

The seal of the Department of Health, Government of the United States Virgin Islands, is a circular emblem. It features a central figure of a caduceus (a staff with two snakes entwined around it and wings at the top) set against a background of a sun with rays. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "Government of the United States Virgin Islands" at the top and "Department of Health" at the bottom, separated by a decorative border of small yellow and blue segments.

This document contains the VI Board of Veterinary Medicine **updated** Rules and Regulations. These Rules and Regulations will be posted for at least 30 days and open to public comments.

Please email your comments to viboardslicensure@gmail.com.

VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
*Rules and Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary
Medicine and Technology in the United States Virgin Islands*

Submitted this _____ day of _____, 2020

to

GOVERNOR ALBERT A. BRYAN, JR.

By

Chairman

Virgin Islands Board of Veterinary Medicine

COPY BELOW IS HEREBY CERTIFIED to be a true and correct copy of rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the authority granted in Title Twenty-seven of the Virgin Islands

Code, Chapter, Three, Section 179 to the Board of Veterinary Medicine the Virgin Islands.

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STATEMENT OF STATUTORY AUTHORITY

In accordance with Title Twenty-seven of the Virgin Islands Code, Chapter Three, Section 179, the Board of Veterinary Medicine hereby establish the following Rules and Regulations. All definitions as outlined in the Virgin Islands Code will be understood to apply to the following Rules and Regulations.

APPLICATION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To establish the requirements for each individual who wishes to perform or assist in the performance of veterinary medicine in the United States Virgin Islands.

EFFECTIVE DATE

These Amended Veterinary Medicine and Technology Rules and Regulations shall be effective as of the ____ day of _____, 2020

SECTIONS:

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-1 - Board of Veterinary Medicine

- (a) The officers of the Board are:
 - (1) Chairman
 - (2) Vice-Chairman
 - (3) Secretary
- (b) Meetings of the Board shall be called by the Chairman:

- (1) Whenever there are business matters to come before the Board.
 - (2) For the purpose of holding examination for a license to practice veterinary medicine in the United States Virgin Islands; and
 - (3) At least once per year.
- (c) Meetings shall be open to the public except when the Board shall meet in closed session to prepare, approve, or administer examinations, or to deliberate the qualification of an applicant for licensure or the disposition of a proceeding to discipline a licensed veterinarian.
- (d) Except as may be otherwise provided, a majority of the Board constitutes a quorum.
- (e) At its initial meeting of any fiscal year, the Board shall organize by electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary, and any other officers as directed by rule.
- (f) The duties of the Chairman are:
- (1) to call and conduct all meetings of the Board.
 - (2) to preside over all the activities of the Board.
 - (3) to affix his signature to all documents upon which the seal is used and to function as custodian of the seal.
- (g) The duties of the Vice-Chairman are:
- (1) to function as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman
 - (2) to affix his signature to all documents upon which the seal is used.

- (3) to perform such duties as directed by rule.
- (h) The duties of the Secretary are:
 - (1) to keep and record the minutes of all meetings
 - (2) to affix his signature to all documents upon which the seal is used.
 - (3) to continue the correspondence of the Board
- (i) Permanent accounts and records of all receipts and disbursements by the Board shall be the responsibility of the Office of the Commissioner of Health.
- (j) All Board records shall be open to the public inspections at the main office of the Commissioner of Health during regular working hours.
- (k) At the end of each fiscal year, the Office of the Commissioner of Health shall submit to the Governor the annual report of the transactions of the Board.

**CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-2 - Requirements for Licensure
to Practice Veterinary Medicine or Technology in the
United States Virgin Islands**

- (a) No person may practice veterinary medicine in the Territory who is not a licensed veterinarian or holder of a valid temporary permit issued by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Board. This act shall not be construed to prohibit:
 - (1) An employee of the federal or local government performing his official duties.
 - (2) A person who is a regular student in an accredited or approved college of veterinary medicine performing duties or actions or working under the

direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian during a school vacation period or as externship.

