

R156. Commerce, Professional Licensing.

R156-28. Veterinary Practice Act Rule.

R156-28-101. Title - Authority – ~~[Organization and]~~ Relationship to Rule R156-1.

- (1) This rule is known as the "Veterinary Practice Act Rule."
- (2) This rule is adopted by the Division under the authority of Subsection 58-1-106(1)(a) to enable the Division to administer Title 58, Chapter 28, Veterinary Practice Act.
- (3) The organization of this rule and its relationship to Rule R156-1 is as described in Section R156-1-10~~[7]~~1.

R156-28-102. Definitions.

~~[In addition to the definitions]~~ Terms used in this rule are defined in Title 58, Chapter 1, Division of Professional Licensing Act~~[5]~~ and Title 58, Chapter 28, Veterinary Practice Act. In addition:

(1) "In association with licensed veterinarians" as used in Subsection 58-28-307(6)~~[5]~~ means an out of state licensed veterinarian who performs veterinarian services in this state at the request of a Utah licensed veterinarian ~~[regarding]~~ for a specific client or patient, and the services provided by the out of state licensed veterinarian are limited to that specific request.

(2) "IVAC" means the International Council for Veterinary Assessment.

~~(2)~~3 "NBEC" means the National Board Examination Committee of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

~~(3)~~4 "Patient" means any animal receiving veterinarian services.

~~(4)~~5 "Practice of veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry" as defined in Subsection 58-28-102(11) does not include implanting an electronic device to establish and maintain positive identification of animals.

~~(5)~~6 "Unprofessional conduct~~[5]~~" as defined in Title 58, Chapter 1, Division of Professional Licensing Act~~[5]~~ and Title 58, Chapter 28, Veterinary Practice Act~~[5]~~ is further defined in accordance with Subsection 58-1-203(1)(e)~~[5]~~ in Section R156-28-502.

~~(6)~~7 "Working under" as used in Subsection 58-28-102(17) means:

- (a) unlicensed assistive personnel perform the delegated tasks in Utah, while supervised by a veterinarian licensed under Title 58, Chapter 28, Veterinary Practice Act;
- (b) the manner and means of performance of the delegated tasks are subject to the right of control of, or are controlled by, the supervising veterinarian; and
- (c) the delegated tasks are recorded in the supervising veterinarian's medical records.

R156-28-302a. Qualifications for Licensure - Education Requirements.

Under Subsection 58-28-302(2)(a), if an applicant for licensure as a veterinary intern has graduated, but the educational institution has not yet posted the degree on the official transcript, the applicant may submit the official transcript together with a letter from the dean or registrar of the educational institution~~[5]~~ that certifies that the applicant has obtained the degree but it is not yet posted to the official transcript.

R156-28-302b. Qualifications for Licensure - Experience Requirements.

Under Subsections 58-1-203(1) and 58-28-302(1), the experience requirements for licensure are established in this section. ~~[in Subsection 58-28-302(1) are defined, clarified, or established as follows:]~~

(1)(a) Each applicant for licensure as a veterinarian shall complete 1,000 hours of experience while licensed as a veterinarian intern under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

(~~[d]~~b) If the experience is completed in a jurisdiction outside of Utah that does not issue veterinarian, veterinarian intern, or comparable licenses, or completed in a setting that does not require licensure, the applicant shall demonstrate that the experience was:

- (i) lawfully obtained;
- (ii) obtained after the applicant met the education requirement in Subsection 58-28-302(1)(b);
- (iii) supervised by a licensed veterinarian, or by a person who was exempted from licensure but possessed substantially equivalent qualifications; and
- (iv) comparable to experience that would be obtained in a standard veterinarian practice setting in Utah.

(~~[e]~~c) Supervision may be obtained by indirect supervision as defined in Section 58-28-102, if the supervisor supplements the indirect supervision with routine face to face contact as the supervisor considers appropriate ~~[in the supervisor's professional judgment]~~.

(~~[f]~~2) Each applicant shall demonstrate completion of the ~~[experience required]~~ required experience by submitting a verification of experience signed by the applicant and ~~[by]~~ the applicant's supervisor on forms approved by the Division.

