

5-Year Review: Practice Act Model, Article I

As recommended by the AAVSB Regulatory Policy Committee in May 2026

Article I. Title, Purpose, and Definitions.

An ACT concerning the regulation of the practices of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology.

Commentary: Article I. Introductory Comment to Article I.

The AAVSB believes that public protection must be the central precept of any professional regulatory act and that . regulatory boards must strive to ensure that this basic principle is upheld. These beliefs are clearly articulated in the Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology Practice Act Model (“Act”).

Article I of the Act states that safeguarding the public interest is the most compelling reason for regulating the practices of veterinary medicine and veterinary technology; and it identifies the activities included within the practices. Definitions of other terms used throughout the Act are also included in this article.

Section 101. Title of Act.

This Act shall be known as the “(Name of Jurisdiction) Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology Practice Act.”

Section 102. Legislative Declaration.

- (a) Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology in the Jurisdiction of _____ are declared professional practices affecting human ~~the public and animal~~ health, ~~;~~ safety, and welfare. ~~Therefore, they and are are~~ subject to regulation and control in the public interest. It is further declared to be a matter of public interest-protection and concern that the practices of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology, as defined in the Act, merit and receive the confidence of the public and that only qualified individuals be permitted to practice Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology in _____ (name of the Jurisdiction of _____). This Act shall be liberally construed to carry out these objectives and purposes.
- (b) It is further declared that the intent of this legislation is to regulate the Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology professions and will result in displacing competition by restricting licensure to practice Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology, as such practices are defined and interpreted by the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology (or “Board”), to Persons determined by the Board to be qualified under this Act.
- (c) It is further declared that any such restriction on competition is outweighed by the broader interest in protection of public and animal health, safety, and welfare. It is understood that the regulatory structure calls for Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians, and public members to

29 serve on the Board and this legislation recognizes the need for professional expertise provided
30 by Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians serving the public interest.

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32 (d) This Act is intended to provide active Jurisdictional oversight and supervision through its
33 legislative enactment, the promulgation of enabling regulations, the appointment of Board
34 members by the Governor or legislature, legal representation of the Board ~~by the office of the~~
35 ~~State Attorney General~~, legislative appropriation of monies to support the Board, and Board
36 engagement in a periodic review process.

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38 **Commentary: Article I. Section 102. Legislative Declaration.**

Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology are learned professions affecting public health and welfare and should be declared as such by the legislature.

39 **Section 103. Statement of Purpose.**

40 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to promote, preserve, and protect the public and animal health,
41 safety, and welfare by and through the licensure and regulation of individuals who practice
42 Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology in this Jurisdiction, -and facilities within which,
43 ~~whether within or outside of the Jurisdiction, who the~~ practice Veterinary Medicine or
44 Veterinary Technology occurs within this Jurisdiction.

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46 (b) In furtherance of this purpose, this Act creates the Board of Veterinary Medicine and
47 Veterinary Technology whose members, functions, and procedures shall be established in
48 accordance with the provisions of Article II of ~~in~~ this Act.

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50 (b) (1) The purpose of this Act is to fully occupy the fields of Veterinary Medicine and
51 Veterinary Technology and provide a uniform Jurisdiction-wide regulatory scheme to
52 be enforced by the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology. as
53 defined in the scope of practice As such, no municipality shall prohibit a Veterinarian or
54 Veterinary Technician, as defined in this Act, from engaging in any act or performing
55 any procedure that falls within the professionally recognized scopes of practice of
56 licensure as a Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician, including but not limited to the
57 scopes of practice set forth in Section 105 and 106 of this Act.

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59 (2) Nothing in this section 103(b) shall prohibit the municipality from:
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61 (i) levying a business license tax solely for revenue purpose, or
62 (ii) levying a license tax solely for the purpose of covering the cost of regulation.

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Commentary: Article I. Section 103. Statement of Purpose.

The Statement of Purpose defines the general scope of the Act. A Board must have full knowledge of the Persons practicing Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology within its Jurisdiction. This section regulates both practices and governs the licensure of Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians engaged in these practices. It also stipulates that the regulation of the practices of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology extends to all Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians practicing in the Jurisdiction, regardless of their actual Jurisdiction of residency.

