

VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

*Rules and Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Technologists in Territory of the United States Virgin Islands*

Submitted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022

to

**GOVERNOR ALBERT A. BRYAN, JR.**

by



---

JUSTA E. ENCARNACION, RN, BSN, MBA/HCM

Commissioner of the Department of Health

&



---

LAURA PALMINTERI, VMD

Chairperson of the 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 & 180 to the Virgin Islands Board of Veterinary Medicine.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement of Statutory Authority .....	3
179-1. Purpose .....	3
179-2. Definitions.....	3
179-3. Board of Veterinary Medicine .....	4
179-4. Requirements for Licensure to Practice Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology .....	6
179-5. Examination for Licensure.....	9
179-6. License Registration.....	9
179-7. License Renewal .....	10
179-8. Temporary Permits for Relief Coverage.....	10
179-9. Temporary Permits for Examination Applicants.....	11
179-10. License by Endorsement .....	11
179-11. Lapsed License.....	12
179-12. Inactive Licenses.....	13
179-13. Hearing and Disciplinary Procedures .....	13
179-14. License Reinstatement .....	15
179-15. Abandoned Animals.....	16
179-16. Deceased Animals.....	16
179-17. Medical Records .....	17
179-18. Veterinary Technicians, Veterinary Technologists and Veterinary Assistants .....	17
179-19. Cannabidiol (CBD) / Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).....	18
179-20. Fees .....	19

### CERTIFICATION BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR THAT

*Adoption of Amended Rules and Regulations Governing the  
Practice of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Technicians, and  
Veterinary Technologists in the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands*

REGULATIONS WERE DULY PUBLISHED AND CONFORM TO  
FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS..... 20  
GOVERNOR’S CERTIFICATE OF COMPELLING CIRCUMSTANCES..... 20  
GOVERNOR’S APPROVAL & LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR’S ATTEST ..... 21  
CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL TO LEGISLATURE..... 21

## **Statement of Statutory Authority**

In accordance with Title Twenty-Seven of the Virgin Islands Code, Chapter Three, Section 179 & 180, the Board of Veterinary Medicine hereby establishes 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.

### **179-1. Purpose**

To establish the requirements for each individual who wishes to practice or assist in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine or the Practice of Veterinary Technology in the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands.

### **179-2. Definitions**

- (a) Unless otherwise noted herein or if the context requires otherwise, these Rules incorporate the definitions provided in Title 27, Chapter 3, Section 172 of the Virgin Islands Code (“V.I.C.”).
- (b) Words used in the singular form in this subchapter shall include the plural, and vice versa, as the case may require. Words defined in the Act but not defined below shall have the meaning given them in the Act.
- (c) In the context of these Rules, the following words and phrases shall be construed as having the following meanings, except as the context clearly requires otherwise:
  - (1) “AAVSB” means the American Association of Veterinary State Boards;
  - (2) “Abandon” 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;
  - (3) “Act” means V.I. Act 8034, the Virgin Islands Veterinary Practice Act of 2018;
  - (4) “CBD” means the chemical compound Cannabidiol;

- (5) “Direct Supervision” means that a duly Licensed Veterinarian is on the premises, quickly and easily available to the Patient and Person being supervised;
- (6) “Immediate Supervision” means the duly Licensed Veterinarian is within audible and visual range of both the Patient and the Person being supervised;
- (7) “NAVLE” means the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination;
- (8) “NBE” means the National Board of Examiners;
- (9) “PAVE Certificate” means the certificate issued by the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence indicating that the holder has demonstrated knowledge and skills equivalent to those possessed by a graduate of an Accredited College of Veterinary Medicine;
- (10) “Rules” means these adopted rules and regulations;
- (11) “Territory” means the territory of the United States Virgin Islands;
- (12) “THC” means the chemical compound Tetrahydrocannabinol;
- (13) “USVI” means the United States Virgin Islands;
- (14) “VAULT” means the Veterinary Application for Uniform Licensure Transfer; and
- (15) “VTNE” means the Veterinary Technology National Examination.

