

**CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES  
CHAPTER 384**

**Section 20-196. Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine.** (a) There shall be a Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine. The board shall consist of five members appointed by the governor, subject to the provisions of section 4-9a, as follows: Three members of said board shall be practitioners of veterinary medicine residing in this state in good professional standing and two shall be public members. No member of said board shall be an elected or appointed officer of the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association or have been such an officer during the year immediately preceding his appointment, or serve for more than two consecutive terms. The Commissioner of Public Health with the advice and assistance of said board may issue regulations to insure proper veterinary care and the protection of public health, considering the convenience and welfare of the animals being treated, methods recommended by the code of ethics of the national and state veterinary associations, proper registrations of veterinarians for prompt identification and accepted health and veterinary standards as promulgated by the Department of Public Health, Department of Agriculture health ordinances and state statutes and regulations.

(b) The governor shall appoint a chairman from among such members. Said board shall meet at least once during each calendar quarter and at such other times as the chairman deems necessary. Special meetings shall be held on the request of a majority of the board after notice in accordance with the provisions of section 1-225. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. Members shall not be compensated for their services. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from office. Minutes of all meetings shall be recorded by the board. No member shall participate in the affairs of the board during the pendency of any disciplinary proceedings by the board against such member.

**Section 20-196b. Board powers and duties.** The Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine shall (1) hear and decide matters concerning suspension or revocation of licensure, (2) adjudicate complaints filed against practitioners licensed under this chapter and (3) impose sanctions where appropriate.

**Section 20-197. License required. Practice defined.** No person shall practice veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry until he has obtained a license as provided in section 20-199. A person shall be construed to practice veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry, within the meaning of this chapter, who holds himself out as being able to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition, or who either offers or undertakes, by any means or methods, to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition. The euthanizing of animals in accordance with applicable state and federal drug laws by the Connecticut Humane Society, the floating of teeth in horses by persons experienced in that practice and the performance of myofascial trigger point therapy by persons experienced in that practice shall not be deemed to be the practice of veterinary medicine. For the purposes of this section, "floating teeth" means using hand-held rasps to reduce or eliminate sharp or uneven edges on a horse's upper and lower molars to avoid injury to the tongue and cheeks and to improve chewing food, but does not include treating decay, tumors or extracting teeth. For purposes of this section, "myofascial trigger point therapy" means the use of specific palpation, compression, stretching and corrective exercise for promoting optimum athleticism, and "persons experienced in that practice" means a person who, prior to the effective date of this section, has attended a minimum of two hundred hours of classroom, lecture and hands-on practice in myofascial trigger point therapy, including animal musculoskeletal anatomy and biomechanics, theory and application of animal myofascial trigger point techniques, factors that habituate a presenting condition and corrective exercise.

**Section 20-198. Qualifications for examination. Approved schools. Denial of eligibility for licensure.** (a) No person shall be granted a license to practice veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry until the department finds that such person (1) was graduated with the degree of doctor of veterinary medicine, or its equivalent, from a school of veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry which, at the time such person graduated, was accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, or (2) if graduated from a school located outside of the United States, its territories or Canada, has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the department that such person has completed a degree program equivalent in

level, content and purpose to the degree of doctor of veterinary medicine as granted by a school of veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry that is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. No person who was graduated from a school of veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry that is not accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association and that is located outside the United States, its territories or Canada shall be granted a license unless such person has also received certification from the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates or Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence.

(b) The department may, under such regulations as the Commissioner of Public Health may adopt, in accordance with chapter 54, with the advice and assistance of the board, deny eligibility for licensure to a graduate of a school that has been found to have provided fraudulent or inaccurate documentation regarding either the school's educational program or the academic credentials of graduates of the school's program or to have failed to meet educational standards prescribed in such regulations.

**Section 20-199. Examination. Fee.** No person shall be issued a license until such person has taken and passed, with a minimum passing grade established by the department with the consent of the board, written, oral or practical examinations prescribed by the department with the advice and consent of the board. Before being admitted to the examination, each applicant shall pay to the department the sum of five hundred sixty five dollars and an applicant rejected by the department may be reexamined at any subsequent time, upon payment of the sum of five hundred sixty five dollars for each appearance. The department of public health under the supervision of the board shall hold such examinations at least once each year at such places as it designates and at such other times and places as it determines.

**Section 20-200. Issuance of license to persons licensed to practice in another state or territory.** (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-198, as amended, the Department of Public Health may issue a license by endorsement to any veterinarian of good professional character who is currently licensed and practicing in some other state or territory, having requirements for admission determined by the department to be at least equal to the requirements of this state, upon the payment of a fee of five hundred sixty five dollars to said department. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-198, as amended, the department may, upon payment of a fee of five hundred sixty five dollars, issue a license without examination to a currently practicing, competent veterinarian in another state or territory who (1) holds a current valid license in good professional standing issued after examination by another state or territory that maintains licensing standards which, except for examination, are commensurate with this state's standards, and (2) has worked continuously as a licensed veterinarian in an academic or clinical setting in another state or territory for a period of not less than five years immediately preceding the application for licensure without examination. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint. The department shall inform the board annually of the number of applications it receives for licensure under this section.

