

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD
OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

LCB File No. R116-23

December 11, 2023

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§ 1 and 2, NRS 638.070 and 638.124; § 3, NRS 638.070.

A REGULATION relating to veterinary medicine; revising the tasks that a licensed veterinary technician or a veterinary assistant may perform under varying levels of supervision; authorizing a licensed veterinary technician employed by an animal control agency or a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals to perform certain tasks before an animal is examined by a licensed veterinarian; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to adopt regulations pertaining to and limiting the activities of veterinary technicians. (NRS 638.124) Existing regulations set forth certain tasks that a licensed veterinary technician may perform: (1) under the immediate supervision of a supervising veterinarian; (2) under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising veterinarian; (3) under the immediate, direct or indirect supervision of a supervising veterinarian; or (4) outside of a veterinary facility under the off-site supervision of a supervising veterinarian and under certain other circumstances. (NAC 638.053) **Section 1** of this regulation revises these tasks. **Section 1** authorizes a licensed veterinary technician to place external drainage under the immediate supervision of a supervising veterinarian. **Section 1** further provides that under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising veterinarian, a licensed veterinary technician may: (1) perform regional anesthesia, paravertebral blocks and local blocks; (2) place intraosseous and nasal catheters; and (3) perform euthanasia. Also, **section 1** provides that under the immediate, direct or indirect supervision of a supervising veterinarian, a licensed veterinary technician may perform: (1) the nonsurgical placement of a nasoesophageal, nasogastric, oroesophageal or orogastric tube; (2) animal physical therapy; or (3) internal anal gland expression. Finally, **section 1** provides that under the off-site supervision of a supervising veterinarian and under certain other circumstances, a licensed veterinarian technician may remove sutures or staples.

Existing regulations authorize a licensed veterinary technician employed by an animal control agency or a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals to perform certain tasks before an animal is examined by a licensed veterinarian. (NAC 638.059) **Section 2** of this regulation authorizes such a licensed veterinary technician to also remove sutures or staples.

Section 2 further: (1) eliminates the prohibition on such a licensed veterinary technician administering vaccinations for zoonotic diseases; and (2) authorizes such a licensed veterinary technician to administer vaccinations orally.

Existing regulations set forth certain tasks that a veterinary assistant may perform: (1) under the immediate supervision of a supervising veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician; or (2) under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician. (NAC 638.06025) **Section 3** of this regulation authorizes a veterinary assistant to also: (1) remove sutures or staples under the immediate supervision of a supervising veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician; and (2) perform internal anal gland expression under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician.

Section 1. NAC 638.053 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.053 1. A licensed veterinary technician may not perform the following tasks of animal health care:

- (a) Surgery.
- (b) Diagnosis and prognosis of animal diseases.
- (c) Except as authorized by a veterinarian, administer, prepare to dispense or dispense drugs, medicines or appliances.

(d) Any other activity which represents the practice of veterinary medicine or which requires the knowledge, skill and training of a licensed veterinarian.

2. A licensed veterinary technician may perform the following tasks under the immediate supervision of a supervising veterinarian:

- (a) Application of casts or splints for the immobilization of fractures.
- (b) Removal of:
 - (1) Teeth that have extreme mobility and stage 4 periodontal disease; and
 - (2) Retained deciduous teeth other than retained deciduous canine teeth.
- (c) Assisting a licensed veterinarian in surgery.
- (d) ~~Euthanasia.~~

~~—(e)~~ Fluid aspiration from a body cavity.

~~†(f)~~ (e) Suturing an existing surgical skin incision or gingival incision.

(f) Placement of external drainage.

3. A licensed veterinary technician may perform the following tasks under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising veterinarian:

(a) Induction of anesthesia.

(b) Endotracheal intubation.

(c) Blood administration.

(d) ~~Internal anal gland expression.~~

~~—(e)~~ Application of casts and splints.

~~†(f)~~ (e) Tasks listed in subsection 4, if the animal is anesthetized.

~~†(g)~~ (f) External noninvasive ultrasonography and ultrasonography for the purpose described in paragraph ~~†(h)~~.

~~—(h)~~ (g).

(g) Cystocentesis to obtain a urine specimen, performed with or without the aid of ultrasonography.

~~†(i)~~ (h) Dental prophylaxis.

~~†(j) Animal physical therapy.~~

(i) Regional anesthesia, paravertebral blocks and local blocks.

(j) Placement of intraosseous and nasal catheters.

(k) Euthanasia.

4. A licensed veterinary technician may perform the following tasks under the immediate, direct or indirect supervision of a supervising veterinarian:

- (a) Administration of enemas.
- (b) Administration of an electrocardiogram.
- (c) Application of bandages.
- (d) Catheterization of an unobstructed bladder.
- (e) ~~Introduction~~ *Nonsurgical placement* of a ~~stomach tube~~ *nasoesophageal, nasogastric, oroesophageal or orogastric tube.*
- (f) Ear flushing with pressure or suction.
- (g) Positioning of animals for radiographs or other diagnostic images.
- (h) Operation of radiographic or other diagnostic imaging machines.
- (i) Administration of oral and rectal radio-opaque materials.
- (j) Administration of oral and topical medications, including controlled substances.
- (k) Starting and restarting of intravenous fluids.
- (l) Collection of a laboratory specimen for analysis, including, but not limited to, blood, urine, skin, parasites and microorganisms.
- (m) Collection of tissue during or after a postmortem examination by a licensed veterinarian.
- (n) Administration of intramuscular, subcutaneous or intravenous injections.
- (o) Placement of an intravenous catheter.
- (p) Implantation of a subcutaneous identification microchip into the animal.
- (q) Monitoring of vital signs.
- (r) External anal gland expression.
- (s) Administration of a therapeutic laser.
- (t) Animal physical therapy.*
- (u) Internal anal gland expression.*