### **179-3. Board of Veterinary Medicine**

- (a) The officers of the Board shall be:
  - (1) Chairperson;
  - (2) Vice-Chairperson; and
  - (3) Secretary.
- (b) Meetings of the Board shall be called by the Chairperson:
  - (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 USVI; 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 on the qualifications 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 Chairperson 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 or her signature to all documents upon which the seal is used;  
and
  - (4) to function as the custodian of the seal.
- (g) The duties of the Vice-Chairperson are:
- (1) to function as Acting Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson;
  - (2) to affix his or her signature to all documents upon which the seal is used;
  - (3) to perform such duties as directed by the Chairperson and these Rules.
- (h) The duties of the Secretary are:
- (1) to keep and record the minutes of all meetings;
  - (2) to affix his or her signature to all documents upon which the seal is used;  
and
  - (3) to maintain all 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 Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health.
- (j) All Board records shall be open to the public for inspection at the Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of

Health during regular business hours.

- (k) At the end of each fiscal year, the Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health shall submit to the Governor the annual report of all transactions and activities of the Board for the prior fiscal year.

**179-4. Requirements for Licensure to Practice Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology**

- (a) No Person may engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine in the Territory who is not a Licensed Veterinarian or the holder of a valid temporary permit issued by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Board. These Rules shall not be construed to prohibit:
- (1) an employee of the federal or local government from performing his official duties;
  - (2) a Person who is a regular student in an Accredited College of Veterinary Medicine from performing duties or actions or working under the Direct Supervision of a Licensed Veterinarian during a school vacation period or as an externship;
  - (3) a veterinarian regularly licensed in another state, territory, or commonwealth consulting in the Territory with a Licensed Veterinarian, as long as the Board is notified prior to his or her arrival;
  - (4) any merchant or manufacturer from selling medicine, equipment, or other products used in the prevention or treatment of Animal diseases if such medicine, equipment, or other product is marked with the appropriate regulatory label and such merchants or manufacturers do not either directly or indirectly attempt to diagnose a symptom or disease;
  - (5) the owner of an Animal and the owner's full-time regular employee from caring for and treating the Animal belonging to such owner, except where the ownership of the Animal was transferred for the purpose of circumventing the Act and these Rules; 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; or
  - (6) a graduate of a foreign college of veterinary medicine who is in the



process of obtaining an ECFVG(R) Certification or a PAVE Certificate, from performing duties or actions under the direction or Supervision of a Licensed Veterinarian; or anyone practicing veterinary medicine under this subsection (7) of this section must notify the Board six (6) weeks before they start work, and file an updated status report with the Board every six (6) months until an ECFVG(R) Certificate or PAVE Certificate is received.

- (b) Notification and Board-approval is required for those covered in subsections (1), (3) and (7) of this section before performing veterinary practice.
- (c) Application for licensure shall be sent to the Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health.
- (d) To receive a license to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine as a Licensed Veterinarian an applicant shall comply with all the requirements as set forth in the 27 V.I.C. § 171-189e. At least ninety (90) days prior to the next scheduled Examination date, the applicant shall complete all of the following actions:
  - (1) submit an application using the form prescribed by the Board;
  - (2) submit a recent, unmounted photograph of passport size of himself or herself showing his or her signature across the back;
  - (3) undergo a criminal background check with the Virgin Islands Police Department in accordance with 27 V.I.C. §221;
  - (4) submit a chronological account of applicant's time spent between the date of graduation from veterinary school and the time of application;
  - (5) graduate from an AVMA Accredited College of Veterinary Medicine, or be issued a valid ECFVG(R) Certificate or PAVE Certificate, and furnish documentation thereof;
  - (6) attain the age of at least twenty-one (21) years old and furnish a birth certificate or similar proof;
  - (7) supply at least two (2) letters of favorable character testimony from colleagues in the profession demonstrating the applicant is of good moral character; and
  - (8) submit a Veterinary Application for Uniform Licensure Transfer (VAULT) with accompanying fee to the AAVSB to authorize verification of the

applicant's professional credentials. The VAULT credentials must include an overall score of greater than seventy-five percent on either the NAVLE or the NBE.

