

This Act is current to November 1, 2017

See the [Tables of Legislative Changes](#) for this Act's legislative history, including any changes not in force.

VETERINARIANS ACT

[SBC 2010] CHAPTER 15

Assented to June 3, 2010

EXCERPTS

To read the *Act* in its entirety, please visit the CVBC website (www.cvbc.ca) - Resources/Legislation, Standards & Policies

Part 1 — Introductory Provisions

Definitions

1 In this Act:

"registrant"

- (a) means an individual who is registered under this Act, and
- (b) in the following provisions, includes a former registrant:
 - (i) Part 4 [*Inspections, Complaints, Investigations and Discipline*];
 - (ii) section 72 [*responsibility of registrants not affected by incorporation*];
 - (iii) section 77 [*deemed receipt of records*];

"veterinary medicine" means the art and science of veterinary medicine, dentistry and surgery, and includes, whether or not for consideration,

- (a) the diagnosis and treatment of animals for the prevention, alleviation or correction of disease, injury, pain, defect, disorder, or other similar condition,
- (b) the provision of a service prescribed by regulation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and
- (c) the provision of advice in respect of a matter referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).

46 (1) In this section, "**registrant**" and "**employee**" do not include a registrant whose registration is suspended.

(2) A person who is not a registrant must not do any of the following:

(a) perform, offer to perform, or imply that the person is entitled to perform, in British Columbia, any act described in the definition of "veterinary medicine" in section 1;

(b) recover a fee or remuneration in any court in respect of the performance, in British Columbia, of any act described in the definition of "veterinary medicine" in section 1.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to any of the following:

(a) the furnishing of first aid or temporary assistance to an animal in an emergency;

(b) the treatment of an animal by

(i) an owner who has regular care and control of the animal,

(ii) a member of the owner's household, or

(iii) an employee regularly employed full time by the owner in agricultural or domestic work;

(c) caponizing and taking poultry blood samples;

(d) the treatment of an animal by

(i) an employee of a registrant under the supervision of the registrant, or

(ii) an enrolled student of veterinary medicine employed by a registrant and authorized by that registrant to administer the treatment;

(e) the practice of veterinary medicine by a person not ordinarily resident in British Columbia but entitled to practise veterinary medicine in another jurisdiction, while that person is employed or engaged by a registrant to advise or assist the registrant as a consultant concerning veterinary medicine;

(f) a person engaging in scientific research which reasonably requires experimentation involving animals;

(g) a certified technician practising the aspects of veterinary medicine that the certified technician is authorized to provide or perform in accordance with this Act, the regulations and the bylaws;

(h) a person practising a profession, a discipline or another occupation in accordance with another Act;

(i) a person engaging in an activity prescribed by regulation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council in accordance with the limits or conditions, if any, specified in that regulation.

BYLAW EXCERPTS
(For Complete Bylaws, please visit www.cvbc.ca)
College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

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Informed consent

211(1) For the purposes of this section, “**informed consent**” means the process of communication between a registrant and a client that allows the client to understand the veterinary services the registrant proposes to provide to the patient, followed by the client’s subsequent agreement to the provision of those services.

(2) Before providing veterinary services to a patient, a registrant must ensure that the client has provided informed consent to the proposed veterinary services.

(3) A registrant must ensure that the client giving consent is

- (a) capable of making a decision about whether to give or refuse consent to the proposed veterinary service, and
- (b) has the legal authority to give or refuse consent to provision of veterinary services to the patient.

(4) To be valid, a registrant must ensure that the client’s informed consent:

- (a) relates to the proposed veterinary service;
- (b) was given voluntarily;
- (c) was not obtained through misrepresentation or fraud.

(5) To obtain informed consent from a client for proposed veterinary services, a registrant must ensure that the client is provided with information a reasonable person would require to understand the proposed veterinary service.

(6) Without limiting the generality of subsection (5), the information provided to obtain informed consent must include information about:

- (a) the condition for which the veterinary services are proposed, including any differential diagnoses, and any presumed or definitive diagnosis;
- (b) the general nature of the proposed veterinary services;
- (c) the expected benefits of the proposed veterinary services;
- (d) the risks or dangers and common side effects of the proposed veterinary services that a
- (e) reasonable person would expect to be told about;
- (f) reasonable alternative courses of action available, and the risks and benefits of each;
- (g) the potential consequences to the patient if the proposed veterinary service is refused by the client;
- (h) whether non-veterinarian staff and or other veterinarians may be providing some or all of the veterinary services to the patient;
- (i) the need for follow-up care, if it is likely to be required, and how such follow-up care will be provided;
- (j) an initial estimate of the cost of the veterinary services being proposed;
- (k) the level of supervision that will be provided, including the level of supervision with respect to after hours care.

(7) A registrant must ensure that, before giving consent, the client had an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers about the proposed veterinary services.

(8) A registrant must renew informed consent throughout the veterinarian-client-patient relationship as may be required by a change in the patient’s condition or the veterinary services to be provided.

(9) After a client has given informed consent, the registrant must either document in the clinical record the process by which consent was sought and obtained from the client, or obtain written consent.

(10) Informed consent may be in the form of written consent, oral consent or implied consent.

Division 4.3 – General Standards

Unauthorized practice defined

224. For the purposes of the sections 225 and 226, “**unauthorized practice**” means a breach of one or more of the following provisions of Act:

- (a) section 46;
- (b) section 47;
- (c) section 48.

Preventing unauthorized practice

225(1) A registrant must not allow an individual who is not also a registrant to provide a service that constitutes unauthorized practice or that otherwise contravenes the Act.

(2) registrant must not aid, abet or acquiesce to an individual providing a service that constitutes unauthorized practice or that otherwise contravenes the Act.