(~~[g]~~3) If a supervisor is unavailable or refuses to provide a verification of experience, the applicant shall submit:

- (~~[i]~~a) ~~[submit]~~ a complete explanation of why the supervisor is unavailable; and
- (~~[ii]~~b) ~~[submit]~~ verification of the experience by alternative means ~~[acceptable to the Board, which shall]~~ demonstrate ~~[e]~~ing that the experience was:
 - (~~[A]~~i) profession-related work;
 - (~~[B]~~ii) competently performed; and
 - (~~[C]~~iii) sufficient ~~[accumulated experience]~~ for the applicant to be granted a license without jeopardy to ~~[the]~~ public health, safety, or welfare as determined by the Division in collaboration with the Board.

(~~[2]~~4) Under Subsection 58-37-~~[6]~~105(1)(a), a veterinary intern is not eligible to obtain a controlled substance license during ~~[the]~~an internship.

R156-28-302c. Qualifications for Licensure - Examination Requirements.

Under Subsections 58-1-203(1) and 58-28-302(1)(a), the examination requirements for licensure are established in this section. ~~[in Subsection 58-28-302(1)(a) are defined, clarified, or established as follows:]~~

(1) Applicants who passed examinations before May 1, 2000~~;~~ shall submit documentation ~~[showing they passed]~~ of a passing score, as determined by the NBEC, for:

- (a) the National Board Examination (NBE) of the National Board Examination Committee (NBEC) of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)~~;~~ with a minimum passing score as determined by the NBEC; and

(b) the Clinical Competency Test (CCT) of the NBEC [~~with a minimum passing score as determined by the NBEC~~].

(2) Applicants who passed examinations after May 1, 2000[~~;~~] shall submit documentation [~~showing they passed~~] of a passing score, as determined by the IVAC, for the North American Veterinarian Licensing Examination (NAVLE) [~~with a score as determined by the NBEC~~].

R156-28-303. ~~[Renewal Cycle]~~ Licensing Term - Renewal and Reinstatement Procedures.

(1) Under Subsection 58-1-308(1) and Sections 58-28-305 and 58-28-310, the renewal date for the two-year renewal cycle for licenses or state certifications under Title 58, Chapter 28, Veterinary Practice Act is established in Subsection R156-1-308a[~~(4)~~].

(2) Renewal and reinstatement procedures shall be in accordance with Sections R156-1-308b through R156-1-308l.

(3) Applicants for renewal shall meet the continuing education requirements in Section R156-28-304a or Section R156-28-304b, as applicable.

R156-28-30[4]6a. Continuing Education - Veterinarian.

Under Subsections 58-1-203(1)(g) and 58-1-308(3)(b) and Section 58-28-306, the qualified continuing education requirements for renewal and reinstatement of licensure under Title 58, Chapter 28, Veterinary Practice Act are established in this section. [~~there is created a continuing education requirement as a condition for renewal or reinstatement of licenses issued under Title 58, Chapter 28, Veterinary Practice Act. Continuing education shall comply with the following criteria:~~]

(1) (a) During each two-year [~~period commencing on September 30 of each even-numbered year~~] renewal cycle, a licensee shall complete at least 24 hours of qualified continuing education directly related to the licensee's professional practice.

(b) At least one hour [~~of the 24 hours~~] shall be specifically related to recognizing opioid use and dependency in office staff, clients, and coworkers.

(c) At least one hour [~~of the 24 hours~~] shall be devoted to topics that improve communication in the veterinary workplace for clients, employees, or recruitment, such as [~~for example~~]:

- (i) clinician-patient relationships;
- (ii) employee engagement and team building;
- (iii) diversity, equity, and inclusion, such as topics relating to culture, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or issues such as unconscious bias, cross-culture communication, or access and legal aspects of anti-discrimination;
- (iv) business writing or other professional communication; or
- (v) communication skills training, such as topics relating to active listening, non-verbal communication, or communication styles.

(2) If a licensee is initially licensed during the two-year [~~period~~] renewal cycle, the licensee's required number of continuing education hours shall be decreased proportionately according to the date of licensure.

(3) Continuing education shall:

- (a) have an identifiable clear statement of purpose and defined objective for the educational program directly related to the practice of a veterinarian;
- (b) be relevant to the licensee's professional practice;
- (c) be presented in a competent, well organized, and sequential manner consistent with the stated purpose and objective of the program;
- (d) be prepared and presented by individuals who are qualified by education, training, and experience; and
- (e) have a competent method of registration of individuals who completed the professional education program, with records of that registration and completion available for review.

