Clients should be made aware that Lidocaine is only approved for use in humans. Hence, when it is to be used it is Extra- Label Use of the Drug.

However, the AMDUCA provisions of the FD&C Act allow extra-label drug use only on the lawful order of a licensed veterinarian in the context of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship. A valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship has three parts:

You have assumed responsibility for making medical judgments about the health of an animal, or animals, and the need for medical treatment. In turn, the client (the owner or other animal caretaker) has agreed to follow your instructions;

* You have sufficient knowledge of the animal, or animals, to develop a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition; and
* You are readily available for follow-up in case of adverse drug reactions or treatment failure.

Such a relationship can exist only when you have recently seen and are personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal or animals. This means you have recently examined the animal or animals, made “medically appropriate and timely visits” to the premises (usually the case for food-producing animals), or done both.

Lidocaine is used extensively in veterinary medicine and has witnessed successful results as a local anaesthetic in animals. Due to the stressful and painful event of dehorning, veterinarians ahould explain to farmers that lidocaine should be administered as a local anaesthetic prior to dehorning. The effect should be shown to the farmer by testing, hence gaining positive confirmation on the effectiveness of the drug. Animal welfare (free from pain) should also be discussed via the use of the drug.