- (e) An applicant determined to be unqualified may request a hearing on the question of his qualifications under the procedure set forth in section 179-13(a).
- (f) To receive a license to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Technology as either a Veterinary Technician or Veterinary Technologist an applicant shall comply with all the requirements set forth in 27 V.I.C. § 171-189e. Ninety (90) days prior to the next scheduled Examination date, the applicant shall complete all of the following actions:
  - (1) submit an application using the form prescribed by the Board of Veterinary Medicine;
  - (2) submit a recent, unmounted photograph of passport size of himself or herself, showing his or her signature across the back;
  - (3) submit a chronological account of applicant's time spent between the date of graduation from AVMA Accredited Program in Veterinary Technology and the time of application;
  - (4) graduate from an AVMA Accredited Program of Veterinary Technology;
  - (5) attain the age of at least eighteen (18) years old and furnish a birth certificate or similar proof;
  - (6) supply at least two (2) letters of favorable character testimony from colleagues in the profession; and
  - (7) submit report from the AAVSB's VTNE showing an overall score greater than seventy-five percent (75%) with verification by the AAVSB.
- (g) All accompanying documentation for licensure must be submitted to and received by the Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health before an application will be considered. If the Board determines that the applicant possesses the proper qualifications, it shall admit the applicant to the next Examination. If the applicant is determined to be unqualified to take the Examination or to receive a license without Examination, the Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health shall within fifteen (15) business days notify the

applicant in writing of such findings and the grounds therefor. An applicant determined to be unqualified may request a hearing on the question of his qualifications under the procedure set forth in Section 179-13(a).

#### **179-5. Examination for Licensure**

- (a) The Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health shall give public notice of the time and place of each Examination at the beginning of each fiscal year – at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the Examination dates. The Examination will be administered at least twice a year. Applicants shall submit application with all accompanying documentation and registration and Examination fees at least ninety (90) days prior to the Examination.
- (b) Examinations shall be scheduled in accordance with dates set by the Professional Examination Services of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners or other licensing Examination as approved by the Board.
- (c) Candidates for admission to practice shall be required to achieve at least a passing score of 75% as reported by the Professional Testing Services to the AAVSB. Candidates who pass the Examination and have met all other requirements as listed in section 179-4 of these Rules, shall be recommended by the Board to the Commissioner of Health for licensure by the Chairman and Secretary. After each Examination, the Board shall notify the Commissioner of the results of the Examination within thirty (30) days. Candidates who do not achieve at least a passing score of seventy-five percent (75%) shall be permitted to take two (2) re-examinations before being required to present evidence of additional training of at least six (6) months in approved institutions that meets the approval of the Board. Re-Examination approval must be obtained before training is undertaken.

#### **179-6. License Registration**

- (a) All licenses are to be registered in the Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health within thirty (30) days of approval by the Commissioner of Health, with payment of all

accompanying fees and proof of malpractice insurance. Once registered with the Commissioner, the licensee shall be deemed to have received conclusive evidence of the right to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine or the Practice of Veterinary Technology in the Territory.

#### **179-7. License Renewal**

- (a) The Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health shall notify each Licensed Veterinarian every two (2) years that their license will expire on September 30 of that same year. The notice shall be accompanied by a registration renewal form. The Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health shall issue a new certificate of registration to all such Persons.
- (b) All Licensed Veterinarians must provide certification of AAVSB Registry of Approved Continuing Education approved continuing education in the amount of at least thirty (30) hours every two (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.

#### **179-8. Temporary Permits for Relief Coverage**

- (a) Temporary permits are intended for the relief of an applying Licensed Veterinarian who is off-island or unable to work due to other circumstances.
- (b) The Board must receive an application for a temporary permit using the form prescribed by the Board. This application must be completed by the applying Licensed Veterinarian.
- (c) Legible copies of all credentials of the relief veterinarian, including his or her current veterinary license from another state and proof of graduation from an AVMA Accredited College of Veterinary Medicine, must be received by the Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health. All documents must be received by the Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health at least four (4) weeks prior to the requested date of relief coverage.

