



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, KBVE conducted an in-depth review of two national Practice Act Models (PAMs) from the **American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)** and the **American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)**; both PAMs have input from the national veterinary community. As a result, KBVE is proposing edits to the Kentucky Veterinary Medicine Practice Act to modernize the Commonwealth's veterinary laws.

Modernization Highlights

- 1) **Expanded Definitions.** This will provide a common language for discussions with all stakeholders.
- 2) **Additional Clarifying Statutes.**
 - a) **Renewals.** Clarification of renewal and reinstatement requirements for all credentials.
 - b) **Animal Control Agencies (ACAs) and Animal Euthanasia Specialists (AESs).** This update will make clear the oversight responsibilities for controlled substances and the restricted duties of the AES.
 - c) **Telehealth.** At the request of the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA), and using the AVMA model definitions, the KBVE has added a statute to clarify telehealth: what it encompasses and when the establishment of an in-person veterinary-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) is required.
 - d) **Medical Records.** Needed to help both licensees and citizens understand the basic minimum requirements of current medical records standards.
- 3) **Criminal Background Checks.** FBI required statute for direct results to the board on new applicants.
- 4) **Addition of Veterinary Facility Registrations & Inspections.** According to the AVMA, as of Oct 2019, there are 35 states, including Washington, D.C., that have specific regulations governing the operation of veterinary facilities. The intent of the Kentucky board is to phase in registration of veterinary facilities over period of five (5) years, by 2027. This will enable the board to:
 - a) Better understand and work to lessen the veterinary shortage in the Commonwealth;
 - b) Define responsible parties in corporate or non-licensee owned practices;
 - c) Address constituent complaints about basic standards of care;
 - d) Conduct inspections to keep licensees informed about current standards of practice, to help elevate the practice of veterinary medicine, and reduce complaints to the board; and
 - e) Provide transparent standards that are accessible to practitioners, providing protections to licensees who meet the regulatory standards.
- 5) **Clarifying the Roles of Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Assistants.** This will aid veterinarians in fully utilizing the skills of their trained staff, and help clarify the title protections available for licensed veterinary technician (LVT) classes.
- 6) **Educational Awards.** KBVE seeks the ability to award educational assistance to aid in relieving shortages in the workforce, primarily in food animal medicine and rural communities.