



Nevada

Approved Regulation of the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

February 27, 2024

LCB File No. R116-23

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 veterinary 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.

Approved Regulation of the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

February 27, 2024

LCB File No. R117-23

A REGULATION relating to veterinary medicine; prescribing the requirements for licensure by endorsement as a veterinarian; requiring a veterinarian to obtain informed consent under certain circumstances; establishing provisions relating to animal transportation services; increasing certain fees; revising the duties of the Executive Director of the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners; revising certain administrative fines; authorizing a veterinarian to decline treatment of an animal under certain circumstances; revising provisions relating to medical records; revising provisions relating to veterinary technicians in training; revising provisions relating to the administration of a euthanasic agent by a euthanasia technician; revising provisions relating to veterinary facilities; revising provisions relating to the examination of euthanasia technicians; repealing various provisions relating to practice before the Board; making various other changes relating to the practice of veterinary medicine; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of law relating to veterinary medicine, including, without limitation, regulations governing the tasks and procedures that may be performed by a euthanasia technician. (NRS 638.070, 638.119) Existing regulations authorize a euthanasia technician to administer sodium pentobarbital to euthanize certain animals. (NAC 638.510) **Sections 17-21** of this regulation: (1) provide instead that a euthanasia technician is authorized to administer euthanasic agents to euthanize certain animals; and (2) make conforming changes to eliminate references to sodium pentobarbital. **Section 22** of this regulation provides that the license of a euthanasia technician may be suspended or revoked if he or she misuses a euthanasic agent. **Section 2** of this regulation defines "euthanasic agent."

Existing law requires certain regulatory bodies to adopt regulations providing for the issuance of a license by endorsement to engage in an occupation or profession in this State to any natural person who: (1) holds a corresponding valid and unrestricted license to engage in that occupation or profession in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States; (2) possesses qualifications that are substantially similar to the qualifications required for the issuance of a license to engage in that occupation or profession in this State; and (3) meets certain other requirements. (NRS 622.530) **Section 4** of this regulation establishes: (1) standards for the issuance of a license by endorsement to an applicant for licensure as a veterinarian; and (2) grounds for the Board to deny an application for a license by endorsement.

Section 5 of this regulation requires a veterinarian to obtain the informed consent of a client before administering any medical treatment to an animal. **Section 5** creates an exception to this requirement by authorizing a veterinarian to provide essential services to an animal without the informed consent of the client if it is necessary to save the life or relieve the suffering of the animal.

Existing regulations adopt by reference certain published ethics guidelines as the standard for professional conduct for veterinarians. (NAC 638.046) **Section 10** of this regulation: (1) authorizes a veterinarian to decline to treat an animal under certain circumstances; and (2) provides that a veterinarian who does so does not violate the principles of ethics.

Existing regulations interpret the term “willfully committing any inhumane or cruel act on any animal” to not include: (1) any emergency treatment given to an ill or injured animal without the consent of an owner if the owner is not available; and (2) the performance of euthanasia on such an animal if necessary to relieve pain and suffering. (NAC 638.049) **Section 12** of this regulation includes in this interpretation the exceptions found in **sections 5 and 10**.

Existing law exempts certain owners of an animal or certain full-time regular employees of the owner from the provisions of the Nevada Revised Statutes relating to veterinary medicine. (NRS 638.015) **Section 3** of this regulation interprets the term “owner of an animal” for the purpose of this exemption.

Section 6 of this regulation prohibits an animal transportation service from having any prescription drug or drug that does not require a prescription in any vehicle that the animal transportation service uses to transport animals.

Existing regulations: (1) set forth certain fees relating to licensure, registration and permits to practice veterinary medicine; and (2) provide that if a license, registration or permit was issued on or after June 30 of the immediately preceding even-numbered year, the Board will reduce the fee charged and collected for the biennial renewal of any license, registration or permit by 50 percent. (NAC 638.035) **Section 7** of this regulation instead provides that the Board will reduce the fee charged and collected for the application for any license, registration or permit by 50 percent if the license, registration or permit is issued on or after June 30 of the immediately preceding even-numbered year. **Section 7** also: (1) increases certain fees; and (2) sets forth fees relating to licensure as a veterinarian by endorsement.

Existing regulations require the Executive Director of the Board to: (1) write all correspondence on behalf of the Board, including the minutes of all proceedings of the Board; and (2) approve contracts and expenditures that are for an amount less than \$1,000 and are within the amount budgeted by the Board for that year. (NAC 638.0405) **Section 8** of this regulation: (1) eliminates the requirement for the Executive Director to write all correspondence on behalf of the Board; and (2) increases the maximum monetary threshold for the Executive Director to approve such contracts and expenditures from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Existing law authorizes the Board to adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of law relating to the issuance of a citation or an administrative fine to a licensee or person who is practicing veterinary medicine without a license. (NRS 638.1471) Existing regulations authorize the Board to assess a person who practices veterinary medicine without a license: (1) for a first violation, an administrative fine in an amount not to exceed \$1,000; (2) for a second violation, an administrative fine in an amount not to exceed \$2,500; and (3) for a third or subsequent violation, an administrative fine in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. (NAC 638.0433) **Section 9** of this regulation instead authorizes the Board to assess an administrative fine in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation committed. **Section 9** also establishes standards for determining the appropriate amount of the administrative fine.

Existing regulations provide certain requirements for the creation, maintenance, and availability of veterinary medical records, including, without limitation, the requirement that: (1) a licensed veterinarian provide a copy of the medical record to certain parties not later than 48 hours after receiving a request from such parties; and (2) certain information be included in the medical record. (NAC 638.0475) **Section 11** of this regulation instead requires a licensed veterinarian to provide a copy of the medical record to certain parties not later than 5 business days after receiving a request from such parties. **Section 11** creates an exception to the requirement that certain information be included in a medical record by authorizing a licensed veterinarian to send the medical record of an animal that does not comply with such a requirement to another licensed veterinarian during an emergency.

Existing regulations: (1) set forth the requirements for a person to register as a veterinary technician in training; and (2) authorize the Board to grant an extension of the period of registration. (NAC 638.0525) **Section 13** of this regulation sets forth the requirements that a veterinary technician in training must meet to obtain an extension of the period of registration.

Existing regulations require a veterinarian who is in charge of a facility to notify the Board in writing if the roster of veterinarians who are permanently employed and practice veterinary medicine at the facility changes. (NAC 638.0606) **Section 14** of this regulation eliminates this requirement.

Existing regulations require: (1) the Board to examine each euthanasia technician trainee; and (2) the written examination to include certain subjects. (NAC 638.475) **Section 16** of this regulation eliminates the requirement for the written examination to include certain subjects.

Section 24 of this regulation repeals obsolete provisions relating to practice and procedure before the Board, fees, and examinations. **Sections 15 and 23** of this regulation make conforming changes to eliminate obsolete references to sections of the Nevada Administrative Code that are repealed by **Section 24**.