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Section 104. Amendments

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Proposed material amendments to this Act must be submitted to the Board for comment prior to consideration by the legislative body.

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Section 1054. Definitions.

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When used in this Act, these words and phrases shall be capitalized and are defined as follows:

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(a) **Animal(s) or group of Animals** means any member of the Animal kingdom other than humans, whether living or dead.

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(b) **Animal Shelter** means a public or private humane society, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Animal protection shelter or control agency, rescue group, or like entity, that provides shelter and care for homeless Animals.

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(c) **Applicant** means a Person who submits an application for licensure or registration, whether complete or not, to the Board.

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(d) **Approved Provider of Continuing Education** means any Person that has met the requirements of the Board to provide educational courses that are designed to ensure continued competence in the practice of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology.

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(e) **Approved Program of Continuing Education** means an educational program approved by the Board or offered by an Approved Provider of Continuing Education.

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(f) **Approved Veterinary Medical Program** means a Veterinary Medicine ~~or a veterinary medical~~ degree education program that has been approved by the Board.

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(g) **Approved Veterinary Technology Program** means a Veterinary Technology ~~or veterinary~~ ~~nursing~~ degree education program that has been approved by the Board.

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(h) **Board** means the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology created under this

95 Act.

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97 (i) **Client** means a Person who has entered into an agreement with a Veterinarian for the
98 purposes of obtaining veterinary medical services.

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100 (j) **Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine** means a heterogeneous group of
101 preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic philosophies and practices that are not considered
102 part of conventional Veterinary Medicine. These therapies include, but are not limited to,
103 veterinary acupuncture, acuthery, and acupressure; veterinary homeopathy; veterinary
104 manual or manipulative therapy (i.e., therapies based on techniques practiced in osteopathy,
105 chiropractic medicine, or physical medicine and therapy); veterinary nutraceutical therapy;
106 and veterinary phytotherapy.

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108 (k) **Consent** See Informed Consent

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110 (l) **Consultation** means when a Veterinarian receives advice or assistance; from a ~~v~~Veterinarian
111 or other Person whose expertise, in the opinion of the Veterinarian, would benefit a Patient.
112 Under any circumstance, the responsibility for the welfare of the Patient remains with the
113 Veterinarian receiving Consultation.

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115 (m) **Continuing Education** means training that is designed to ensure continued competence in
116 the practice of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology.

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118 (n) **Continuing Education Contact Hour** means a fifty (50) minute clock hour of instruction, not
119 including breaks or meals.

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121 (o) **Controlled Substances** mean drugs as set forth in the U.S. Controlled Substances Act of the
122 Drug Enforcement Act or the Canadian Controlled Drugs and Substances Act or jurisdictional
123 law

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125 ~~(o)~~(p) **Conviction** means conviction of a crime by a court of competent jurisdiction and shall include
126 a finding or verdict of guilt, whether or not the adjudication of guilt is withheld or not entered
127 on admission of guilt, a no consent plea, a plea of nolo contendere, or a guilty plea.

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129 ~~(p)~~(q) **Declared Emergency** means a governmentally-determined situation, such as in times of
130 natural or man-made disaster, disease or other extraordinary circumstances.

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132 ~~(q)~~(r) **Emergency Care** means care rendered to a Patient(s) that has a life-threatening condition and
133 immediate treatment is necessary to sustain life or alleviate or end suffering.

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135 ~~(r)~~(s) **Examination** means an Examination approved by the Board.

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137 ~~(s)~~(t) **Felony** means a criminal act as defined by any Jurisdiction or by ~~definition under~~ federal law.

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139 ~~(t)~~(u) **General Advice** means any advice provided via any method of communication that is given in
140 general terms and is not specific to an Animal(s) or group of Animals, diagnosis, or treatment.

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142 ~~(u)~~(v) **Informed Consent** means the Veterinarian has informed the Client or the Client's authorized
143 representative, in a manner understood by the Client or representative, of the diagnostic and
144 treatment options, risk assessment, ~~and~~ prognosis, and estimated cost, and the Client has
145 consented ~~to the recommended treatment~~.

