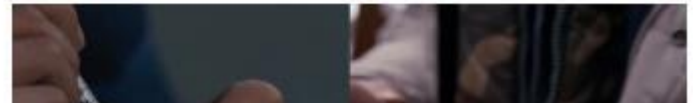
 Ann Bowdan [f](#) [t](#) [✉](#)
veterinarians say

VICE News
A Horrifying Drug Called 'Tranq Dope' Is Spreading in the US

The animal tranquilizer xylazine, which has been linked to severe wounds and amputations, has been detected in nearly 40 states.

 By [Manisha Krishnan](#)

November 15, 2022, 4:45am [f](#) [t](#) [s](#)



What We Know from Scientific Research...

Misuse & Concerns about Misuse:

- Prescribing trends suggest a potential for diversion
- DEA ARCOS data suggests a lack of decline in opioid prescriptions among veterinary medicine during a time in which human medicine saw a sharp decrease in opioid prescriptions.
- Survey data indicates that:
 - (a) many veterinarians have observed or are aware of cases of prescription drug diversion in their practices
 - (b) many veterinarians are concerned about prescription drug diversion in their practices

What We Know from Scientific Research...

Need for Education:

- Survey data from veterinarians suggest that
 - many veterinarians feel they do not have the proper training in prescription drug misuse
 - many veterinarians desire more education in prescription drug misuse

What We Know from Scientific Research...

Need for Communication:

- Veterinarians expressed a need or desire for a database to track animal prescriptions
- No governmental body tracks crossover use of veterinary medicine

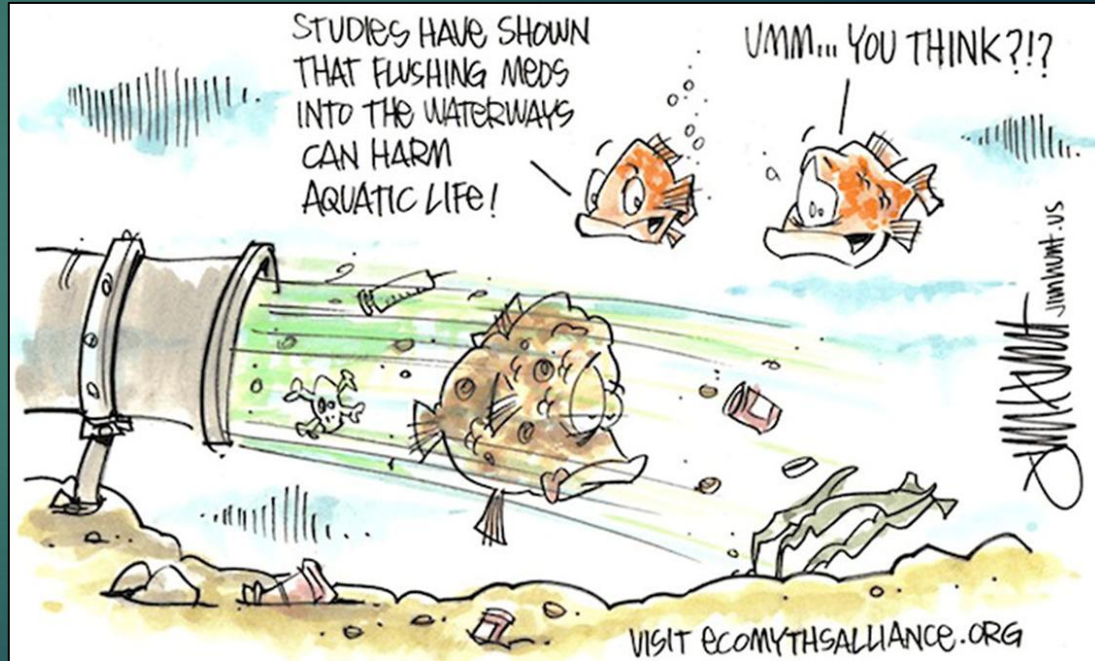
Assessment Data

- 61 respondents
- Majority >10 years experience
- Great variation in the size of the practice
- Predominantly small animal practices
- Rural/Suburban/Urban
- Most worked 4 (25) to 5 (18) days/week
- ~70% treat emergencies



