The Veterinary Practice Act
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Diplomate ACT
President--Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine
The Veterinary Practice Act

- Each state has a Veterinary Practice Act with statutes and rules in effect
The Veterinary Practice Act

- In Minnesota it is a gross misdemeanor for any person to practice veterinary medicine without a veterinary license or temporary permit.
The Veterinary Practice Act

In many states the owner of an animal may care for and administer to his/her own animals.
In Minnesota--the performance of obstetrical procedures, including determination of pregnancy and correction of sterility and infertility (A.I.’s), is considered the practice of veterinary medicine.
The Veterinary Practice Act

- The Practice Act includes rendering advice or recommendations regarding the above
The Veterinary Practice Act

- The veterinarian-client-patient relationship has specific requirements
The veterinarian...

- Assumes responsibility for making judgements regarding the animal’s health needs and the client agrees to follow instructions.
The veterinarian...

- Has sufficient knowledge to initiate at least a tentative diagnosis
The veterinarian...

- is available for consultation in cases of problems
The veterinarian...

- maintains records
The veterinarian...

- Supervises unlicensed employees, including technicians whether certified or non-certified.
Technicians take note!

- Practice of veterinary medicine without a license constitutes grounds for the board to take action against the unlicensed individual AND the licensed veterinarian.

- The veterinarian must have examined the animal patient prior to delegating an animal health care task to a non-licensed employee.
Technicians take note!

- A veterinarian shall not authorise a non-licensed employee to perform the following functions:
  - Surgery
  - Diagnosis and Prognosis
  - Prescribing of drugs, medicines, and appliances.
Technicians take note!

- The veterinarian shall ensure that the activities of the supervised individual follow the orders, assignment, or prescription of the veterinarian and are within the capabilities of the individual.
Finally

- Read and understand the requirements of the Veterinary Practice Act of the state that applies to you.