

## Chapter VE 9

### STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

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**VE 9.01 Prohibited acts.** The following acts are limited to veterinarians and therefore prohibited for veterinary technicians:

- (1) Diagnosis and prognosis of animal diseases and conditions.
- (2) Prescribing of drugs, medicines, treatments and appliances.
- (3) Performing surgery.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1989, No. 405, eff. 10-1-89; am. (intro.), Register, December, 1998, No. 516, eff. 1-1-99.

**VE 9.02 Standards of practice.** (1) Veterinary technicians may perform delegated veterinary acts as set forth under s. VE 7.02 (3), (4) and (7).

(2) In the performance of delegated veterinary acts a veterinary technician shall:

- (a) Accept only those delegated veterinary acts for which there are mutually approved protocols, written standing orders or verbal directions.
- (b) Accept only those delegated veterinary acts for which the veterinary technician is competent to perform based on education, training or experience.
- (c) Consult with a veterinarian in cases where the veterinary technician knows or should know a delegated veterinary act may harm a patient.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1989, No. 405, eff. 10-1-89; r. and recr. (1), r. (2) (d), Register, May, 1994, No. 461, eff. 6-1-94; am. (1), Register, December, 1998, No. 516, eff. 1-1-99.

**VE 9.03 Change of name and address.** Every veterinary technician shall notify the board of a change of name or address within 30 days. Failure of notification may result in the loss of certificate and may result in a fine under s. 440.11 (3), Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1989, No. 405, eff. 10-1-89; am. Register, December, 1998, No. 516, eff. 1-1-99.

**VE 9.035 Renewal of certification.** A certificate expires if not renewed by January 1 of even-numbered years. A certificate holder who allows the certificate to expire may apply to the board for renewal of the certificate as follows:

- (1) If the certificate holder applies for renewal of the certificate less than 5 years after its expiration, the certificate shall be renewed upon payment of the renewal fee and fulfillment of the 15 hours of continuing education required under ch. VE 10.
- (2) If the certificate holder applies for renewal of the certificate 5 or more years after its expiration, in addition to requiring the certificate holder to pay the renewal fees required under s. 440.08, Stats., and to fulfill the continuing education hours required under ch. VE 10, the board shall inquire as to whether the applicant is competent to practice as a veterinary technician in this state and shall impose any reasonable conditions on renewal of the certificate including reexamination, as the board deems appropriate. An applicant under this subsection is presumed to be competent to practice as a veterinary technician in this state if at the time of application for renewal the applicant

holds a full unexpired certificate issued by a similar licensing board of another state or territory of the United States or of a foreign country or province whose standards, in the opinion of the board, are equivalent to or higher than the requirements for certification in this state. Notwithstanding any presumptions of competency under this subsection, the board shall require each applicant under this subsection to pass the examination specified under s. VE 8.02 (2) and (3).

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1994, No. 457, eff. 2-1-94; am. (2), Register, December, 1998, No. 516, eff. 1-1-99; **CR 04-125: am. Register August 2005 No. 596, eff. 9-1-05.**

**VE 9.04 Display of certificate.** Each veterinary technician shall display a current certificate in a manner conspicuous to the public view.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1989, No. 405, eff. 10-1-89; am., Register, December, 1998, No. 516, eff. 1-1-99.

**VE 9.05 Unprofessional conduct.** The following acts constitute unprofessional conduct by a veterinary technician and are prohibited:

- (1) Performing as a veterinary technician unless supervised as specified under s. VE 7.02 (3), (4) and (7).
- (2) Misrepresentation in obtaining a veterinary technician certificate or in performing as a veterinary technician.
- (3) Conduct in the practice of veterinary technology which evidences a lack of knowledge or ability to apply professional principles or skills.
- (4) Gross negligence while performing as a veterinary technician. Gross negligence shall have the meaning specified in s. VE 7.01 (4).
- (5) The personal use, misuse or sale other than for medical treatment of patients, of drugs listed in the U.S. controlled substances act of 1970, as amended, or ch. 961, Stats., other than drugs prescribed by a physician for use by the veterinary technician.
- (6) Practicing or attempting to practice while the veterinary technician has a physical or mental impairment, including impairment related to drugs or alcohol, which is reasonably related to the applicant's ability to adequately undertake the practice of veterinary technology in a manner consistent with the safety of a patient or the public.
- (7) Being convicted of a crime the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice of veterinary technology.
- (8) Violating or aiding and abetting the violation of any law or administrative rule substantially related to the practice of veterinary technology.
- (9) Having a veterinary technician certificate limited, suspended or revoked or subject to any other disciplinary action in another state or U.S. jurisdiction.
- (10) Accepting fees for animal health care services from a client.
- (11) Practicing under an expired certificate.
- (12) Falsely certifying to the board under s. VE 10.02 (6) or 10.04 (1) that the veterinary technician:

- (a) Has completed the 15 hours of continuing education required under s. VE 10.02 (2).
- (b) Is exempt under s. VE 10.02 (3) from having to complete the 15 hours of continuing education required under s. VE 10.02 (2).
- (c) Does not personally use or direct the use of pesticides and does not repackage pesticides for use by others.
- (d) Is currently certified by a certification program acceptable to the board in the use, handling, distribution and disposal of pesticides.
- (e) Has completed one hour of acceptable continuing veterinary education in the use, handling, distribution and disposal of pesticides during the preceding 2-year licensure period.

**Note:** At the time of the second renewal period following initial renewal and at the end of each following renewal period, veterinary technicians are required to sign a statement on their renewal application certifying compliance with one of the requirements set forth in s. VE 10.04 (1).

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1989, No. 405, eff. 10-1-89; cr. (12), Register, February, 1992, No. 434, eff. 3-1-92; am. (1), Register, May, 1994, No. 461, eff. 6-1-94; am. (intro), (1) to (9) and (12), Register, December, 1998, No. 516, eff. 1-1-99; correction in (5) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, May, 2001, No. 545; **CR 04-125: renum. (12) to be (12) (intro.) and am., cr. (12) (a) to (e) Register August 2005 No. 596, eff. 9-1-05.**

**VE 9.06 Board action.** The board may reprimand the certificate holder or deny, suspend, limit or revoke the certificate of any person to practice veterinary technology who engages in any of the acts prohibited by this chapter.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1989, No. 405, eff. 10-1-89; am., Register, December, 1998, No. 516, eff. 1-1-99.