- (3) A veterinarian regularly licensed in another state, territory, or commonwealth consulting with a licensed veterinarian in this territory. The Board is to be notified prior to his arrival.
- (4) Any merchant or manufacturer from selling drugs, medicine, equipment, or other products used in the prevention or treatment of animal diseases if such drug, medicine, or equipment or other product is marked by the appropriate federal label. Such merchants or manufacturers shall not either directly or indirectly attempt to diagnose a symptom or disease in order to advise treatment, use of drugs, medicine, equipment, or other drugs.
- (5) The owner of an animal and the owner's full-time regular employee caring for and treating the animal belonging to such owner, except where the ownership of the animal was transferred for the purpose of circumventing this act; however, only a licensed veterinarian may immunize or treat an animal for diseases which are communicable to humans and which are of public health significance, except as otherwise provided for by the Board by rule.
- (6) Any person selling or applying any pesticide, insecticide, or herbicide.
- (7) A graduate of a foreign college of veterinary medicine who is in the process of obtaining an ECFVG or PAVE certificate, performing duties or

actions under the direction or supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

- (8) Anyone practicing veterinary medicine under this section 2 -7 must notify the Board 6 weeks before they start work, and file an updated status report every 6 months with the Board until ECFVG or PAVE certificate is received.
- (b) Notification and Board approval is required for those covered in Subsection (1)-(3) and (7) of this Section before performing veterinary practice.
- (c) Application for licensure shall be sent to the Secretary for the Board of Examiners
- (d) For the Practice of Veterinary Medicine, applicant shall comply with all the requirements as set down in the Virgin Islands Code 27 V.I.C. § 171 et seq. Ninety (90) days prior to the next scheduled examination date, the applicant must satisfy all of the following conditions, and all of the following required documentation must be received in the Office of the Commissioner of Health:
 - (1) Apply on the form prescribed by and obtainable from the Secretary of the Board.
 - (2) Submit a recent dated unmounted photograph of passport size of himself/herself, autographed across the back.
 - (3) Submit a police report from place of residence for the four (4) years immediately previous to application.
 - (4) Submit a chronological account of all time spent between the date of graduation from veterinary school and the time of application

- (5) Be a graduate of an accredited school of veterinary medicine as stipulated by the American Veterinary Medical Association or have a valid ECFVG or PAVE certificate. Documents attesting to the above must be furnished.
- (6) Be 21 years of age or older. Birth Certificate or similar proof must be provided.
- (7) Be of good moral character as shown by at least 2 letters of favorable character testimony by colleagues in the profession.
- (8) not be addicted to intemperate use of alcoholic stimulants or narcotic drugs.
- (9) Submit a VIVA application and appropriate fee to VIVA to authorize verification of professional lives.
- (10) The applicant must have passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE or NBE/CCT) with an overall score greater than 75. Score must be verified by the AAVSB
- (11) If the Board determines that the applicant possesses the proper qualifications, it shall admit the applicant to the next examination. If the applicant is found not qualified to take the examination or for a license without examination, the Office of the Commissioner of Health shall immediately notify the applicant in writing of such findings and the grounds, therefore.

- (12) An applicant found not qualified may request a hearing on the question of his qualifications under the procedure set forth in subsection (10).
- (e) For the Practice of Veterinary Technology, applicant shall comply with all the requirements as set down in the Virgin Islands Code 27 V.I.C. § 171 et seq. Ninety (90) days prior to the next scheduled examination date, the applicant must satisfy all of the following conditions, and all of the following required documentation must be received in the Office of the Commissioner of Health:
- (1) Application should be submitted on the form prescribed by and obtainable from the Secretary of the Board.
 - (2) Submit a recent dated unmounted photograph of passport size of himself/herself, autographed across the back.
 - (3) Submit a police report from place of residence for the last 4 years. Submit a chronological account of all time spent between the date of graduation from veterinary technology and the time of application.
 - (4) Be a graduate of an Approved Program of Veterinary Technology
 - (5) Be 18 years of age or older. Birth Certificate or similar proof must be provided.
 - (6) Be of good moral character as shown by at least 2 letters of favorable character testimony by colleagues in the profession.

