



Veterinary Practice Act

Review Committee





Committee

- State Board Members and Staff – Dr. Edsel Davis, Dr. John Sundstrom, Ex. Dir. Adrienne Price
- GVMA Members and Staff – Dr. Jill Lancaster, Dr. Vince Obsitnik, Dr. Sherry Weaver, Scott Piper
- RVT – GVTAA President Jamie Rauscher, RVT
- Industry – Mike Giles – Georgia Poultry Federation
- Academia – Dr. Sheila Allen
- Pharmacy – Heather Lindell, PharmD



Why change?

- No major updates since 2003 – 14 years of identifying issues
- Profession has changed
- Conflicts with State Board rules
- Fix omissions and errors
- Tighten language



Purpose of the Act

- “to promote, preserve, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare by and through the effective control and regulation of persons who are licensed in this state.”



Support Documents

- Model veterinary practice acts
 - AVMA
 - American Association of Veterinary State Boards
- USDA, FDA, EPA regulations
- Other state practice acts
- International associations



Article 1 - Definitions

- Section with most overall attention and discussion
- Added definitions that were previously undefined such as animal shelter, client, consultation, informed consent, impaired, livestock and patient
- Further defined alternative therapies, continuing education, food animal and the VCPR
- Added the practice of veterinary technology, the veterinary feed directive and veterinary assistant



Article 2 - State Board

- Defined a quorum
- Gave State Board power to inspect premises and establish annual licensing fees



Article 3 - Licensing

- Establishes AVMA Council on Education as the accrediting body for veterinary colleges
- Applicant found unqualified for licensure must be notified and may request a hearing
- Eliminated exam language – the State Board no longer administers exam – contracts with International Council on Veterinary Assessment (owner of the NAVLE)



Article 3 - Exemptions

- Lots of great discussion on this section – we will look to get approval from stakeholders such as livestock producers
- Subjected all exemptions to Georgia's animal cruelty statutes
- Further defined acceptable livestock management practices
- Tightened language on animal owners caring for their pets
- Further defined shelter medicine protocols
- Expanded veterinarian's ability to consult with medical and other professionals on care regimens



Article 4 – Good Samaritan Treatment of Animals

- No changes



Article 5 – Facilities and Equipment

- Essentially no changes



Article 6 – Mandatory Reporting

- Veterinarians and RVTs must report to the State Board any conduct by another licensee that is grounds for disciplinary action
 - Veterinarians and RVTs must SELF-report:
- Failure to make reports
- Impairment (alcohol, drugs, etc)
- Fraud
- Conviction of any felony or a crime reasonably related to the practice of veterinary medicine



Article 6 – Mandatory Reporting

- Reporting must be submitted not later than 30 days after occurrence of reportable event
- Board may adopt rules for reporting procedures
- Failure to report shall constitute grounds for discipline by the Board



Next Steps

- State Board must post for public comment
- Obtain approval from stakeholders
- Identify bill sponsor, seek supporters
 - Educate legislators on the changes and why
- Monitor legislation throughout the session