- (d) Applicants for relief coverage must obtain Board-approval and a Board-issued temporary permit prior to commencing practice.
- (e) A temporary permit for relief coverage expires sixty (60) days from the date of issuance. The sixty (60) day limit applies to the Licensed Veterinarian and the applying relief veterinarian. After the expiration of a temporary permit, the relieving veterinarian shall be required to file for a permanent license to continue practicing in the USVI.

#### **179-9. Temporary Permits for Relief Coverage**

- (a) Examination applicants may request temporary permits to cover the period while waiting to take the next scheduled Examination. Such temporary permits will be limited to three (3) in number for a maximum of six (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 the receipt of such a temporary permit, documentation must be provided 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.

#### **179-10. License by Endorsement**

- (a) For a Veterinarian to be eligible for a license by endorsement the applicant must meet all of the following requirements:
  - (1) complete application and supporting documents as outlined in section 179-4(d) of these Rules;
  - (2) have actively practiced clinical veterinary medicine for at least three thousand (3000) hours during the five (5) years preceding the application or in consecutive years since graduation from an AVMA Accredited Program in Veterinary Medicine;
  - (3) hold a valid Veterinary License in a United States jurisdiction; and
  - (4) Have passed the NAVLE or NBE Examination with a score of 75% or greater as verified by the AAVSB.
- (b) For a Veterinary Technician and Veterinary Technologist to be eligible for a license by endorsement the applicant must meet all of the following

requirements:

- (1) complete application and supporting documents as outlined in section 179-4(e) of these Rules;
  - (2) gave actively practiced veterinary technology for at least one thousand (1000) hours during the two (2) years preceding the application or in consecutive years since graduation from an AVMA Accredited Program in Veterinary Technology;
  - (3) hold a valid Veterinary Technician or Veterinary Technologist license in a United States jurisdiction; and
  - (4) have passed the AAVSB's approved VTNE for licensure of Veterinary Technicians.
- (c) Candidates who are eligible for licensure by endorsement may be recommended by the Board to the Commissioner of Health for licensure by the Chairperson and Secretary.

#### **179-11. Lapsed Licenses**

- (a) At least thirty (30) days before the expiration of licenses, Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health shall send notice of expiration and a renewal application, along with any other forms required by the Government of the USVI to be completed prior to renewal, to each licensee of record. Neither the failure to mail nor the failure to receive the notice and application shall relieve any licensee of the duty to make an 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 sections 179-12 and 179-13 of these Rules.
- (b) If a licensee fails to submit an application and pay accompanying fees within sixty (60) days of the expiration of his or her license, the Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health shall notify the licensee that the application and fees have not been received and that his failure to respond within fifteen (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 address. If the

application and fees are not returned within fifteen (15) days after the return receipt is received, the licensee's license shall be revoked. The Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health shall give notice to the licensee of the revocation by certified mail, return receipt requested, at his last known business address.

- (c) If a Person is otherwise eligible to renew his or her license, he or she may renew his or her lapsed license within three (3) years of the date of expiration or revocation.
- (d) To renew such expired license the Person shall apply for renewal to the Board, pay all renewal fees, and pay any penalties as described in section 179-12 of these Rules. 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 three (3) 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 Act.

#### **179-12. Inactive Licenses**

- (a) If a licensee is not practicing veterinary medicine or technology in the Territory, does not presently live in the Territory, and does not intend to practice veterinary medicine or technology in the Territory within the next year, he or she may renew his license biennially with an inactive status. Written application must be submitted to the Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning at the USVI Department of Health with all fees as described in section 179-17 of these Rules, and proof of continuing education as outlined in section 179-7(a) of these Rules.

#### **179-13. Hearing and Disciplinary Procedures**

- (a) A hearing shall be held no sooner than twenty (20) days after written notice to a Licensed Veterinarian, Veterinary Technician, or Veterinary Technologist of a complaint filed against him or her, 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. The complaint shall set forth the facts, which if proven, would constitute grounds

for license refusal, suspension, or revocation under the Act or these Rules. Notice of the time and place of the hearing, along with a copy of the complaint filed, shall be served on the licensee by certified mail or by hand delivery.