- (7) Not be addicted to intemperate use of alcoholic stimulants or narcotic drugs.
- (8) The applicant must have passed the AAVSB Veterinary Technology Examination (NVTE) with an overall score greater than 75%. Score must be verified by the AAVSB
- (9) If the Board determines that the applicant possesses the proper qualifications, it shall admit the applicant to the next examination. If the applicant is found not qualified to take the examination or for a license without examination, the Office of the Commissioner of Health shall immediately notify the applicant in writing of such findings and the grounds, therefore. An applicant found not qualified may request a hearing on the question of his qualifications under the procedure set forth in subsection (8).

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-3 - Examination for Licensure

- (a) The Office of the Commissioner of Health shall give public notice of the time and place of each examination at the beginning of each fiscal year - at least 120 days prior to the examination dates. Examination will be administered at least twice a year. Applicants shall apply, all pertaining documents, and the registration and examination fees at least 90 days prior to the examination.
- (b) Examinations shall be scheduled in accordance with dates set forth by the Professional Examination Services representing the National Board of

Veterinary Medical Examiners. Candidates for examination for veterinary licensure by the Board shall be examined by completing the Species-Specific Examination endorsed by the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

- (c) Candidates for admission to practice shall be required to receive a passing score of 75% as reported by the Professional Testing Services to the AAVSB. If the candidate passes the examination and has met all other requirements as listed in section 2 of these rules and regulations, the Board shall recommend to the Commissioner of Health that the candidate be granted a license attested by the Chairman and Secretary. After each examination, the Board shall notify the Commissioner of the results of the examination within 30 days. Any person failing the examination may be admitted to two subsequent examination upon payment of the examination fee.
- (d) Candidates will be allowed not more than two re-examinations before being required to present evidence of additional training of at least 6 months in approved institutions and that meets the approval of the Board. Approval should be requested before training is undertaken.

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-4 - License Registration

- (a) The license is to be registered in the Office of the Commissioner of Health within 60 days, and the appropriate fees paid. After being registered with the Commissioner, the license shall be deemed to have

received conclusive evidence of the right to practice veterinary medicine or technology in the United States Virgin Islands.

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-5 - License Renewal

- (a) The Office of the Commissioner of Health shall mail a notice to each licensed veterinarian every two years that his license will expire on September 30 and provide him/her with a form for re-registration. The Office of the Commissioner shall issue a new certificate of registration to all persons registering under this Act.
- (b) All United States Virgin Islands licensed veterinarians must provide certification of RACE approved continuing education in the amount of 30 hours every 2 years to be eligible for license renewal.
- (c) Proof of current veterinary medical malpractice insurance must be submitted to be eligible for license renewal.

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-6 - Temporary Permits for Relief Coverage

- (a) The Board must receive a formal request in writing giving the specific time coverage is needed, and the reason, therefore.
- (b) All credentials of the proposed applicant, including current license in another state, proof of graduation from an accredited school of veterinary medicine, as recognized by the AVMA, must be received by the Board, and all copies must be legible.
- (c) All credentials and the letter of request must be in the Office of the Commissioner of Health at least 4 weeks prior to the date of relief coverage.

- (d) Applicants for relief coverage must obtain proper approval and temporary licenses prior to commencing practice.
- (e) Temporary permits for relief coverage will be available for no more than 60 days in a calendar year. The 60-day limit applies to the United States Virgin Islands licensed veterinarian and the applying relief veterinarian.
- (f) Temporary permits are for relief of a licensed United States Virgin Islands veterinarian who is off island or unable to work due to other circumstances.