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147 ~~(v)~~(w) **Jurisdiction** means any commonwealth, state, or territory, including the District of Columbia,
148 of the United States of America, or any province or territory of Canada.

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150 ~~(w)~~(x) **Licensee** means a Person licensed under this Act.

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152 ~~(x)~~(y) **Licensure Transfer** means the method whereby a Veterinarian or a Veterinary Technician
153 currently licensed in another Jurisdiction can also become licensed as a Veterinarian or
154 Veterinary Technician in this Jurisdiction.

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156 ~~(y)~~(z) **Medical Record** means any form of documentation that provides a current and accurate
157 account of a Patient's history and medical information.

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159 ~~(z)~~(aa) **Mobile Unit** means a type of Veterinary Facility that is a vehicle in or from which a Licensee
160 may engage in the practice of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology.

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162 ~~(aa)~~(bb) **Patient** means any Animal(s) or group of Animals receiving veterinary care from a
163 Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician.

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165 ~~(bb)~~(cc) **Person** means any individual, firm, partnership, association, joint venture, cooperative,
166 corporation, governmental body, or any other group, legal entity or combination acting in
167 concert; and whether or not acting as a principal, trustee, fiduciary, receiver, or as any kind of
168 legal or personal representative, or as the successor in interest, assignee, agent, factor,
169 servant, employee, director, officer, or any other representative of such Person.

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171 ~~(dd)~~ **Premises** means any place where a Patient(s) is located when Veterinary Medicine and
172 Veterinary Technology is being practiced.

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174 ~~(ee)~~ **Prescribe** means to authorize the Dispensing or administration of a drug or mixture of drugs
175 or a treatment for a Patient(s),

176 ~~(ff)~~
177 ~~(ee)~~(gg) **Prognose** means to predict the course or outcome of an illness, injury, or other ailment.

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179 ~~(hh)~~ **Staff** means all persons working within the Veterinary Facility including, but not limited to,
180 employees, Veterinary Students, Veterinary Technician Students, interns, preceptors, and
181 volunteers.

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~~(dd)~~(ii) **Surgery** means a procedure involving an incision for the purpose of treating, repairing, replacing, evaluating, or removing tissue.

~~(ee)~~(jj) **Supervision**-related terms are defined as follows:

- (1) **Supervising Veterinarian** means a Veterinarian who assumes responsibility for the veterinary care given to a Patient by an individual working under their direction. ~~The Pursuant to 106(b), the~~ Supervising Veterinarian must have ~~examined the Patient pursuant to currently acceptable standards of practice~~ a valid VCPR.
- (2) **Immediate Supervision** means the Supervising Veterinarian is ~~physically in the immediate area and~~ within audible and visual ~~range proximity~~ of the Patient and the individual treating the Patient.
- (3) **Direct Supervision** means the Supervising Veterinarian is readily available on the Premises where the individual is treating the Patient(s).
- (4) **Indirect Supervision** means ~~the a~~ Supervising Veterinarian need not be ~~physically~~ on the Premises but has given either written or oral instructions for the treatment of the Patient and is readily available for communication.

~~(ff)~~(kk) **Telehealth** is the overarching term that encompasses all uses of technology to virtually deliver medical and health information or education. Telehealth is not a specific service, but a collection of tools that allow for enhanced veterinary care and Client education. Telehealth encompasses Telemedicine, Telerriage, and General Advice.

~~(gg)~~(ll) **Telemedicine** is the virtual practice of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology over the telecommunications infrastructure.

~~(hh)~~(mm) **Telerriage** means the timely and virtual assessment of an Animal(s) or group of Animals to determine if they need a referral to a Veterinarian for treatment.

~~(ii)~~(nn) **Veterinarian** means an individual who is licensed to practice Veterinary Medicine under the provisions of this Act-

~~(jj)~~(oo) **Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)** is ~~a relationship established between a Veterinarian and a Client or Client's authorized representative, regarding the care of a Patient(s), as specified in regulations promulgated by the Board~~ established when:

~~(a)~~ —

~~(1)~~ — Both the Veterinarian and Client agree for the Veterinarian to assume responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the Patient(s); and

~~(2)~~ — The Veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the Patient(s) to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition; and

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229 ~~(3)~~—The Veterinarian has provided the Client with information for obtaining timely follow up
230 care.