- (b) The Board shall investigate the actions of any Person, herein after called the accused, who holds or represents that he or she holds a license as a Veterinarian, Veterinary Technician, or Veterinary Technologist. A member of the Board shall head the investigation. The purpose of an investigative proceeding is to discover and produce evidence. The procedure must be fundamentally fair and reasonable. Legal counsel from the Attorney General's Office should participate in investigatory hearings. Furthermore, all stages of an investigation of an individual must be held in executive session. As a result, no member of the media or member of the public, who is not a Board member or otherwise needed in attendance at such meeting, should participate in or witness any investigatory hearing.
- (c) The Board has the authority to subpoena and administer oaths to witnesses before the Board for the purpose of investigation of alleged violations. The Chairperson of the Board, or a member of the Board duly designated by the Chairperson, may sign a subpoena and administer such oath.
- (d) Once the Board has completed its investigation, it shall give the accused written notice within sixty (60) days on whether the Board will conduct a disciplinary hearing. The notice shall summarize the charges pending against the accused. Any disciplinary hearing shall be held not less than thirty (30) days from the date that the notice of hearing was sent out by the Board.
- (e) Disciplinary hearings shall be held in executive session with a quorum present. The accused or a representative shall be allowed to make an oral or written statement before the Board, stating his/her opinion about the charges against him. All witnesses may be subpoenaed to testify under oath before the Board. The accused or his representative is entitled to cross-examine any witness. Legal counsel from the Attorney General's office may be present. The hearing shall be transcribed verbatim.
- (f) Charges must be brought before the Board within a maximum of three (3) years from the date of occurrence of any alleged act by any Licensed Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician.



- (g) In its written decision, the Board may advise the Commissioner of Health of its recommendations for disciplinary action as follows:
- (1) suspension of license;
  - (2) revocation of license;
  - (3) placement on probationary status;
  - (4) limitation of the scope, nature, or extent of the practice; and
  - (5) any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Board.
- (h) A copy of such decision shall be sent to the Commissioner of Health within forty-five (45) days after the disciplinary hearing.
- (i) If the Commissioner revokes the accused's license, said license shall be surrendered to the Commissioner of Health effective immediately upon notice of the Commissioner's decision. Upon the failure of the accused to surrender his license upon the order of the Commissioner, the Commissioner may seize the same.
- (j) In all instances in which the Board has rendered a recommendation to the Commissioner with respect to the accused, the Commissioner, to the extent that he or she disagrees with or takes action contrary to the recommendation of the Board, shall file with the Board and the Attorney General specific written reasons for disagreement. Such reasons shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the Commissioner takes the contrary position to the Board.
- (k) Each order requiring any disciplinary action shall contain a brief, concise statement of the grounds upon which the Commissioner's action is based, as well as the specific terms and conditions of such action.
- (l) The Board and the Commissioner shall retain the original of this document as a permanent record.

#### **179-14. License Reinstatement**

- (a) Any Person whose license is suspended or revoked may be reinstated, without Examination, by a majority vote of the Board on a written application made to the Board stating facts and circumstances of good cause to justify reinstatement.
- (b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be construed as requiring the Board to reinstate a revoked or suspended license due to a showing of justification. Such reinstatement is within the sole discretion of the Board.

- (c) The Board may condition such reinstatement 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.

#### **179-15. 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 (10) days after written notice is sent to the owner's or owner's agent's address by certified mail with 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 described in subsection (a) 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 by the Board.
- (c) The disposal of an Abandoned 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.

#### **179-16. Deceased Animals**

- (a) 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 deceased Animal's corpse for a period of at least three (3) days following such death, or three (3) days after notification of the owner, whichever is longer, but not more than thirty (30) days, after which time the corpse may be disposed of in any lawful manner.
- (b) If notice is sent as described in subsection (a) 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 by the Board.

- (c) The disposal of an 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.

### **179-17. Medical Records**

- (a) Patient medical records must be kept for at least three (3) years after the Patient was last seen by that Licensed Veterinarian, or for three (3) years after that Patient's demise, if known by the Licensed Veterinarian.