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-7 - Temporary Permits for Examination Applicants

- (a) Temporary permits may be requested to cover the period while waiting to take the next scheduled examination. Such temporary permits will be limited to 3 in number for a maximum of 6 months each, to cover the period for an initial examination and two subsequent re-examinations in the case of failure to pass.
- (b) For receipt of such a temporary permit, documentation must be provided as for licensure. This must be submitted to the Board for approval before a permit will be granted. Approval by the Board must be received prior to commencing practice.

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-8 - License by Endorsement

- (a) To be eligible for license by endorsement the applicant must meet all of the following requirements:
 - (1) Veterinarians:

- (A) Complete application and supporting documents as outlined in CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-2 of these rules and regulations.
 - (B) Have actively practiced clinical veterinary medicine for 3000 hours during the 5 years preceding the application, or consecutive years since graduation from an Approved Program of Veterinary Medicine as verified by the appropriate state veterinary board.
 - (C) Currently hold a valid veterinary license in a United States jurisdiction.
 - (D) Have passed the NAVLE **or NBE examination with a score of 75% or greater as verified by the AAVSB.**
- (2) **Technicians and Technologists:**
- (A) **Complete application and supporting documents as outlined in Section 2 of these rules and regulations.**
 - (B) **Have actively practiced veterinary technology for 1000 hours during the 2 years preceding the application, or consecutive years since graduation from an Approved Program of Veterinary Technology.**
 - (C) **Currently hold a valid Veterinary Technician/Technologist license in a United States jurisdiction.**
 - (D) **Have passed the AAVSB approved examination (NVTE) for licensure of veterinary technicians.**

- (b) **Having met the above requirements, the applicant will be eligible for licensure based on the recommendation from the Board.**

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-9 - Lapsed Licenses

- (a) Every license issued under the provisions of the Veterinary Practice Act shall expire every two years but may be renewed by the licensee upon application for renewal and payment of renewal fees.
- (b) At least 30 days before expiration of licenses, the Office of the Commissioner of Health shall send a notice of renewal and an application for renewal, along with any other forms that must be completed for renewal, as required by the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, to each licensee of record. This shall be mailed to the licensee's last known business address. Neither the failure to mail nor the failure to receive the notice and application shall relieve any licensee of the duty to make application for renewal or to pay the necessary renewal fees. The failure to mail or to receive the notice and application will not exempt the licensee from the penalties provided by CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-10 and CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-13.
- (c) If a licensee fails to submit an application and fees within 60 days of expiration of his license, the Office of the Commissioner shall notify the licensee that the application and fees have not been received and that his failure to respond within 15 days will result in the recommendation to the Commissioner of Health that his license should be revoked. The notification required shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested,

to the licensee's last known business and/or residence addresses. If the application and fees are not returned within 15 days after the return receipt is received, the licensee's license shall be revoked. The Office of the Commissioner of Health shall give notice to the licensee of the revocation by certified mail, return receipt requested, at his last known business and residence addresses.

- (d) If a person is otherwise eligible to renew his license, he may renew his lapsed license within 2 years of the date of expiration or revocation. To renew such expired license the person shall apply for renewal to the Board, pay the renewal fee, pay all delinquent renewal fees, and pay any penalties as described in Section 10. Upon a finding of extenuating circumstances, the Board may waive payment of the penalty fee; however, nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring such a waiver. If more than two years have passed since the date the license expired, the license may not be renewed. The holder of such expired license must apply under the procedures for a new license as described in the Veterinary Practice Act.

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-10 - Inactive Licenses

- (a) **If a licensee is not practicing veterinary medicine or technology in the United States Virgin Islands, does not live in the United States Virgin Islands at present, and does not intend to practice veterinary medicine or technology in the United States Virgin Islands within the next year, he may renew his license biannually with inactive status. Written application**

must be made to the Office of the Commissioner, and all fees are due annually as described in CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-15.