Reporting unauthorized practice

226(1) A registrant must report to the registrar or to an inspector if that registrant believes that an individual has provided or may provide a service that constitutes unauthorized practice or has otherwise engaged or may engage in an unauthorized practice.

(2) Without limiting the generality of foregoing,

- (a) a registrant must advise the registrar or an inspector of any unauthorized practice by a registrant of another profession;
- (b) an inspector must report to the registrar if, as a result of an inspection, the inspector believes that an individual has provided or may provide a service that constitutes unauthorized practice or has otherwise engaged or may engage in an unauthorized practice.

Division 4.7 – Delegation and Supervision

Definitions

259. In this Part:

“animal health technologist” means a person who is:

- i) a graduate of a course in animal health technology accredited by the CVMA and recognized by the college, or
- ii) a person registered with the Animal Health Technologists Association of British Columbia.

“direct supervision” means a registrant is sufficiently nearby in a facility, or the place where veterinary services are provided away from a facility, such that the registrant is available to consult the person performing the designated procedure or treatment or to attend to the animal as competent veterinary practice requires for the particular procedure or treatment;

“direct personal supervision” means the registrant is present in person and sufficiently nearby to see, hear and direct the employee who is performing the designated procedure or treatment, and to attend to the animal as competent veterinary practice requires for the particular procedure or treatment;

“indirect supervision” means the registrant has given either oral or written instruction to another person to perform the designated procedure or treatment and the patient has been examined by the registrant at such times as competent veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular procedure or treatment;

“non-registrant veterinarian” means a person who has obtained a degree in veterinary medicine but is not a registrant of the college;

“registered health professional” means a health professional who has been registered with a college pursuant to the *Health Professions Act*;

“veterinary student” means either

- (a) a student currently enrolled in the final year of a program of veterinary studies in an accredited school of veterinary medicine, or
- (b) a graduate from a non-accredited school of veterinary medicine who is participating in an upgrading program recognized by the registration committee in preparation to sit the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination and obtain a CQ.

Interpretation

260. The provisions of this Division apply equally to an employee or any person who is not a registrant, and who is hired on a short-term basis, including by contract, to perform tasks that can be delegated under this Division.

Registrants as employees

261. A registrant employed by a non-registrant employer, including a corporation, must, regardless of the direction of that employer, conduct themselves in accordance with the Act, the regulations, the bylaws and other applicable rules and guidelines of the college.

Registrant delegation to employees

262(1) Subject to sections 264 to 266, a registrant may delegate procedures or treatments to an employee or another person who is not a registrant.

(2) A registrant must not direct or permit an employee or another person who is not a registrant to perform any procedure or treatment if the registrant is not satisfied that person is competent to perform that procedure or treatment.

Registrant ultimately responsible

263. Despite any provision of this Division

- (a) a registrant is responsible for the actions of any person to whom the registrant delegates the performance of a procedure or treatment, and
- (b) if a registrant delegates the performance of a procedure or treatment, the registrant is responsible for assessing that person's competence to perform such a delegated procedure or treatment.

Specific procedures or treatments under direct personal supervision

264. (1) A registrant may permit an employee or any other person who is not a registrant to perform the following procedures or treatments or other tasks that are comparably similar in nature to those listed, under the registrant's direct personal supervision, provided they are performed in accordance with the bylaws:

- (a) to induce and maintain anaesthesia;
- (b) to suture skin;
- (c) to collect and transfer embryos;
- (d) to perform dental cleaning and prophylaxis, including dental extractions not requiring surgical intervention;
- (e) to collect urine by cystocentesis;
- (f) to administer rabies vaccine.

(2) A registrant may permit a veterinary student to perform the following procedures or treatments or other tasks that are comparably similar in nature to those listed, under the registrant's direct personal supervision, provided they are performed in accordance with the bylaws:

- (a) to sterilize dogs or cats;
- (b) to suture minor skin lacerations;
- (c) to lance and treat minor abscesses;
- (d) to perform other similar minor surgical procedures.

Specific procedures or treatments under direct supervision

265. (1) A registrant may permit an employee or any other person who is not a registrant to perform the following procedures or treatments or other tasks that are comparably similar in nature to those listed, under the registrant's direct supervision, provided they are performed in accordance with the bylaws:

- (a) to monitor anaesthetized patients;
- (b) to clean and prepare surgical sites, including wounds;
- (c) to flush ears;
- (d) to apply bandages and splints;
- (e) to perform dental procedures other than dental surgery;
- (f) to perform urinary catheterization;
- (g) to administer enemas;
- (h) to operate a mechanical ventilator.

(2) A registrant may permit a registered health professional to provide veterinary services at the request of the registrant and under the registrant's direct supervision, provided they are performed in accordance with the bylaws.

Specific procedures or treatments under indirect supervision

266. (1) A registrant may permit an employee or any other person who is not a registrant to perform the following procedures or treatments or other tasks that are comparably similar in nature to those listed, under the registrant's indirect supervision, provided they are performed in accordance with the bylaws:

- (a) to perform radiographic procedures;
- (b) to collect specimens for laboratory analysis, except those specimens that require an invasive procedure to collect;
- (c) to perform diagnostic laboratory procedures;
- (d) to administer medications;
- (e) to insert intravenous catheters.

(2) A registrant may permit an employee or any other person who is not a registrant to administer controlled drugs and vaccines excluding rabies vaccines, under the registrant's indirect supervision, provided:

- (a) the registrant has conducted an appropriate examination on the patient consistent with standard medical care,
- (b) the patient has been adequately supervised in the period between the registrant's examination of the patient and the time the registrant's instructions are given, and
- (c) the service is administered in accordance with the bylaws.