Assessment Data

- 88% dispense controlled substances to clients
- >10% dispense 70+ controlled substance prescriptions/week
- >90% do NOT offer disposal



Assessment Data



Over 90% had heard of “vet shopping”
~75% have experienced vet shopping in the past 3 years
~25% injured animal for pain medication
36% felt vet shopping was a problem in their community
52% feel it is a problem in their region of the country
~70% feel it is a problem nationwide

Assessment Data

Most common classes of drugs reported to be prescribed in our assessment were:

Serotonin modulators and Gabapentin



Assessment Data: Prevention

- 46% have NEVER received training on prevention and/or management of vet shopping
- >75% - clients ask questions about use of animal medications in humans
- 59% do NOT talk about potential abuse of veterinary medications with clients
- ~85% do NOT provide printed material (fliers/brochures) about potential abuse of veterinary medications



Veterinary Continuing Education Course

- American Association of Veterinary State Boards Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) program (2 hours)
- Six Modules:
 1. Introduction & Overview of Abuse & Misuse of Controlled Substances of Prescribed to Animals
 2. Research on Prescription Diversion in Veterinary Medicine
 3. Overview of Prescription Reporting Requirements for Veterinarians & Ethical Challenges
 4. Understanding Drug Abuse & Addiction
 5. Introduction to the use & Application of Naloxone for Overdose Reversal
 6. Substance Misuse in the Veterinary Setting
 7. Conclusion
- <https://www.tntech.edu/cahe/hec/caps/vetce-csd.php>

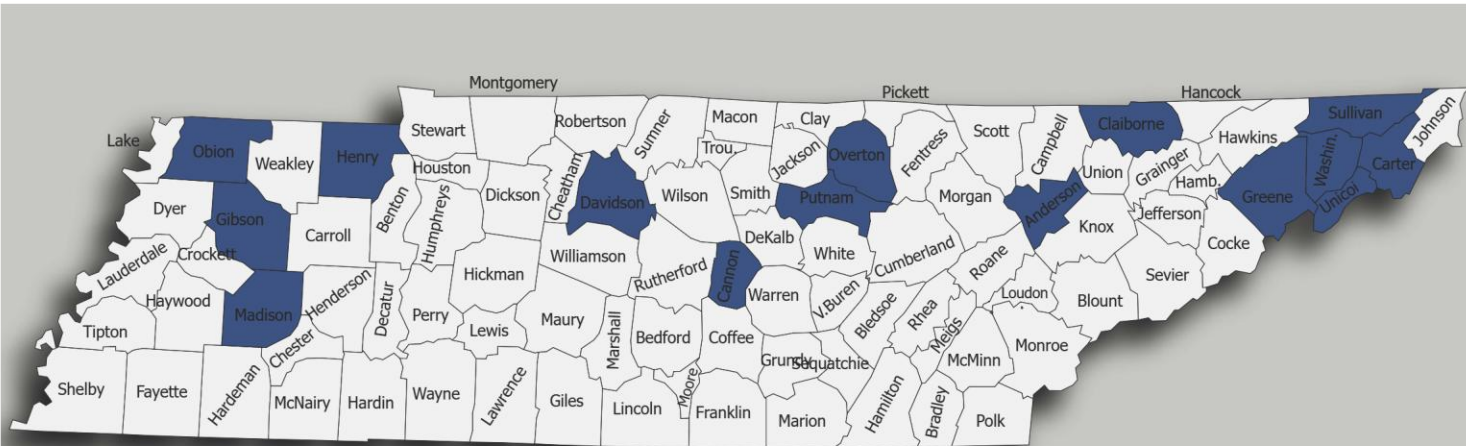




Connecting Local Prevention Efforts

- The free online course is approved for continuing education for veterinarians, veterinary nurses and veterinary technicians in all 50 states.
- The course is a centerpiece for local outreach to educate and update the veterinary profession about the diversion problem and best practices to prevent it.
- Any interested community can develop and provide locally branded resources to form partnerships with your animal care community.

PAWS OFF THOSE MEDS COALITIONS ACROSS TENNESSEE



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED UNDER A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE TENNESSEE OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL.



