

Chapter 56

(Senate Bill 322)

AN ACT concerning

State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners – Registered Veterinary Technician

FOR the purpose of altering the definition of the term “practice of veterinary medicine” to exclude certain procedures performed by a certain veterinary technician under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Agriculture
Section 2–301(f)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

BY repealing
Article – Agriculture
Section 2–301(g)(10)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Agriculture
Section 2–301(g)(10)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Agriculture

2–301.

(f) “Practice of veterinary medicine” includes, but is not limited to, the practice by any person who:

(1) Diagnoses, advises, prescribes, or administers a drug, medicine, biological product, appliance, application, or treatment of any nature, for the prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury, or disease of an animal;

- (2) Performs a surgical operation, including cosmetic surgery, upon any animal;
- (3) Performs dentistry on any animal;
- (4) Performs any manual procedure upon an animal for the diagnosis or treatment of sterility or infertility of the animal;
- (5) Represents himself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine;
- (6) Offers, undertakes, or holds himself out as being able to diagnose, treat, operate, vaccinate, or prescribe for any animal disease, pain, injury, deformity, or physical condition; or
- (7) Uses any words, letters, or titles in connection or under circumstances as to induce the belief that the person using them is engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine. This use is prima facie evidence of the intention to represent himself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine.

(g) The term “practice of veterinary medicine” does not include or apply to:

[(10) Except as otherwise provided by regulations adopted by the Board, a veterinary technician when performing the following procedures under the responsible direct supervision of a veterinary practitioner:

- (i) Anesthesia induction by inhalation or intravenous injection if the veterinary practitioner is able to maintain direct visual contact of the veterinary technician’s performance of the procedure;
- (ii) Anesthesia induction by intramuscular injection;
- (iii) Application of casts and splints;
- (iv) Dental extractions; and
- (v) Suturing of existing surgical skin incisions;]

(10) A REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WHEN PERFORMING A PROCEDURE UNDER THE RESPONSIBLE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A VETERINARY PRACTITIONER AS PROVIDED BY REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD;

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2011.

Approved by the Governor, April 12, 2011.