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232 ~~(kk)~~(pp) **Veterinary Facility** means any building, place, or Mobile Unit from which the practice
233 of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology is conducted.

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235 ~~(H)~~(qq) **Veterinary Facility Registrant** means the registered owner of a Veterinary Facility.

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237 ~~(mm)~~(rr) **Veterinarian Manager** is a Veterinarian who registers to assume responsibility for the
238 Veterinary Facility registration, management, and operation of a Veterinary Facility.

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240 (ss) **Veterinary Medicine** as defined in Section 105 of this Act.

241 (a)
242 ~~(nn)~~(tt) **Veterinary Student** means an individual currently enrolled in any Approved Veterinary
243 Medical Program.

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245 ~~(oo)~~(uu) **Veterinary Technician** means an individual who is licensed to practice Veterinary
246 Technology under the provisions of this Act.

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248 (vv) **Veterinary Technician Student** means an individual currently enrolled in any Approved
249 Veterinary Technology Program.

250 (b)
251 ~~(b)~~(c) **Veterinary Technology** as defined in Section 106 of this Act.

Commentary: Article I. Title, Purpose, and Definitions. Section 105.

Section 105(d) and (e). Approved Provider and Approved Program of Continuing Education.

See comment to Section 213(a) regarding the Board’s role in the approval process of programs and providers.

Section 105(g). Approved Veterinary Technology Program.

The AAVSB recommends that formal education in a degree program be required for licensure to uphold licensing standards.

Section 105(h). Board.

This definition is suggested for those jurisdictions that regulate both Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians. The nomenclature for regulatory entities varies across North America; for example, Canadian provinces use the terms Council, College, or Veterinary Medical Association. The PAM’s definition is just one example.

Section 105(v). Felony.

Boards may adjust this language based upon what distinctions exist in their criminal justice systems. For example, Canadian provinces distinguish among summary, indictable, and hybrid crimes, whereas the US recognizes a system of felonies and misdemeanors.

Section 105(x). Informed Consent.

When obtaining Informed Consent to use Artificial Intelligence, the AAVSB believes that Licenses should provide options that do not include the use of Artificial Intelligence.

Section 105(y). Jurisdiction.

When not capitalized, jurisdiction means authority.

Section 105(aa). Licensure Transfer.

The AAVSB has elected to use “Licensure Transfer” rather than Licensure by Endorsement or Reciprocity because of the confusion existing in regulation among such terms. “Licensure Transfer” is intended to allow for the possession of multiple veterinary and veterinary technology licenses. In Canada, this process is known as Labour Mobility.

Section 105(ff). Premises.

Boards may want to define “Premises” to include ranches, racetracks, farms, or other venues in which veterinary care may be provided.

Section 105(jj) (4). Indirect Supervision.

The AAVSB contemplates that this definition of Indirect Supervision includes and incorporates the technological advancements and the ability of Persons to communicate through electronic and other means as a form of supervision. Of course, such supervision must maintain the necessary contact to be as effective as the Veterinarian deems appropriate.

Commentary: Article I. Title, Purpose, and Definitions. Section 105. (cont.)

Section 105(nn). Veterinarian.

The AAVSB defines Veterinarian as an individual who is licensed by the Board. While some argue that the term Veterinarian belongs to individuals by virtue of the receipt of a degree, the AAVSB opted to mandate limitation of use of the term “Veterinarian” to Licensees. Without such distinction, those complaining of deceptive trade practices or misrepresentation by unlicensed individuals would be forced to seek recourse through civil action or would have to rely upon criminal prosecution through the state’s attorney. The Act allows for the Board to take action against those who violate the title protection provisions of the Act.

It must be emphasized that the title restriction does not prevent an individual from referencing a valid educational degree (i.e. DVM) or other recognized credential (i.e. VMD). See also the comment to Section 301(b) of the Act.

Section 105(oo). Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR).

