



KENTUCKY BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

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Kentucky Veterinary Medicine Practice Act Modernization Highlights

The Kentucky Veterinary Medicine Practice Act declares that the practice of veterinary medicine is a privilege granted by legislative authority in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare. In 2021, the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) conducted an in-depth review of two national Practice Act Models, one from the **American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)** and one from the **American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)**. In 2022, the KBVE hosted 15 stakeholder meetings, both regional and species specific. Compiled feedback was used to refine the proposed draft, providing a comprehensive legislative package to modernize the professions of veterinary medicine in Kentucky.

Modernization Highlights

- 1) **Expanded Definitions.** Provides a common language for discussions with all stakeholders.
- 2) **Additional Clarifying Statutes.**
 - a) **Renewals.** Clarifies renewal and reinstatement requirements for all credentials.
 - b) **Animal Control Agencies (ACAs) and Animal Euthanasia Specialists (AESs).** Makes clear oversight responsibilities for ACAs related to controlled substances and the restricted duties of the AES.
 - c) **Medical Records.** Explains the minimum standards for medical records.
- 3) **Criminal Background Checks.** Required by the FBI for direct results to the board on new applicants.
- 4) **Telehealth.** Provides a framework for telehealth, clarifying when telehealth requires the establishment of an in person veterinary-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) and when it may be used without a VCPR.
- 5) **Addition of Veterinary Facility Registrations and Voluntary Inspection Program.** Enables the board to:
 - a) Better understand and work to lessen veterinary shortages in the Commonwealth;
 - b) Define responsible parties in corporate or non-licensee owned practices;
 - c) Address constituent complaints about basic standards of care;
 - d) Provide transparent standards that are accessible to practitioners and the public; and
 - e) Offer a voluntary inspection program to assist and inform licensees about current standards of practice, helping elevate the practice of veterinary medicine, and reduce complaints to the board.KBVE intends to phase in registration of veterinary facilities by 2025.
- 6) **Clarifying the Roles of Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Assistants.** Clarifies title protections for licensed veterinary technician (LVT) classes, and aids veterinarians in fully utilizing the skills of their trained staff.
- 7) **Educational Awards.** Forms an award committee of stakeholders to provide contractual awards to aid in relieving shortages in the workforce, primarily in food animal services and rural areas.
- 8) **Allied Animal Health Professional Permits.** In response to requests from stakeholder groups, creates a new permit class for allied animal health professionals practicing equine dentistry and animal chiropractic.
- 9) **Increased Board Authority.** Incorporated at the request of a significant majority of stakeholders, provides the board increased authority to take action against those in violation of the Practice Act and those offering veterinary services without a board credential.