### **179-18. Veterinary Technicians, Veterinary Technologists, and Veterinary Assistants**

- (a) Veterinary Technicians or Veterinary Technologists are graduates of Board-approved programs in veterinary technology as defined in the Act. Veterinary Assistants are those individuals in the employ of a Licensed Veterinarian that have not met the qualifications of the licensed Veterinary Technician or Veterinary Technologist set forth in the Act. The purpose of the section is to outline the scope of practice for Veterinary Technicians, Veterinary Technologists, and Veterinary Assistants and outline the level of supervision required when those individuals perform assigned Animal care tasks.
- (b) Upon examination of a Patient by a licensed Veterinarian, a licensed Veterinary Technician or Veterinary Technologist may provide that Patient with the following care while under the Direct Supervision and control of a duly Licensed Veterinarian:
- (1) induction of anesthesia and intubation;
  - (2) dental prophylaxis;
  - (3) euthanasia.
- (c) Upon examination of a Patient by a licensed Veterinarian, a licensed Veterinary Technician or Veterinary Technologist may provide that Patient with the following care while under the Indirect Supervision and control of a duly Licensed Veterinarian:
- (1) venipuncture;

- (2) administration of controlled substances;
  - (3) vaccination;
  - (4) urethral catheterization;
  - (5) venous catheterization; and
  - (6) radiography.
- (d) Upon examination of a Patient by a licensed Veterinarian, a Veterinary Assistant may provide that Patient with the following care while under the Indirect Supervision and control of a duly Licensed Veterinarian:
- (1) venipuncture;
  - (2) administration of controlled substances;
  - (3) vaccination;
  - (4) venous Catheterization; and
  - (5) radiography.
- (e) Upon examination of a Patient by a licensed Veterinarian, a Veterinary Assistant, may provide that Patient with the following care while under the Immediate Supervision and control of a duly Licensed Veterinarian:
- (1) induction of anesthesia and intubation;
  - (2) dental prophylaxis;
  - (3) euthanasia.
- (f) Dental extractions requiring periodontal elevation can only be performed by a Licensed Veterinarian.

### **179-19. CBD / THC**

- (a) It shall be illegal for a Licensed Veterinarian to prescribe any CBD or THC products unless such products are approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use on Animals and are legalized in the Territory for administration to Animals. Without FDA approval, the safety, efficacy, quality, purity, and strength of such products cannot be assured so Veterinarians should caution Clients on their safety. Clients are giving these products to their Animals at their own risk.

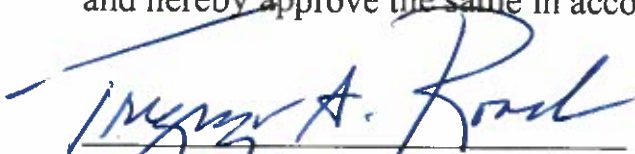
### **179-20. Fees**

- (a) An administrative fee shall be chargeable to any applicant who desires to submit a licensure application with accompanying documentation. If the candidate fails the first Examination, a re-examination fee will be assessed. An administrative fee shall be chargeable to any applicant for licensure by endorsement. An administrative fee shall be chargeable to any applicant for license renewal. All fees are as approved by the Board biennially and are available on the website of the Office of the Department of Health.
- (b) All other fees are to be approved by the Board biennially and duly published in accordance with 27 V.I.C. §179.
- (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 Board of Veterinary Medicine, 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  
United States Virgin Islands

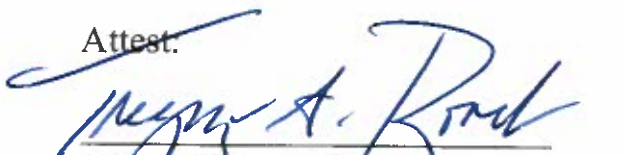
1/9/2023  
Date

**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 Virgin Islands Board of Veterinary Medicine, which will be published in a newspaper of general circulation for public comment for at least thirty (30) days after of the approval noted below.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr.  
Governor  
United States Virgin Islands

12/2/22  
Date

Attest:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.  
Lieutenant Governor  
United States Virgin Islands


1/9/2023  
Date





**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMITTAL TO THE LEGISLATURE**


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

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

1/13/2023  
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 *Veterinary Medicine Rules and Regulations* become effective immediately on the date noted below.

  
Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr.  
Governor  
United States Virgin Islands

12/2/22  
Date