The AAVSB determined that the requirement of the VCPR must be specified through general statutory language. Under certain circumstances, the failure to have statutory language that requires the establishment of the VCPR may severely hinder the Board’s ability to prosecute or pursue administrative disciplinary actions against Licensees. While the requirement for a VCPR is in statute, the method for how that VCPR should be established may be in regulations. This allows the Board, rather than special interest groups, to determine the essential steps that establish this relationship.

In 2025, the AAVSB Delegate Assembly passed Resolution 2025-3. This resolution, available on AAVSB.org, indicates that AAVSB Member Boards do not support the establishment of a VCPR solely by virtual means. It further resolves that the practice of Veterinary Medicine is deemed to occur where the patient is located and there must be enforceable requirements for access to in-person veterinary care.

The American Veterinary Medical Association provides language for requiring an in-person examination of the patient. “Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) The veterinarian-client-patient relationship is the basis for veterinary care. To establish such a relationship all of the following are required: [...] The licensed veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition(s) of the patient. This means that the licensed veterinarian is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient by virtue of: a timely in-person physical examination of the patient by the licensed veterinarian, and/or medically appropriate and timely visits by the licensed veterinarian to the operation where the patient is kept...”

Commentary: Article I. Title, Purpose, and Definitions. Section 105. (cont.)

Section 105(oo). Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR). (cont.)

The in-person VCPR as defined by the CFR under Title 21-Food and Drugs applies only to the prescribing and dispensing of drugs and is not a federal requirement for the practice of Veterinary Medicine. Therefore, Jurisdictions may or may not require it and may modify it when requiring it to practice. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, state legislatures within the United States are either confirming the requirement for an in-person VCPR or are explicitly removing that requirement. For this reason, it was deemed important to continue to provide regulatory language for the establishment of a virtual VCPR. This regulatory language provides safeguards for jurisdictions to review, should that state legislature allow for a virtual VCPR.

The AAVSB recommends that each jurisdiction promulgate appropriate regulations clarifying how to establish a VCPR and who may be included within the scope of a single VCPR such as a Veterinarian or another Veterinarian within the same practice group with access to medical records. The AAVSB recommends incorporation of the separate “**Model Regulations: Establishment and Maintenance of a Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship.**” It is essential for the VCPR to be easily established to require the Veterinarian to assume responsibility for the veterinary medical services rendered. Furthermore, as standards of practice and codes of conduct change over time, it is easier to promulgate new rules incorporating such changes rather than adopting legislative modifications.

Section 105(pp). Veterinary Facility.

“Veterinary Facility” is defined with the intention that Jurisdictions license or otherwise register facilities or issue facility permits as a mechanism for protecting the public, especially when such facilities are owned by non-veterinarians (see Section 309). Regulatory boards can thereafter establish standards and monitor compliance of such facilities. Indeed, most Jurisdictions already provide for such regulation.

The AAVSB recommends that boards use their rules to distinguish among different types of Veterinary Facilities (e.g., brick and mortar, mobile units, etc.), as minimum standards of and allowable practices within each may differ.

Section 105(uu). Veterinary Technician.

The AAVSB believes that the title “Veterinary Technician” and the practice of Veterinary Technology should be protected as a licensed profession, and this is reflected in the Act. Some jurisdictions have used other terminology or created separate scopes of practice such as veterinary technologist or veterinary nurse. AAVSB has decided at this time to only regulate Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians in the model Act while also creating model regulations for tasks that may be delegated to unlicensed staff.

Section 1065. Practice of Veterinary Medicine.

The practice of Veterinary Medicine means:

