

CHAPTER 453

VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

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453.02 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Examining board" means the veterinary examining board.

(2) "Veterinarian" means a practitioner of veterinary medicine who is duly licensed by the examining board.

(3) "Animal" means any animal except a human being.

(4) "Compensation" means any gift, reward, bonus, fee, money, credit or other thing of value, and any promise thereof.

(5) "License" means a license to practice veterinary medicine issued by the examining board.

(6) To "practice veterinary medicine" means to examine into the fact or cause of animal health, disease or physical condition, or to treat, operate, prescribe or advise for the same, or to undertake, offer, advertise, announce, or hold out in any manner to do any of said acts, for compensation, direct or indirect, or in the expectation thereof.

(7) "Animal technician" means a person duly certified by the examining board to work under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

History: 1975 c. 309.

The termination of the life of animal by injection is not the practice of veterinary medicine. 65 Atty Gen 231

453.04 Violations. The chairman of the examining board shall institute actions for violations of this chapter. The district attorney of the county in which the offense is committed shall promptly prosecute any such violation upon being informed thereof, from any source.

453.05 Practice; penalties. (1) Except as provided under s. 453.06 (3) (c), no person may practice veterinary medicine without a license from the examining board.

(2) No license is required for artificial insemination, or for continuing the practice of pregnancy examinations of animals when such practice was engaged in prior to February 11,

1968. No license is required for castrating, except for female horses, cats and dogs, or dehorning animals. No license is required for students at a veterinary college approved by the examining board or for a certified animal technician while working under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian; for employes of the state or federal government while engaged in their official duties; or for employes of an educational or research institution while engaged in teaching or research.

(3) Any person violating this section shall for the first offense be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$200, and for any 2nd offense within 3 years be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000.

History: 1975 c. 309; 1977 c. 418; 1979 c. 337.

453.06 Examination; license. (1) Veterinary licenses shall be issued only to persons who successfully pass an examination conducted by the examining board and pays the fee specified in s. 440.05 (1). At least one examination shall be held annually. An applicant for a new license shall be at least 18 years of age and a graduate of a veterinary college which has been approved by the examining board. Persons who qualify for examination may be granted temporary permits to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine until the next examination conducted by the examining board. Veterinarians holding an existing license are not required to take any examination for renewal of their license. The examining board may grant a license, without any examination, to any person who holds a veterinarian's license issued by another state or country, if the license requirements in such state or country are substantially equivalent to those in this state and if such state or country recognizes licenses issued under this chapter. In case of failure at any examination, the applicant shall have the privilege of taking subsequent examinations, upon the payment of another fee for each examination.

(2) Veterinary licenses shall expire on December 31 of each odd-numbered year following

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issuance. The license renewal fee shall be that specified in s. 440.05 (3) to (5). An expired license may be reinstated and renewed within 60 days of the date of expiration upon payment of the fees specified in s. 440.05 (4) and (5). If a license is not renewed at the end of the 60-day period, it is automatically revoked and the licensee shall be required to pass the examination under sub. (1) in order to be relicensed.

(3) (a) An animal technician certification may be issued only to a person who is at least 18 years of age and has either:

1. Successfully completed a 4-semester course of study in animal technology or its equivalent, at a technical school or college approved by the examining board, and has passed an examination, administered by the examining board, which establishes that the applicant's knowledge of animals and their treatment is sufficient to qualify the applicant as an animal technician; or

2. Been an employe of any licensed veterinarian for a total of 2 years and has passed an examination, administered by the examining board, which establishes that the applicant's knowledge of animals and their treatment is sufficient to qualify the applicant as an animal technician. The 2-year employment requirement of this subdivision shall include at least 50% of the applicant's time spent in practical field experience and the remainder of the applicant's time spent in laboratory work, office procedure, and technical veterinary training with a licensed veterinarian.

(b) At least one examination shall be held annually.

(c) The examining board shall, by rule, specify the areas of the practice of veterinary medicine in which a certified animal technician may engage. Except for emergency rules adopted under s. 227.027, no rule promulgated by the examining board under this subsection shall become effective until the examining board has complied with the requirements of s. 227.018.

(4) Animal technician certifications shall expire on December 31 of each odd-numbered year following issuance.

History: 1971 c. 213 s. 5; 1975 c. 309; 1977 c. 29, 418; 1979 c. 34 s. 2102 (58) (b).

Examining board lacks authority to condition the renewal of licenses upon either reexamination or continuing education. 65 Atty. Gen. 35

453.07 Denial; limitation; suspension; revocation; reprimand. The examining board, subject to rules promulgated under s. 440.03 (1), may by order deny, limit, suspend or revoke any license or certificate, or reprimand a licensee, if the applicant or licensee is not qualified, has violated this chapter or a rule of the examining board, or has misrepresented or intentionally failed to disclose a material fact in making any application or report to the examining board. After hearing and decision by the examining board the applicant or licensee may seek judicial review under ch. 227.

History: 1977 c. 418.

453.08 Injunction. In addition to any other remedies, the several district attorneys are authorized to bring action in the name of the state to enjoin violations of this chapter or the rules of the examining board.

453.09 Transitional clause. (1) This chapter shall take effect on July 1, 1961.

(2) Veterinary licenses issued under s. 95.52, 1959 statutes, shall be valid as licenses under this chapter subject to renewal as herein provided.

(3) All rules and orders of the board under s. 95.54 in force prior to July 1, 1961, shall remain in force under this chapter until modified or rescinded.

(4) All matters pending before the board under the former chapter shall be completed by the board under this chapter.