

Original Text

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Presented to Governor 05/23/2024

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Chapter number 127

ARTICLE 20

BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.001, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

This section provides legal definitions for direct supervision, licensed vet techs, remote supervision (many states refer to this as indirect supervision), and the practice of veterinary technology.

Subd. 5a. Direct supervision.

"Direct supervision" means:

(1) when a supervising veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician is in the immediate area and within audible or visual range of an animal and the unlicensed veterinary employee treating the animal;

(2) the supervising veterinarian has met the requirements of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship under section 156.16, subdivision 12; and

(3) the supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for the professional care given to an animal by a person working under the veterinarian's direction.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.001, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 7a. Licensed veterinary technician.

"Licensed veterinary technician" means a person licensed by the board under section 156.077.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.001, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 10b.Remote supervision.

"Remote supervision" means:

(1) a veterinarian is not on the premises but is acquainted with the keeping and care of an animal by virtue of an examination of the animal or medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept;

(2) the veterinarian has given written or oral instructions to a licensed veterinary technician for ongoing care of an animal and is available by telephone or other form of immediate communication; and

(3) the employee treating the animal timely enters into the animal's medical record documentation of the treatment provided and the documentation is reviewed by the veterinarian.

EFFECTIVE DATE.This section is effective July 1, 2026.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.001, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 12.Veterinary technology.

"Veterinary technology" means the science and practice of providing professional support to veterinarians, including the direct supervision of unlicensed veterinary employees. Veterinary technology does not include veterinary diagnosis, prognosis, surgery, or medication prescription.

EFFECTIVE DATE.This section is effective July 1, 2026.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.07, is amended to read:

156.07 LICENSE RENEWAL.

This section provides the language for vet techs to renew their licenses with the board.

Persons licensed under this chapter shall conspicuously display their license in their principal place of business.

Persons now ~~qualified to practice veterinary medicine~~ licensed in this state, or who shall hereafter be licensed by the Board of Veterinary Medicine ~~to engage in the practice as veterinarians or veterinary technicians~~, shall periodically renew their license in a manner prescribed by the board. The board shall establish license renewal fees and continuing education requirements. The board may establish, by rule, an inactive license category, at a lower fee, for licensees not actively engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary technology within the state of Minnesota. The board may assess a charge for delinquent payment of a renewal fee.

Any person who is licensed to practice veterinary medicine or veterinary technology in this state pursuant to this chapter, shall be entitled to receive a license to continue to practice upon making application to the board and complying with the terms of this section and rules of the board.

EFFECTIVE DATE.This section is effective July 1, 2026.

Sec. 7. [156.076] DIRECT SUPERVISION; UNLICENSED VETERINARY EMPLOYEES.

This section states that unlicensed team members may do the tasks they've always been allowed to do under the supervision of both veterinarians and LVTs.

(a) An unlicensed veterinary employee may only administer medication or render auxiliary or supporting assistance under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician.

(b) This section does not prohibit:

(1) the performance of generalized nursing tasks ordered by the veterinarian and performed by an unlicensed employee on inpatient animals during the hours when a veterinarian is not on the premises; or

(2) under emergency conditions, an unlicensed employee from rendering lifesaving aid and treatment to an animal in the absence of a veterinarian if the animal is in a life-threatening condition and requires immediate treatment to sustain life or prevent further injury.

EFFECTIVE DATE.This section is effective July 1, 2026.

Sec. 8. [156.077] LICENSED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

This section outlines title protection and what qualifications are needed to become an LVT, including the temporary "legacy" licensure process for team members who were not CVTs recognized by MVMA.

Subdivision 1.Licensure; practice.

(a) The board shall issue a license to practice as a veterinary technician to an applicant who satisfies the requirements in this section and those imposed by the board in rule. A licensed veterinary technician may practice veterinary technology. A person may not use the title "veterinary technician" or the abbreviation "LVT" unless licensed by the board.

(b) The board may adopt by rule additional or temporary alternative licensure requirements or definitions for veterinary technician titles.

Subd. 2. Applicants; qualifications.

Application for a license to practice veterinary technology in this state shall be made to the board on a form furnished by the board and accompanied by evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is at least 18 years of age, is of good moral character, and has:

(1) graduated from a veterinary technology program accredited or approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association or Canadian Veterinary Medical Association;

(2) received a passing score for the Veterinary Technician National Examination;

(3) received a passing score for the Minnesota Veterinary Technician Jurisprudence Examination; and

(4) completed a criminal background check.