Opioid Abatement Council

CARTER COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COAL.
GREENE COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION
CANNON COUNTY SAPC
JACKSON MADISON PREVENTION COALITION
HENRY COUNTY PREVENTION COALITION

STARS NASHVILLE
INSIGHT ALLIANCE
CHEATHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COAL.
OBION COUNTY PREVENTION COALITION
OVERTON COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION

UNICOI COUNTY PREVENTION COALITION
SULLIVAN COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION
MILAN PREVENTION COALITION
ASAP OF ANDERSON COUNTY
STAND IN THE GAP COALITION

Resources

Along with continuing education, your community can offer support to help deal with this problem when they encounter it.

This includes:

- Overdose reversal training and kits
- Free home medication lockboxes for patient owners
- Informational brochures
- Signage for waiting and treatment rooms
- Sample controlled substance office policy and patient agreements
- Medication container and bag warning stickers



ATTENTION

Pet medications are dangerous for human consumption. Human consumption of medications prescribed for animals can be **harmful or fatal.**

SCAN BELOW

For more information on medication best practices and pet medication misuse, please scan the QR code or visit www.pawsoffthosemeds.org.



LOGO
HERE

TN

Tennessee
State Government

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Paws Off Those Meds



Medication Safety

Practices:

1. Keep medications in original containers
2. Don't hoard
3. Don't mix medications
4. Properly dispose of or returned, unused, or expired medications. Don't throw into the trash bin or flush down the toilet.
5. Monitor your pet's use to ensure meds are being utilized properly.



Persevere Medication
Drop Box Locations
In Cannon County

Woodbury Police Department
965 West Main St.
Woodbury, TN 37180

OR

Cannon County Sheriff's Department
110 Alexander Drive
Woodbury, TN 37180



For a complete list of locations, please visit www.cannoncountyttn.gov

If it's meant for a four-legged friend, it's NOT meant for you.

Paws Off My Meds!



**POWER OF
PUTNAM**

Uniting for
a Drug-Free Community

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State Government

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Center for Addiction
Prevention & Support

TENNESSEE TECH

Opioid Abatement
Council

This project is funded under a Grant Contract
with the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council.

CAHCR293-PRHT-35

PAWS OFF THOSE MEDS: Understanding the Impact of Pet Medication Diversion

Meggan T. Graves, DVM/UT College of Veterinary Medicine

Bill Gibson, Coalition Director/Power of Putnam

**Thursday
May 22nd
6:00-8:00 PM**
Kingsport Chamber
Eastman Board Room
400 Clinchfield St.
Kingsport, TN

Light Dinner Provided

Registration Link



A community discussion
about pet medication
diversion issues in our
region and how to
recognize the signs of vet
shopping



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Sullivan County
Anti-Drug Coalition
www.scadc.org



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Council



Youth Drug Education & Prevention



Carter County
DRUG PREVENTION




Prevention
Coalition
Uniting the Health Care Community to End Opioid Abuse



INSIGHT
ALLIANCE
A Safe Health Community Through Prevention



HEALTHY
KINGSPORT



Connecting to the Strategies: CADCA's 7 Strategies for Community Change

- 1. Providing Information:** To Veterinary Clinics and the public.
- 2. Enhancing Skills:** Specific training and technical for all office staff in identification of drug seeking behaviors
- 3. Providing Support for Prevention Activities:** Sticker and information campaign at local veterinary practices
- 4. Enhancing Access/Reducing Barriers:** Part of the project includes referral to recovery services



Connecting to the Strategies: CADCA's 7 Strategies for Community Change

5. Changing Consequences: Increasing the likelihood that Vet shoppers will be identified and charged thereby reducing access. Recognizing practices that partner in this effort.

6. Changing Physical Design/Making Environmental Changes: Office waiting and treatment room signage / External signage – No Controlled Substances on Premises

7. Modifying/Changing/Developing Policies: Developing office policy, adopting best practices & patient controlled substance agreements

Reducing Diversion

- What ideas do you have on effective ways to prevent diversion in veterinary medicine?



Thank You

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