(4) ~~[The Division shall recognize continuing education]~~ Credit for continuing education during each two-year renewal cycle shall be recognized as follows:

- (a) unlimited hours for continuing education as a student or presenter, completed in blocks of time of ~~[not less than]~~ at least one hour in formally established classroom courses, seminars, lectures, wet labs, or specific veterinary conferences approved or sponsored by one or more of the following:
 - (i) the American Veterinary Medical Association;
 - (ii) the Utah Veterinary Medical Association;
 - (iii) the American Animal Hospital Association;
 - (iv) the American Association of Equine Practitioners;
 - (v) the American Association of Bovine Practitioners;
 - (vi) certifying boards recognized by the AVMA;
 - (vii) other state veterinary medical associations or state licensing boards;
 - or
 - (viii) the Registry of Continuing Education (RACE) of the AASVB;
- (b) up to five ~~[continuing education]~~ hours for being the primary author of an article published in a peer reviewed scientific journal, and up to two continuing education hours for being a secondary author;
- (c) up to six ~~[continuing education]~~ hours in practice management courses; and
- (d) if the course has no instructor or the instructor is not physically present, such as for internet, audio and visual recordings, broadcast seminars, mail, or other correspondence courses, the course provider shall assure the licensee's participation and acquisition of the knowledge and skills intended by an examination.

(5) A licensee shall maintain documentation sufficient to prove compliance with this section for two years after the end of the ~~[two-year]~~ renewal cycle for which the continuing education is due.

(6) ~~[A licensee who cannot complete the continuing education requirement for reasons such as a medical or related condition, humanitarian or ecclesiastical services, or extended presence in a geographical area where continuing education is not available, may be excused from the requirement for up to three years under Section R156-1-308d]~~ The Division may defer or waive continuing education requirements as provided in Section R156-1-308d.

R156-28-30[4]6b. Continuing Education - State Certified Veterinary Technician.

Under Section 58-28-310, ~~[there is created a]~~the qualified continuing education requirements ~~[as a condition]~~ for renewal or reinstatement of a state certification issued under Title 58, Chapter 28, Veterinary Practice Act~~[. Continuing education shall comply with the following criteria:]~~ are established in this section.

(1) (a) During each two-year ~~[period commencing on September 30 of each even-numbered year]~~renewal cycle, a state certified veterinary technician shall complete at least 12 hours of qualified continuing education directly related to their professional practice.

(b) At least nine of the 12 continuing education hours shall be specific to medical practices.

(2) ~~[The Division shall recognize continuing education]~~Credit for continuing education during each two-year renewal cycle shall be recognized as outlined in Subsection R156-28-304a(4).

(3) A state certified veterinary technician shall maintain documentation sufficient to prove compliance with this section for a period of two years after the end of the ~~[two-year]~~ renewal cycle for which the continuing education is due.

(4) ~~[A state certified veterinary technician who cannot complete the continuing education requirement for reasons such as a medical or related condition, humanitarian or ecclesiastical services, or extended presence in a geographical area where continuing education is not available, may be excused from the requirement for up to three years under Section R156-1-308d]~~The Division may defer or waive continuing education requirements as provided in Section R156-1-308d.

R156-28-309a. Qualifications for State Certification - Education Requirements.

Under Subsections 58-1-203(1) and 58-28-309(2)(b), the education requirements ~~[in Subsection 58-28-309(2)(b)]~~ for state certification as a state certified veterinary technician are ~~[defined, clarified, or established as follows:]~~ established in this section.

(1) Each applicant shall submit an official transcript demonstrating that the applicant graduated from a veterinary technician or veterinary nurse training program that was accredited~~[.]~~ as of the date of the applicant's graduation by:

(a) the AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and ~~[a]~~Activities (AVMA-CVTEA); or

(b) the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA); or

(2) submit evidence, on forms approved by the Division, of at least 6,000 hours of paid on-the-job training within the United States by a U.S.-licensed veterinarian, that included~~[at minimum]~~:

(a) general veterinary care;

(b) lab skills;

(c) x-ray experience;

(d) surgical experience; and

(e) dental experience.

R156-28-309b. Qualifications for State Certification - Experience Requirements.

Under Subsections 58-1-203(1) and 58-28-309(2)(e), the experience requirements~~[d]~~ for state certification as a state certified veterinary technician ~~[is as follows:]~~ are established in this section.