Subd. 3. Required with application.

A completed application must contain the following information and material:

(1) the application fee set by the board, which is not refundable if permission to take the jurisprudence examination is denied for good cause;

(2) proof of graduation from a veterinary technology program accredited or approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association or Canadian Veterinary Medical Association;

(3) affidavits from at least two licensed veterinarians and three adults who are not related to the applicant that establish how long, when, and under what circumstances the references have known the applicant and any other facts that may enable the board to determine the applicant's qualifications; and

(4) if the applicant has served in the armed forces, a copy of the applicant's discharge papers.

Subd. 4. Temporary alternative qualifications.

(a) The board shall consider an application for licensure submitted by a person before July 1, 2031, if the person provides evidence satisfactory to the board that the person:

(1) is a certified veterinary technician in good standing with the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association; or

(2) has at least 4,160 hours actively engaged in the practice of veterinary technology within the previous five years.

(b) Each applicant under this subdivision must also submit to the board affidavits from at least two licensed veterinarians and three adults who are not related to the applicant that establish how long, when, and under what circumstances the references have known the applicant and any other facts that may enable the board to determine the applicant's qualifications.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026.

Sec. 9. [156.078] NONRESIDENTS; LICENSED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

This section outlines the path for out-of-state vet techs to become LVTs in Minnesota.

A credentialed veterinary technician duly admitted to practice in any state, commonwealth, territory, or district of the United States or province of Canada who desires permission to practice veterinary technology in this state shall submit an application to the board on a form furnished by the board. The board shall review an application for transfer if the applicant submits:

- (1) a copy of a diploma from an accredited or approved college of veterinary technology or certification from the dean, registrar, or secretary of an accredited or approved college of veterinary technology or a certificate of satisfactory completion of the PAVE program;
- (2) if requesting waiver of examination, evidence of meeting licensure requirements in the state of the applicant's original licensure;
- (3) affidavits of two licensed practicing doctors of veterinary medicine or veterinary technicians residing in the United States or Canadian licensing jurisdiction in which the applicant is or was most recently practicing, attesting that they are well acquainted with the applicant, that the applicant is a person of good moral character, and that the applicant has been actively engaged in practicing or teaching in such jurisdiction;
- (4) a certificate from the agency that regulates the conduct of practice of veterinary technology in the jurisdiction in which the applicant is or was most recently practicing, stating that the applicant is in good standing and is not the subject of disciplinary action or pending disciplinary action;
- (5) a certificate from all other jurisdictions in which the applicant holds a currently active license or held a license within the past ten years, stating that the applicant is and was in good standing and has not been subject to disciplinary action;
- (6) in lieu of the certificates in clauses (4) and (5), certification from the Veterinary Information Verification Agency that the applicant's licensure is in good standing;
- (7) a fee as set by the board in form of check or money order payable to the board, no part of which shall be refunded should the application be denied;
- (8) score reports on previously taken national examinations in veterinary technology, certified by the Veterinary Information Verification Agency or evidence of employment as a veterinary technician for at least three years;
- (9) proof that the applicant received a passing score for the Minnesota Veterinary Technician Jurisprudence Examination; and
- (10) proof of a completed criminal background check.

EFFECTIVE DATE.This section is effective July 1, 2026.

ARTICLE 33

APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 3. BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE; LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

\$23,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the state government special revenue fund to the Board of Veterinary Medicine to implement Minnesota Statutes, section 156.077.

The state government special revenue fund base for this appropriation is \$52,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$52,000 in fiscal year 2027.

Sec. 6. [156.0721] INSTITUTIONAL LICENSURE.

*This section is specifically for **veterinarians** employed at U of M Veterinary School. It was included as part of this bill, but doesn't have a direct impact on Vet Tech Licensure. All effective 2025.*

Subdivision 1. Application and eligibility.