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-11 - Hearing Procedure

- (a) A hearing shall be held no sooner than 20 days after written notice to a licensed veterinarian or technician of a complaint against him, or, in the case of a person whose application for a license is denied, no sooner than twenty (20) days after receipt by the Board of a written request for a hearing. Notice of the time and place of the hearing, along with a copy of the complaint filed, shall be served on a licensee by registered mail or by hand delivery with signature required.
- (b) The applicant or licensee shall have the right to be heard in person or by counsel, the right to have subpoenaed the attendance of witnesses in his behalf, and the right to cross-examine witnesses appearing against him. Strict rules of evidence shall not apply.
- (c) Sworn statements of the charges must be furnished to the Board. All testimony before the Board will be under oath.
- (d) Charges must be brought before the Board within a maximum of three years from the date of occurrence of any alleged act by any veterinarian.

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-12 - Reinstatement

- (a) Any person whose license is suspended or revoked may, at the discretion of the Board be reinstated at any time, without examination, by a majority vote of the Board on written application made to the Board showing cause justifying relicensing or reinstatement.
- (b) Nothing in Subsection (a) of this section shall be construed as requiring the Board to reinstate a license due to a showing of justification. Such relicensing or reinstatement is within the sole discretion of the Board.
- (c) The Board may condition such reinstatement or relicensing as it deems appropriate under the circumstances, including, but not limited to, restricting or limiting the person's practice or placing the person on probation under terms and conditions set by the Board.

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-13 - Abandoned Animals

- (a) Any animal placed in the custody of a licensed veterinarian for treatment, boarding, or other care, which is unclaimed by its owner or its owner's agent for more than ten days after written notice is sent to owner's or owner's agent's address by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by notice in the newspaper, shall be deemed abandoned. Such animal may be turned over to the nearest humane society, or otherwise disposed of or destroyed by the licensed veterinarian in a humane manner.
- (b) If notice is sent as in Subsection 1 of this section, the licensed veterinarian is relieved of any further liability for disposal. If a licensed veterinarian follows the

- procedures of this section, he shall not be subject to disciplinary action unless he failed to provide proper notification to the owner or owner's agent.
- (c) For the purposes of this section, the term “abandoned” means to forsake entirely, or to neglect or refuse to provide or perform the legal obligations for the care and support of an animal, or to refuse to pay for treatment or other services without an assertion of good cause. Such abandonment shall constitute the relinquishment of all rights and claims by the owner to such animal.
 - (d) If an animal should die while in the custody of a licensed veterinarian for the purpose of treatment, boarding or other care, the licensed veterinarian may perform necropsy after reasonable attempts to notify the owner and obtain permission have failed. The licensed veterinarian shall maintain or otherwise store the corpse for a period of at least three days following such death, or three days after notification of the owner, whichever is longer, but not more than 30 days, after which time the corpse may be disposed of in any lawful manner.
 - (e) **The disposal of an abandoned or deceased animal shall not relieve the owner or owner's agent of any financial obligation incurred for treatment, boarding, or other care provided by the veterinarian.**

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-14 - Medical Records

- (a) **Medical records must be kept on patients for three years after patient was last seen by that veterinarian, or for three years after that animal's demise, if known by the veterinarian.**

**CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-15 - Veterinary Technicians,
Technologists and Assistants**

- (a) Veterinary technicians or technologists are graduates of Approved Programs in Veterinary Technology as defined in the Practice Act. Veterinary Assistants are those individuals in the employ of a Licensed Veterinarian that have not met the qualifications of the Licensed Technician or Technologist set forth in the Practice Act. The purpose of the chapter is to outline the scope of practice for veterinary technicians, technologists and assistants and outline the level of supervision required when those individuals perform assigned animal care tasks.
- (b) Direct supervision means that the duly licensed veterinarian is on the premises and is quickly and easily available and that the animal patient has been examined by a licensed veterinarian. A licensed veterinary technician or technologist, working under the direction and control of a duly licensed veterinarian may provide the following animal patient care only under direct supervision:
- (1) Induction of anesthesia and intubation.
 - (2) Dental Prophylaxis.
 - (A) Extractions requiring periodontal elevation may only be performed by a Licensed Veterinarian.
 - (3) Euthanasia.
- (c) Indirect supervision means the duly licensed veterinarian is not on the premises but has given either

written or oral instructions for the treatment of the animal patient and the animal has been examined by a licensed veterinarian at such times as acceptable veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular delegated health care task. A licensed veterinary technician or technologist, working under the direction and control of a duly licensed veterinarian may provide the following animal patient care under indirect supervision:

- (1) Venipuncture.
 - (2) Administration of controlled substances.
 - (3) Vaccination.
 - (4) Urethral Catheterization.
 - (5) Venous Catheterization.
 - (6) Radiography.
- (d) Immediate supervision means the duly licensed veterinarian is within audible and visual range of both the animal patient and the person being supervised. A Veterinary Assistant, working under the direction, and control of a duly licensed veterinarian may provide the following animal patient care only under immediate supervision:
- (1) Induction of anesthesia and intubation.
 - (2) Dental Prophylaxis.
 - (A) Extractions requiring periodontal elevation can only be performed by a Licensed Veterinarian.
 - (3) Euthanasia.

- (e) A Veterinary Assistant, working under the direction and control of a duly licensed veterinarian may provide the following animal patient care under indirect supervision:
- (1) Venipuncture.
 - (2) Administration of controlled substances.
 - (3) Vaccination.
 - (4) Venous Catheterization.
 - (5) Radiography.

**CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-16 - Cannabidiol
(CBD/Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC))**

- (a) **Until a Federal Drug Administration approved Cannabidiol (CBD/Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) product is approved for animal use, and is legalized in the Virgin Islands for administration to animals, it is illegal for a veterinarian to prescribe any CBD or THC products. Without FDA approval the safety, efficacy, quality, purity, or strength cannot be assured. As these products are readily available, veterinarians should caution clients on their safety. Clients are giving these products to their animals at their own risk.**

CVIR 27-003-000, Sec. 179-17 - Fees

- (a) Administrative fees to process, proctor, mail correspondence, payable by any applicant who desires to submit application and documentation to show cause to be admitted to take the examination is \$350 If the candidate fails the first examination, a re-examination

fee of \$250 will be assessed. The fee for licensure by endorsement is \$500. License renewal fee is \$250 annually (\$500 biannual).

- (b) All other fees are to be approved by the Board annually.
- (c) All fees are non-refundable.

**CERTIFICATION BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR THAT
REGULATIONS WERE DULY PUBLISHED AND CONFORM
TO FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS**

In my capacity as Lieutenant Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, I have reviewed the foregoing Rules and Regulations from the Virgin Islands Police Department, and find them to be in compliance with Title 3, Chapter 25 and hereby approve the same in accordance with 3 V.I.C. § 936.

Honorable Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor
or Designee

Date

**GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL & LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S
ATTEST**

Pursuant to the powers vested in me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, the above Rules and Regulations of the United States Virgin Islands Police Department, which were published in the _____ on _____ are hereby approved

Honorable Albert A. Bryan, Jr.
Governor
United States Virgin Islands

Date

Honorable Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor
United States Virgin Islands

Date

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMITTAL TO THE LEGISLATURE

I hereby certify that the above-approved Rules and Regulations from the Virgin Islands Police Department were transmitted to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands pursuant to 3 V.I.C. § 913 on the day noted below.

Honorable Albert A. Bryan, Jr.
Governor
United States Virgin Islands
or Designee

Date

GOVERNOR'S CERTIFICATE OF COMPELLING CIRCUMSTANCES

Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 938 of Title 3 of the Virgin Islands Code, in my capacity as Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, I hereby certify that because of compelling circumstances, including lengthy delays before publication, the public interest requires that the attached *Amended Firearms Rules and Regulations* become effective immediately on the date noted below.

Honorable Albert A. Bryan, Jr.
Governor
United States Virgin Islands

Date