

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

LCB File No. R069-01

July 6, 2001

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

AUTHORITY: §§1, 3-5, 9, 10, 15 and 16, NRS 638.070; §§2, 6, 7, 8, 11-14 and 17, NRS 638.070 and 638.124.

Section 1. Chapter 638 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this regulation.

Sec. 2. *“Licensed veterinary technician” means a person who is licensed pursuant to NRS 638.122 and formally trained for the specific purpose of assisting a licensed veterinarian in the performance of professional or technical services in the field of veterinary medicine.*

Sec. 3. *“School of veterinary medicine” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 638.009.*

Sec. 4. *“Veterinary intern” means:*

1. A third-year or fourth-year veterinary student who is enrolled in an internship program that is administered by a school of veterinary medicine; or

2. A person who has graduated from a school of veterinary medicine and has taken the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination of the National Board Examination Committee for Veterinary Medicine but has not received the scores for that examination.

Sec. 5. 1. *Before performing any service regarding an animal, a veterinary intern shall identify himself as a veterinary intern.*

2. While performing any service regarding an animal, a veterinary intern shall be under the direct supervision of a veterinarian who:

- (a) Is licensed by and in good standing with the board;*
- (b) Is responsible for all actions taken by the veterinary intern regarding an animal; and*
- (c) Is subject to disciplinary action for any violation of this chapter or chapter 638 of NRS by the veterinary intern.*

Sec. 6. NAC 638.001 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.001 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NAC 638.003 to ~~638.019,~~ **638.018**, inclusive, *and sections 2, 3 and 4 of this regulation* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

Sec. 7. NAC 638.009 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.009 “Immediate supervision” means the supervising veterinarian is in visual and audible range of the animal and the *licensed* veterinary technician *or veterinary technician in training* treating the animal, and the animal has been examined by the veterinarian before treatment by the *licensed* veterinary technician ~~or~~ *or veterinary technician in training*.

Sec. 8. NAC 638.016 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.016 “Supervising veterinarian” means a veterinarian licensed to practice in this state who employs, supervises, or employs and supervises a *licensed* veterinary technician ~~or~~ *or veterinary technician in training*.

Sec. 9. NAC 638.041 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.041 1. As a prerequisite for each renewal of his license to practice veterinary medicine, a licensee must complete, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the beginning of the new licensing year, at least 15 hours of continuing education approved by the board. ~~Not~~ *Except for courses offered by the Veterinary Information Network, not* more than 5 hours may be completed in distant learning or correspondence courses.

2. The licensee may attach to his application for a renewal:

(a) A summary of the educational activities which he engaged in or completed during the preceding licensing period; and

(b) Evidence of the engagement or completion.

3. A licensed veterinary technician must annually complete at least 5 hours of continuing education approved by the board as a prerequisite for renewal of his license.

Sec. 10. NAC 638.048 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.048 A veterinarian shall not:

1. Falsify records of health care;
2. Falsify records so as to indicate his presence at a time when he was not in attendance or that procedures were performed by him which were in fact not performed by him;
3. Write a prescription for a controlled substance in such an excessive amount as to constitute a departure from prevailing standards of acceptable veterinary medical practice;
4. Consistently use veterinary medical procedures, services or treatments which constitute a departure from the prevailing standards of acceptable veterinary medical practice;
5. Render professional services to an animal while the veterinarian is under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance or is in any impaired mental or physical condition;
6. Acquire any controlled substances from any pharmacy or other source by misrepresentation, fraud, deception or subterfuge; ~~or~~
7. Operate a veterinary facility in a manner that violates a provision of chapter 574 of NRS ~~or~~; *or*
8. *Prescribe, dispense, deliver or order another person to deliver any prescription drug, including, without limitation, any controlled substance in Schedules I to V, inclusive, as*

described in chapter 453 of NRS, and any dangerous drug, referred to in NRS 454.181 to 454.371, inclusive, unless he first:

(a) Establishes a veterinarian-client-patient relationship; and

(b) Makes a medical determination that the prescription drug is therapeutically indicated for the health and well-being of the animal.

Sec. 11. NAC 638.0525 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.0525 1. A person may perform the tasks of a veterinary technician under the immediate supervision of a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician while the person is receiving the training and experience required by paragraph (g) of subsection 2 if he is registered with the board pursuant to this section.

2. To be registered as a veterinary technician in training, a person must:

(a) Submit to the board an application on a form prescribed by the board;

(b) Submit to the board a letter of recommendation written by the veterinarian in charge of the facility where he is employed or will be employed;

(c) Be 18 years of age or older;

(d) Have a high school diploma or equivalent certificate;

(e) Be of good moral character;

(f) Be enrolled in a school or program of training that is approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association or the board; ~~and~~

(g) Participate in training while on the job and acquire experience that is commensurate with the duties of his employment ~~;~~; *and*

(h) Pay a fee of \$25.

3. After confirming that an applicant complies with all the requirements of subsection 2, the executive director of the board shall, unless he has good cause to deny the registration, issue a letter of registration for a veterinary technician in training to the veterinarian in charge of the facility where the trainee is employed or will be employed.

4. A registration issued pursuant to this section is effective for 18 months after the date the registration is issued unless the board grants an extension of such effective date.

Sec. 12. 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, prescribe, administer 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 in an animal hospital may perform the following tasks under immediate supervision only:

- (a) Application of casts and splints.
- (b) Dental extractions.
- (c) Induction of anesthesia.
- (d) Assisting a licensed veterinarian in surgery.
- (e) Euthanasia.

3. A *licensed* veterinary technician in an animal hospital may perform the following tasks under immediate or direct supervision:

- (a) Endotracheal intubation.
- (b) Blood administration.
- (c) Fluid aspiration.
- (d) Monitoring of vital signs.
- (e) Application of casts for the immobilization of fractures.
- (f) Tasks listed in subsection 4, if the animal is anesthetized.