(a) Any person who seeks to practice **veterinary medicine while employed by the University of Minnesota** and who is not eligible for a regular license shall make a written application to the board for an institutional license using forms provided for that purpose or in a format accepted by the board. The board shall issue an institutional license to practice veterinary medicine to an applicant who:

(1) has obtained the degree of doctor of veterinary medicine or its equivalent from a nonaccredited college of veterinary medicine. A graduate from an accredited college and an applicant who has earned ECFVG or PAVE certificates should apply for a regular license to practice veterinary medicine;

(2) has passed the Minnesota Veterinary Jurisprudence Examination;

(3) is a person of good moral character, as attested by five notarized reference letters from adults not related to the applicant, at least two of whom are licensed veterinarians in the jurisdiction where the applicant is currently practicing or familiar with the applicant's clinical abilities as evidenced in clinical rotations;

(4) has paid the license application fee;

- (5) provides proof of employment by the University of Minnesota;
- (6) certifies that the applicant understands and agrees that the institutional license is valid only for the practice of veterinary medicine associated with the applicant's employment as a faculty member, intern, resident, or locum of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine or other unit of the University of Minnesota;
- (7) provides proof of graduation from a veterinary college;
- (8) completed a criminal background check as defined in section 214.075; and
- (9) provides other information and proof as the board may require by rules and regulations.
- (b) The University of Minnesota may submit the applications of its employees who seek an institutional license in a compiled format acceptable to the board, with any license application fees in a single form of payment.
- (c) The fee for a license issued under this subdivision is the same as for a regular license to practice veterinary medicine in the state. License payment and renewal deadlines, late payment fees, and other license requirements are also the same as for a regular license to practice veterinary medicine.
- (d) The University of Minnesota may be responsible for timely payment of renewal fees and submission of renewal forms.

Subd. 2. **Scope of practice.**(a) An institutional license holder may practice veterinary medicine only as related to the license holder's regular function at the University of Minnesota. A person holding only an institutional license in this state must be remunerated for the practice of veterinary medicine in the state solely from state, federal, or institutional funds and not from the patient-owner beneficiary of the license holder's practice efforts.

(b) A license issued under this section must be canceled by the board upon receipt of information from the University of Minnesota that the holder of the license has left or is otherwise no longer employed at the University of Minnesota in this state.

(c) An institutional license holder must abide by all laws governing the practice of veterinary medicine in the state and is subject to the same disciplinary action as any other veterinarian licensed in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2025.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.12, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Authorized activities.

No provision of this chapter shall be construed to prohibit:

- (a) a person from rendering necessary gratuitous assistance in the treatment of any animal when the assistance does not amount to prescribing, testing for, or diagnosing, operating, or vaccinating and when the attendance of a licensed veterinarian cannot be procured;
- (b) a person who is a regular student in an accredited or approved college of veterinary medicine from performing duties or actions assigned by instructors or preceptors or working under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian;
- (c) a veterinarian regularly licensed in another jurisdiction from consulting with a licensed veterinarian in this state;

- (d) the owner of an animal and the owner's regular employee from caring for and administering to the animal belonging to the owner, except where the ownership of the animal was transferred for purposes of circumventing this chapter;
- (e) veterinarians who are in compliance with ~~subdivision 6~~ section 156.0721 and who are employed by the University of Minnesota from performing their duties with the College of Veterinary Medicine, ~~College of Agriculture~~, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Agricultural Experiment Station, Agricultural Extension Service, Medical School, School of Public Health, School of Nursing, or other unit within the university; or a person from lecturing or giving instructions or demonstrations at the university or in connection with a continuing education course or seminar to veterinarians ~~or pathologists at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory~~;
- (f) any person from selling or applying any pesticide, insecticide or herbicide;
- (g) any person from engaging in bona fide scientific research or investigations which reasonably requires experimentation involving animals;
- (h) any employee of a licensed veterinarian from performing duties other than diagnosis, prescription or surgical correction under the direction and supervision of the veterinarian, who shall be responsible for the performance of the employee;
- (i) a graduate of a foreign college of veterinary medicine from working under the direct personal instruction, control, or supervision of a veterinarian faculty member of the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota in order to complete the requirements necessary to obtain an ECFVG or PAVE certificate;
- (j) a licensed chiropractor registered under section [148.01, subdivision 1a](#), from practicing animal chiropractic; or
- (k) a person certified by the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board under chapter 144E from providing emergency medical care to a police dog wounded in the line of duty.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2025.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.12, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. Titles.

It is unlawful for a person who has not received a professional degree from an accredited or approved college of veterinary medicine, ~~or~~ ECFVG or PAVE certification, or an institutional license under section 156.0721 to use any of the following titles or designations: Veterinary, veterinarian, animal doctor, animal surgeon, animal dentist, animal chiropractor, animal acupuncturist, or any other title, designation, word, letter, abbreviation, sign, card, or device tending to indicate that the person is qualified to practice veterinary medicine.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2025.

Sec. 12. **REPEALER.**

Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.12, subdivision 6, is repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2025.