(b) The Department of Public Health may issue a temporary permit to an applicant for licensure without examination upon receipt of a completed application form, accompanied by the fee for licensure without examination, a copy of a current license from another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or a commonwealth or territory subject to the laws of the United States, and a notarized affidavit attesting that the license is valid and belongs to the person requesting notarization. Such temporary permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty calendar days and shall not be renewable. The department shall not issue a temporary permit under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending, or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

**Section 20-201. Renewal of license.** Said department shall, annually in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, issue to each licensed veterinarian in the state, presenting an application for renewal of his license accompanied by the professional services fee for class I, as defined in section 33-1821, a receipt stating the fact of such payment, which receipt shall be a license to follow such practice for one year.

**Section 20-202. Disciplinary action; grounds.** After notice and opportunity for hearing as provided in the regulations established by the commissioner of public health, said board may take any of the actions set forth in section 19a-17 for any of the following causes: (1) The presentation to the board of any

diploma, license or certificate illegally or fraudulently obtained; (2) proof that the holder of such license or certificate has become unfit or incompetent or has been guilty of cruelty, unskillfulness or negligence towards animals and birds; (3) conviction of the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter by any court of criminal jurisdiction, provided no license or registration shall be revoked or suspended because of such conviction if an appeal to a higher court has been filed until such appeal has been determined by the higher court and the conviction sustained; (4) the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or the refusal to comply with any of said provisions; (5) the publication or circulation of any statement of a character tending to deceive or mislead the public; (6) the supplying of drugs, biologics, instruments or any substances or devices by which unqualified persons may practice veterinary medicine, surgery and dentistry, except that such drugs, biologics, instruments, substances or devices may be supplied to a farmer for his own animals or birds;

(7) fraudulent issue or use of any health certificate, vaccination certificate, test chart or other blank form used in the practice of veterinary medicine relating to the dissemination of animal disease, transportation of diseased animals or the sale of inedible products of animal origin for human consumption; (8) knowingly having professional association with, or knowingly employing any person who is unlawfully practicing veterinary medicine; (9) failure to keep veterinary premises and equipment in a clean and sanitary condition; (10) physical or mental illness, emotional disorder or loss of motor skill, including but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process; or (11) abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals. A violation of any of the provisions of this chapter by any unlicensed employee in the practice of veterinary medicine, with the knowledge of his employer, shall be deemed a violation thereof by his employer. The commissioner of public health may order a license holder to submit to a reasonable physical or mental examination if his physical or mental capacity to practice safely is the subject of an investigation. Said commissioner may petition the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to enforce such order or any action taken pursuant to section 19a-17.

**Section 20-203. Appeal.** Any person aggrieved by any action of said board taken under section 19a-17 may appeal therefrom as provided in section 4-183. Such appeal shall be privileged.

**Section 20-204a. Allegations of wrongdoing, investigation by department.** (a) The department shall investigate each allegation of any act or omission by a veterinarian specified in section 20-202. The investigation shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-14 to determine if probable cause exists to issue a statement of charges and to institute proceedings against the veterinarian. Such investigation shall be concluded not later than twelve months from the date the allegation is submitted to the department.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the investigation shall be confidential and not subject to disclosure under section 1-210 and no person may disclose knowledge of the investigation to a third party unless the veterinarian requests that the investigation be open.

(c) If the department makes a finding of no probable cause to take action under section 20-202 or fails to make a finding within the twelve-month period required by subsection (b) of this section, the allegation submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the entire record of the investigation may remain confidential and no person shall disclose knowledge of such investigation to a third party unless the veterinarian requests that it be open.

(d) If the department makes a finding that there is probable cause to take action under section 20-202, the allegation submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the entire record of such investigation shall be deemed a public record, in accordance with section 1-210.

**Section 20-205. When provisions not applicable.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any person in governmental employ while acting in the scope of his employment, nor to any person who furnishes medical or surgical assistance without compensation in an emergency, nor to any veterinarian, licensed in another state, who is employed as a direct consultant for not more than ten days during any calendar year with any practitioner licensed in conformity with the provisions of section 20-197. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any hospital, educational institution or laboratory or any state or federal institution, or any employee of, student in or person associated with any such hospital, educational institution or laboratory or state or federal institution, while engaged in research or studies

involving the use of medical, surgical or dental procedures, or to the owner of any animal or livestock of his or her employee while administering to such animal or livestock.

**Section 20-205a. Disposition of abandoned animals.** Any veterinarian may dispose of any animal abandoned in his establishment, provided he shall give notice of his intention to do so to the owner at his last-known address by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall allow a period of fifteen days to elapse after the receipt is returned before disposing of such animal; but, if the owner cannot be located at such address, the veterinarian shall give such notice by publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the town in which such owner was last known to reside, and shall allow a period of fifteen days to elapse after such publication before disposing of such animal.

**Section 20-206. Penalty.** (a) Any person who practices veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to the disciplinary actions specified in section 19a-17.

(b) Any person not licensed as provided in this chapter who represents himself as a veterinarian or, having had his license suspended or revoked continues to represent himself as a veterinarian or carries on veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry as defined in section 20-197, shall be fined not more than three hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than six months or both. Failure to renew a license in a timely manner shall not constitute a violation for the purposes of this subsection. Any such person shall be enjoined from such practice by the Superior Court upon application by the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine. The Department of Public Health may, on its own initiative or at the request of the board, investigate any alleged violation of this chapter or any regulations adopted thereunder.