

The Veterinary Practice Act

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Diplomate ACT

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The Veterinary Practice Act

- Each state has a Veterinary Practice Act with statutes and rules in effect
- In Minnesota it is a gross misdemeanor for any person to practice veterinary medicine without a veterinary license or temporary permit
- In many states the owner of an animal may care for and administer to his/her own animals
- In Minnesota—the performance of obstetrical procedures, including determination of pregnancy and correction of sterility and infertility (A.I.'s), is considered the practice of veterinary medicine.
- The Practice Act includes rendering advice or recommendations regarding the above
- The veterinarian-client-patient relationship has specific requirements

The veterinarian...

- Assumes responsibility for making judgements regarding the animal's health needs and the client agrees to follow instructions
- Has sufficient knowledge to initiate at least a tentative diagnosis
- is available for consultation in case of problems

- maintains records
- Supervises unlicensed employees, including technicians whether certified or non-certified.

Technicians take note!

- Practice of veterinary medicine without a license constitutes grounds for the board to take action against the unlicensed individual AND the licensed veterinarian.
- The veterinarian must have examined the animal patient prior to delegating an animal health care task to a non-licensed employee.
- A veterinarian shall not authorize a non-licensed employee to perform the following functions:
 - Surgery
 - Diagnosis and prognosis
 - Prescribing of drugs, medicines, and appliances.
- The veterinarian shall ensure that the activities of the supervised individual follow the orders, assignment, or prescription of the veterinarian and are within the capabilities of the individual.

Finally – Summary

- Read and understand the requirements of the Veterinary Practice Act of the state that applies to you.