(g) Ultrasonography.

4. A *licensed* veterinary technician in an animal hospital may perform the following tasks under indirect supervision, unless the animal is anesthetized:

- (a) Teeth cleaning.
- (b) Administration of enemas.
- (c) Administration of an electrocardiogram.
- (d) Application of bandages.
- (e) Catheterization of an unobstructed bladder.
- (f) Introduction of food into the stomach through a tube.
- (g) Ear flushing.
- (h) Positioning of animals for X-rays.
- (i) Operation of X-ray machines.
- (j) Administration of oral and rectal radio-opaque materials.
- (k) Administration of oral and topical medications.
- (l) Starting and restarting of intravenous fluids.

(m) Collection of a laboratory specimen for analysis, including, but not limited to, blood, urine, skin, parasites and microorganisms.

(n) Collection of tissue during or after a post-mortem examination by a licensed veterinarian.

(o) Administration of intramuscular, subcutaneous or intravenous injections.

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

Sec. 13. NAC 638.057 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.057 The supervising veterinarian:

1. Is responsible for determining the competency of the *licensed* veterinary technician to perform delegated tasks of animal health care.

2. Shall ensure that the *licensed* veterinary technician performs the tasks of animal health care delegated to the *licensed* veterinary technician in a manner which is consistent with good veterinary medical practice.

3. Shall make all decisions relating to the diagnosis, treatment, management and future disposition of the animal.

4. Shall examine the animal before delegating any tasks to the *licensed* veterinary technician. The examination must be conducted at such time as good veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular task of animal health care which is delegated.

Sec. 14. NAC 638.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.060 In an emergency, a *licensed* veterinary technician may render the following aid and treatment to save a life:

1. Application of tourniquets or pressure bandages to control hemorrhage.

2. Administration of pharmacological agents to prevent or control shock, including parenteral fluids after direct communication with a licensed veterinarian or veterinarian authorized to practice in this state. The veterinarian must be present or en route to the location of the distressed animal.

3. Resuscitative oxygen procedures.

4. Establishing open airways, including intubation appliances but excluding surgery.

5. External cardiac resuscitation.

6. Application of temporary splints or bandages to prevent further injury to bones or soft tissues.

7. Application of appropriate wound dressings and external treatment in severe burn cases.

8. External treatment in heat prostration cases.

Sec. 15. NAC 638.610 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.610 *1.* An examination conducted to determine whether an animal may be vaccinated at a vaccination clinic must include ~~the~~:

~~—1.— An], without limitation, an~~ examination of the ~~[animal's basic organ systems, including an examination]~~ *temperature, pulse and respiration of the animal* to determine:

(a) The presence of any respiratory, intestinal or other organ disease that may affect the efficacy of the vaccine; and

(b) Whether the hydration of the animal is normal.

2. A ~~[discussion of the recent medical history of the animal with the owner or custodian of the animal.]~~ *medical record of the examination must be kept pursuant to NAC 638.037.*

Sec. 16. NAC 638.710 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.710 1. A veterinarian shall comply with the following requirements when putting an animal under general anesthesia:

(a) The animal must be given a physical examination not more than 12 hours before the anesthetic is administered. The physical examination must include, without limitation, an examination and written notation of:

- (1) The temperature;
- (2) The pulse rate;
- (3) The respiration;
- (4) The color of the mucous membrane; and
- (5) The thoracic auscultation,

FLUSH of the animal.

(b) The animal must be under continuous observation while it is under general anesthesia until the swallowing reflex of the animal has returned.

(c) The animal must not be released until it has been examined by a veterinarian and it is ambulating. This paragraph must not be construed to prohibit the direct transfer of an animal under general anesthesia to an appropriate facility for observation.

(d) The following equipment must be available in the veterinary facility and must be in working order at all times:

- (1) An anesthetic machine with breathing bags appropriate to the size of the animal under general anesthesia;
- (2) An assortment of cuffed endotracheal tubes; and
- (3) An oxygen delivery system.

(e) If it is appropriate for the species of animal when the swallowing reflex is impaired, ~~[intubation with an inspired oxygen concentration of at least 30 percent must be used.]~~ *the animal must be intubated and administered an appropriate concentration of oxygen.*

(f) A method of monitoring respiration must be used, which may include, without limitation:

- (1) Observing the chest movements of the animal;
- (2) Watching the rebreathing bag; or
- (3) Using a respirometer.

(g) A method of monitoring cardiac activity must be used, which may include, without limitation, the use of:

- (1) A stethoscope; or
- (2) An electrocardiographic monitor.

(h) Adequate surgical support, including, without limitation, an intravenous catheter, fluids and monitoring, as indicated by the status of the animal and the standard of care required of a licensed veterinarian under the circumstances, must be available.

(i) A written history must be maintained by the veterinarian for each animal put under general anesthesia, which must include, without limitation:

- (1) The name or identification number of the animal.
- (2) The medical history of the animal that is relevant to the administration of general anesthesia, which must include, without limitation, a description of any preexisting medical conditions and tests performed on the animal before surgery.
- (3) A description of the general anesthesia used at the time of surgery.
- (4) The method of monitoring that was used to comply with paragraphs (f) and (g).

2. As used in this section, “general anesthesia” means a controlled state of unconsciousness caused by a drug or combination of drugs that is sufficient to produce a state of unconsciousness or disassociation and a blocked response to pain or alarming stimulus.

Sec. 17. NAC 638.019 is hereby repealed.

TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION

638.019 “Veterinary technician” defined. “Veterinary technician” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 638.013.