- (a) An individual practices Veterinary Medicine when performing any one or more of the following on a Patient(s):
- (1) Directly or indirectly ~~consults~~, diagnoses, prognoses, corrects, supervises, recommends, consults, or ~~or~~ performs medical, dental, or ~~or~~ surgical treatment, ~~including~~ including Complementary and Alternative Therapies, for the diagnosis, prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, defect, deformity, fracture, bodily injury, disease, physical, behavioral, or mental condition;
 - (2) Prescribes, dispenses, or administers a drug, medicine, anesthetic, biologic, appliance, apparatus, application, or treatment for the purposes of (1);
 - (3) Performs any manual procedure for the diagnosis and/or treatment of pregnancy, sterility, or infertility; or
 - (4) Makes a determination of the health, fitness, or soundness of a Patient(s);
- (b) ~~Subject to exceptions set forth in law, a~~ A VCPR-Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) must be established prior to engaging in the practice of Veterinary Medicine, except for in the following circumstances:
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 - (1) Emergency Care performed by a Veterinarian after the Veterinarian has made reasonable efforts to obtain Informed Consent and establish a VCPR;
 - (2) Where the Animal is wild, feral, or owner unknown;
 - (3) A Veterinarian inspects an Animal(s) or group of Animals physical condition or Medical Record on behalf of a potential buyer or potential seller, and
 - (4) Public health-conducted vaccination clinics.

~~—An exception to this requirement is that Emergency Care may be performed by a Veterinarian prior to the establishment of a VCPR.~~

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Commentary: Article I. Section 106. Practice of Veterinary Medicine.

Section 106(a).

The practice of Veterinary Medicine or the scope of practice is one of the most important and most-discussed definitions in the PAM. Veterinary Medicine is a dynamic profession, particularly over the past several years with the adoption of telehealth, and any definition of practice needs to contain a degree of flexibility that will allow the Board to make necessary adjustments from time to time to meet a changing Veterinary Medicine environment, an evolving practice, and the ongoing needs of consumers. For model regulatory language for telehealth and telemedicine, see the **AAVSB's Model Regulation: Telehealth and the Virtual Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology**. The definition in Section 105 is purposely broad to provide substantial latitude to the Board in the adoption and implementation of rules. However, the definition does specifically identify a range of acceptable activities. The rules process would function as an important tool in the Board's efforts to adapt the definition to the needs of its Jurisdiction, since any new or amended rules that the Board may implement would be promulgated within the requirements of the Jurisdiction's Administrative Procedures Act and would afford all interested parties an opportunity to provide review and comment.

Section 106(b).

AAVSB recommends that boards promulgate regulations for the establishment and maintenance of a VCPR. Most Jurisdictions already provide as much and the failure to establish a VCPR may constitute grounds for charges of professional misconduct. Refer to the **AAVSB's Model Regulations: Establishment and Maintenance of a VCPR**.

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Section 1076. Practice of Veterinary Technology.

(a) The practice of Veterinary Technology means providing professional medical care, monitoring, treatment, or other services.

(a) _____

An individual practices Veterinary Technology when performing any one or more of the following on a Patient(s):

(1) Provision of professional medical care, monitoring, and treatment under Supervision of a Veterinarian;

(2) Representation of oneself directly or indirectly, as engaged in the practice of Veterinary Technology; or

(b) A Veterinary Technician may only engage in the Practice of Veterinary Technology under the Supervision of a Veterinarian who has established a VCPR for the Animal(s), subject to 106(b).

(1) An exception to this requirement is that Emergency Care may be administered by a Veterinary Technician prior to receiving a Veterinarian's orders or Supervision. The Veterinary Technician shall inform the Client if a Veterinarian is not immediately available to provide Emergency Care to the Animal(s).

(c) ~~(3)~~ Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a Veterinary Technician to do the following:

(1) (i) perform surgery, except as expressly permitted in regulations promulgated by the Board;

(2) (ii) diagnose;

(3) (iii) prognose; and

(4) (iv) prescribe.

(b) Regulations defining tasks of Veterinary Technicians:

(d) The Board shall promulgate regulations establishing the minimum level of Supervision for the practice of Veterinary Technology as set forth in (b). Patient health care tasks and an appropriate degree of Supervision required for those tasks that may be performed by a Veterinary Technician or a Veterinarian.

(1) Subject to exceptions set forth in law, a VCPR must be established prior to engaging in the practice of Veterinary Technology under a Veterinarian's orders and Supervision.

~~(4)~~(1) (i) An exception to this requirement is that Emergency Care may be

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~~performed by a Veterinary Technician prior to receiving a Veterinarian's Supervision.~~

Commentary: Article I. Section 107. Practice of Veterinary Technology.

Section 107(a).

