

**Lisa Cataldi**

---

**From:** info@rivma.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:35 AM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Cc:** Gary Block DVM; llopes@victorgroupllc.com  
**Subject:** R



**The Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association Supports H6283 Unused Medications**

Every day, veterinary hospitals and clinics receive previously dispensed medications from their clients whose pets no longer require them. Sometimes these are medicines from a recently deceased pet whereas other times they are medications no longer needed to treat a particular animal. Most of the time, these medications are perfectly usable for other animals. Current RI law requires these medications to be discarded and does not allow these medications to be donated for use in shelters, pounds and low-cost clinics that serve the poor. Some hospitals mail these medications out of the country to rescue organizations that serve needy pet owners abroad.

A few states (including Nevada) have passed legislation that allows these medications to be donated to non-profit organizations, shelters and rescue groups that serve low-income pet owners. Allowing this donation would result in many thousands of dollars in supplies being made available to help those less fortunate who are trying to provide care for their sick and injured pets. Surely this is a better fate for these potentially life-saving medications than simply disposal.

The RIVMA – more than a decade ago – founded a veterinary assistance program (the Companion Animal Foundation) to help make care accessible to low-income pet owners. The Companion Animal Foundation – in partnership with the RISPCA – created the Pets In Need Clinic to further expand access to care. This present legislative effort is yet another attempt to make the highest quality care affordable to those with limited financial means.