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- (1) (a) Each applicant shall have completed at least six continuous months of full experience working in a veterinary clinic as a veterinary technician or as assistive personnel, under the supervision of a veterinarian that has held an license in good standing for at least two years; or
- (b) if the experience is completed in a jurisdiction outside of Utah that does not issue veterinary technician certification or comparable licenses, or completed in a setting that does not require certification or licensure, the applicant shall demonstrate that the experience was:
- (i) lawfully obtained;
- (ii) obtained after the applicant met the education requirement described in R156-28-309a;
- (iii) supervised by a licensed veterinarian, or by a person who was exempted licensure but possessed substantially equivalent qualifications; and
- (iv) comparable to veterinary technician experience that would be obtained in a standard veterinary practice setting in Utah.
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from
- (2) Each applicant shall demonstrate completion of the required experience by submitting a verification of experience signed by the applicant and ~~by~~ the applicant's supervisor on forms approved by the Division.
- (3) If a supervisor is unavailable or refuses to provide a verification of experience, the applicant shall submit:
- (a) ~~submit~~ a complete explanation of why the supervisor is unavailable; and
- (b) ~~submit~~ verification of the experience by alternative means ~~[acceptable to the Board, which shall]~~ demonstrating~~ing~~~~e~~ that the experience was:
- (i) profession-related work;
- (ii) competently performed; and
- (iii) sufficient experience for the applicant to be granted state certification without jeopardy to ~~the~~ public health, safety, or welfare as determined by the Division in collaboration with the Board.

R156-28-502. Unprofessional Conduct.

- (1) Under Subsection 58-28-102(18) and Section 58-28-502, ~~U~~unprofessional conduct includes:
- (a) deviating from the minimum standards of veterinary practice in Section R156-28-503;
- (b) permitting unlicensed assistive personnel to perform duties that the individual is not competent by education, training, or experience to perform; or
- (c) failing to conform to the generally accepted and recognized standards and ethics of the profession, including the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA)~~[, as approved by the AVMA Executive Board]~~, revised ~~[August 2019]~~June 2024~~[, which are]~~ and incorporated by reference~~[-(Principles)]~~.
- (2) If a licensee fails to establish ~~the~~a veterinarian-client-patient relationship as required ~~[in Section II of]~~by the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the AVMA, the failure may not excuse the veterinarian from complying with other duties that would be imposed on the veterinarian if the veterinarian had properly established the veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

R156-28-503. Minimum Standards of Practice.

Under Subsection 58-28-102(18) and Sections [58-28-502](#) and 58-28-603, a veterinarian shall comply with the following minimum standards of practice in addition to the generally recognized standards and ethics of the profession:

- (1) A veterinarian shall compile and maintain records on each patient that include~~[-at least the following information]:~~
 - (a) client's name, address, and phone number, if telephone is available;
 - (b) patient's identification, such as name, number, tag, species, age, and gender, except for herds, flocks, or other large groups of animals, which may be more generally defined;
 - (c) veterinarian's diagnosis or evaluation of the patient;
 - (d) treatments provided, including drugs used and dosages;~~[-and]~~
 - (e) date of service; [and](#)
 - (f) [name of the treating employee under Subsection 58-28-307\(1\), if applicable.](#)
- (2) A veterinarian shall [maintain veterinary medical records under Subsection R156-28-503\(1\)](#):
 - (a) ~~[maintain veterinary medical records under Subsection (1) so that]~~ [in a manner that would allow](#) any veterinarian ~~[coming into]~~ [entering](#) a veterinary practice ~~[may, by reading the veterinary medical record of a particular animal, be able-]~~ to proceed with the proper care and treatment of the animal [by reading the veterinary medical record for the animal](#); and
 - (b) ~~[maintain veterinary medical records under Subsection (1)]~~ for at least five years from the date that the veterinarian last treated the animal.
- (3) A veterinarian shall maintain a sanitary environment to avoid sources and transmission of infection, including:
 - (a) proper routine disposal of waste materials; and
 - (b) proper sterilization or sanitation of equipment used in diagnosis and treatment.
- (4) A veterinarian who holds a controlled substance license shall comply with Title 58, Chapter 37, Utah Controlled Substances Act~~[5]~~ and Rule R156-37, Utah Controlled Substances Act Rule.

KEY: veterinary medicine, licensing, veterinarian

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Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 58-1-106(1)(a); 58-1-202(1)(a); 58-28-101