Through education and licensure, Veterinary Technicians contribute essential skills, knowledge, and judgement to the practice of Veterinary Medicine. In developing model regulations for the Scope of Practice for Veterinary Technicians, AAVSB highlighted the professional and practical contributions these Licensees provide when utilized to their full Scope of Practice. To help Jurisdictions understand the broad spectrum of responsibilities these Licensees may undertake, AAVSB developed the regulations for **Scope of Practice for Veterinary Technicians** in a format of task lists and levels of Supervision. AAVSB recognizes that there are advantages and disadvantages to this level of specificity in regulation, and AAVSB intends for this to provide guidance for Jurisdictions regulating these professionals, whether the "list" model is adopted or not.

In 2025, the AAVSB Delegate Assembly passed resolution 2025-2 with the following statement: "THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AAVSB shall focus its efforts on strengthening and harmonizing recognition and utilization of existing credentialed veterinary technicians (CVTs, LVTs, and RVTs), particularly in jurisdictions where such roles are not yet formally recognized." In addition, AAVSB's 2024 white paper "**AAVSB Veterinary Team Survey: Understanding the Results**" suggested that Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians may be comfortable with non-veterinarians performing some minor procedures that may be considered surgery because they involve making an incision. The AAVSB narrowed the definition of Surgery, as seen in Section 104, to allow Veterinary Technicians to perform tasks such as creating relief holes for large bore catheters. Some additional tasks that may be acceptable for Veterinary Technicians to perform remained under the definition of Surgery, consequently Section 106 (a)(3)(i) allows boards to make exceptions for specific procedures. The AAVSB suggests some of these activities in **AAVSB Model Regulations: Scope of Practice for Veterinary Technicians**.

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Section 1087. Virtual Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary

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Technology.

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(a) The practice of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology in this Jurisdiction through electronic or other technological means, regardless of the location of the practitioner, shall constitute the practice of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology and shall be subject to regulation under this Act.

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(b) The practice of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology by a practitioner in this Jurisdiction through electronic or other technological means, regardless of the location of the Client(s)/Patient(s), shall constitute the practice of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology and shall be subject to regulation under this Act.

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(c) Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians shall take all necessary measures to ensure compliance with relevant practice standards.

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Commentary: Article I. Section 108. Virtual Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology.

Section 108.

In 2025, the AAVSB Delegate Assembly passed Resolution 2025-3, affirming that the Practice of Veterinary Medicine occurs where the Patient is located. Further, and consistent with the PAM, practice under virtual circumstances also occurs where the Veterinarian is located. See AAVSB.org for the text of the resolution.

See also: **AAVSB Model Regulations: Telehealth and the Virtual Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology.**

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Section 1098. Special Provisions.

The licensure requirements of the Act shall not apply to the following:

- (a) Any veterinary medical officer ~~employed practicing Veterinary Medicine employed by or in the service of~~ by a governmental body ~~practicing Veterinary Medicine~~ within the scope of their official duties, ~~provided such Veterinary Medicine is limited to the period of employment;~~
- (b) Any Animal care provider ~~employed practicing Veterinary Technology employed by or in the service of~~ by a governmental body ~~practicing Veterinary Technology~~ within the scope of their official duties, ~~provided such Veterinary Technology is limited to the period of employment;~~
- (c) Any individual offering gratuitous services in cases of emergency;
- (d) Any veterinarian who is licensed in another Jurisdiction or country, or any Person whose expertise, in the opinion of a Veterinarian would benefit an Animal, and who is consulting with the Veterinarian, provided such service is limited to the Consultation;
- (e) Any Veterinary Student who practices Veterinary Medicine under the appropriate supervision level of a Veterinarian as part of the curriculum of an Approved Veterinary Medical Program;
- ~~(e)~~ (f) Any Veterinary Technician Student who practices Veterinary Technology under the appropriate supervision level of a Veterinarian as part of the curriculum of an Approved Veterinary Technology Program;
- ~~(f)~~ (f) Unlicensed Staff providing support services and performing tasks delegated by a Licensee, pursuant to task limitations and Supervision levels established in 106 (c) and regulations promulgated by the Board;
- ~~(b)(g)~~ (g) An Animal Shelter employee or volunteer staff who provides care and performs euthanasia for the shelter's Animals, if the following conditions are met:
 - (1) the euthanasia is performed in the course and scope of the individual's employment or duties;
 - (2) the individual has successfully completed training acceptable to the Board; and
 - (3) the individual is acting under the Supervision of a Veterinarian or in accordance with the written guidelines of a Veterinarian.
Such individuals shall not diagnose, prognose, prescribe or perform surgery;
- (h) Any Persons engaged in scientific research that reasonably requires experimentation involving Animals and is conducted in a facility that complies with federal and jurisdictional regulations regarding Animal welfare;