↪ No examination within the previous 12 hours is required for the collection of laboratory specimens.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a licensed veterinary technician may perform the following tasks outside of a veterinary facility under the off-site supervision of a supervising veterinarian if a veterinarian-client-patient relationship has been established by the supervising veterinarian and a diagnosis has been made for the specific treatment of an animal:

- (a) Application and changing of bandages ~~+~~ *and removal of sutures or staples.*
- (b) Administration of oral and topical medications.
- (c) Starting and administering of intravenous or subcutaneous fluids.
- (d) Collection of a laboratory specimen for analysis, including, but not limited to, blood, urine, skin, parasites and microorganisms.
- (e) Administration of intramuscular, subcutaneous or intravenous injections, except for vaccinations.
- (f) Appropriate implantation of an identification microchip into an animal other than a horse.
- (g) Monitoring of vital signs.
- (h) External anal gland expressions.
- (i) Administration of a therapeutic laser.
- (j) Animal physical therapy.

↪ No examination within the previous 12 hours is required for the collection of laboratory specimens.

6. A licensed veterinary technician may not perform any act under the off-site supervision of a supervising veterinarian without first taking the animal's temperature, pulse and respiration

rate. A veterinary technician in training shall not perform any act under the off-site supervision of a supervising veterinarian unless supervised by a licensed veterinary technician.

7. As used in this section:

(a) “Off-site supervision” means the supervising veterinarian is not at the same physical location as the animal and the person treating the animal, but has given written or oral instructions for treatment of the animal and is available by telephone to immediately respond to any inquiry or concern from the person treating the animal during the course of treating the animal.

(b) “Other diagnostic image” has the meaning ascribed to it in NAC 638.0475.

Sec. 2. NAC 638.059 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.059 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a licensed veterinary technician who is an employee of an animal control agency or a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals that is in compliance with the provisions of chapter 574 of NRS may, before an animal is examined by a licensed veterinarian and in accordance with written protocols for first-aid treatments which must be approved by each veterinarian employed by or contracted with the agency or society:

(a) Obtain initial vital signs of the animal when the animal enters the custody of the agency or society;

(b) Apply bandages to the animal ~~and~~ *and remove sutures or staples;*

(c) Administer topical and oral medications, other than controlled substances and intravenous fluids, to the animal;

(d) Collect clinical specimens from the animal;

(e) Administer vaccinations ~~{, other than vaccinations for zoonotic diseases,}~~ *orally*, by injection or nasal installation to the animal; and

(f) Implant subcutaneous identification microchips into the animal.

2. A licensed veterinary technician described in subsection 1 may not perform the tasks described in subsection 1 unless the employing agency or society has:

(a) Applied to the Board for authorization for licensed veterinary technicians employed by the society or agency to perform the tasks described in subsection 1; and

(b) Received such authorization from the Board.

3. The Board may revoke any authorization granted pursuant to subsection 2 after inspecting any agency or society that has received such authorization.

Sec. 3. NAC 638.06025 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.06025 1. A veterinary assistant may perform the following tasks under the immediate supervision of a supervising veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician:

(a) Assisting a licensed veterinarian in surgery or in monitoring anesthesia.

(b) Application of bandages ~~{}~~ *and removal of sutures or staples.*

(c) Collection of a laboratory specimen for analysis of blood.

(d) Collection of tissue during or after a postmortem examination by a licensed veterinarian.

2. A veterinary assistant may perform the following tasks under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician:

(a) Blood administration with a preplaced catheter.

(b) Monitoring of vital signs.

(c) Administration of an electrocardiogram.

(d) Introduction of food into the stomach through a preplaced tube.

- (e) Ear cleaning.
- (f) Positioning of animals for radiographs or other diagnostic images.
- (g) Operation of radiographic or other diagnostic imaging machines.
- (h) Starting and restarting of intravenous fluids through a preplaced intravenous catheter.
- (i) Taking readings of the temperature, pulse, respiration or weight of an animal.

(j) Internal anal gland expression.

3. A veterinary assistant may perform the following tasks under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician or the indirect supervision of a supervising veterinarian:

(a) Administration of oral and topical medications, including controlled substances dispensed by prescription, if the client has authorized, in a written agreement, the veterinary assistant to administer such medications as the client's agent while the animal is retained at the veterinary facility for hospitalization or otherwise housed at the veterinary facility.

(b) Collection of free catch urine or feces.

(c) External anal gland expression.

4. A veterinary assistant may perform the following tasks at the direction of a supervising veterinarian:

(a) Administration of intramuscular, subcutaneous or intravenous injections through a preplaced catheter, except anesthetics, controlled substances or vaccinations for zoonotic diseases.

(b) Preparation of a prescription drug, other than a controlled substance, for dispensing.

(c) Cold laser therapy.