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- (i) Any Person or that Person’s employee or authorized representative, who, ~~subject to the Jurisdiction’s anti-cruelty laws~~, treats Animals belonging to that Person, providing that:
 - (1) That person adheres to Jurisdictional anti-cruelty laws,
 - (2) ownership is not transferred for the purpose of circumventing this Act; and

~~(ii)(3) Such acts do not include Surgery, except for dehorning and livestock castration.~~
- (j) Any veterinarian or veterinary technician who is licensed in good standing in another Jurisdiction or country and is providing veterinary services in response to a Declared 7 Emergency or a case involving Animal cruelty or fighting, provided a request for such assistance is received from a government, law enforcement, or Animal protection agency;
- (k) Any veterinarian who is licensed in good standing in another Jurisdiction or country and is providing a Continuing Education course or training at an Approved Veterinary Medical Program or Approved Veterinary Technology Program or in connection with an Approved Program of Continuing Education.

Commentary: Article I. Section 109. Special Provisions.

Section 109(e).

The special provision for students who practice at a veterinary teaching hospital or under the Immediate or Direct Supervision of a Veterinarian is intended to be restricted to those students who have completed some basic clinical courses and are pursuing completion of the program's experience component. After much discussion and review of the comments, the AAVSB chose to leave the time period blank. Jurisdictions should determine the requisite time period, which can be reflected in hours, percentages or years. Similarly, Jurisdictions should determine the appropriate prerequisites to be completed before Veterinary Technology students are permitted to practice Veterinary Technology.

With regards to faculty, the AAVSB noted that several Jurisdictions already require full licensure of faculty who teach clinical curriculum. Others require faculty licenses or institution licenses. The AAVSB feels strongly that Veterinary Medicine faculty involved in direct, clinical relations with the public and its Patients should be licensed.

Through the AAVSB PAM comment process, however, concerns were voiced regarding the practical implications such a licensure requirement would have on the education, recruitment of faculty and the undertaking of research and other important projects related to the educational process. In recognition of the practical implications such a requirement might have on educational institutions, the AAVSB PAM, provides a faculty license in Section 306. To protect the public and to prevent Persons from circumventing the licensure requirements, the faculty license is limited to bona fide faculty members who teach courses in Approved Veterinary Medical Programs.

Section 109(f).

Refer to AAVSB Model Regulations for Delegation of Tasks to Unlicensed Staff for a list of tasks that may be delegated to Facility Staff who are not licensed.

Section 109(g).

A special provision is granted in the PAM to Animal Shelter employees who perform euthanasia. The AAVSB acknowledges that many Jurisdictions have adopted more specific language requiring that shelter Animals be euthanized by certified euthanasia technicians when a Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician is not available. Furthermore, Jurisdictions may wish to restrict the delegation of veterinary responsibilities to care designed to prevent disease transmission-i.e., vaccinations, prophylactic control of endo and ectoparasites, diagnostic testing and euthanasia.

A variety of certification methods have emerged through the rules process. To train euthanasia technicians, some Boards have established guidelines to certify euthanasia technicians whereas other Boards have little involvement.

Commentary: Article I. Section 109. Special Provisions. (cont.)

Section 109(j).

See section 305: Qualifications for Temporary License and Emergency Practice. This allows Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians to practice temporarily in response to a Declared Emergency.

Section 109(k).

If Continuing Education is provided by a veterinarian licensed in another jurisdiction and involves a client-owned Animal, AAVSB recommends that Boards require the Supervision of a Veterinarian.