

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD
OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

LCB File No. R088-07

September 12, 2007

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1-8, NRS 638.070.

A REGULATION relating to veterinary medicine; authorizing certain persons licensed by the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to conduct certain animal health care and veterinary medical procedures, services and treatments outside the scope of their licenses under certain circumstances; authorizing veterinary technicians and euthanasia technicians to perform certain tasks under certain circumstances; requiring certain examinations to be conducted before vaccinating an animal at a veterinary facility; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Section 1. Chapter 638 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this regulation.

Sec. 2. 1. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a person who is licensed pursuant to chapter 638 of NRS and is a full-time employee of an institution registered with or licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture in accordance with the federal Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. §§ 2131 et seq., and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, may perform a task of animal health care or conduct a veterinary medical procedure, service or treatment on an animal that is outside the scope of his license if:*

- (a) The animal is owned by the institution that employs the person; and*
- (b) The care, procedure, service or treatment complies with the provisions of the federal Animal Welfare Act and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto.*

2. All vaccinations for zoonotic diseases of animals owned by an institution registered with or licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture in accordance with the federal Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. §§ 2131 et seq., and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, must be administered by a licensed veterinarian or a person under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

Sec. 3. 1. Subject to the provisions of subsections 2 and 3, a licensed veterinary technician who is an employee of an animal control agency or a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals that is in compliance with the provisions of chapter 574 of NRS may, before an animal is examined by a licensed veterinarian and in accordance with written protocols approved by that veterinarian:

(a) Obtain initial vital signs of the animal when the animal enters the custody of the agency or society;

(b) Apply bandages to the animal;

(c) Administer topical and oral medications, other than controlled substances and intravenous fluids, to the animal;

(d) Collect clinical specimens from the animal;

(e) Administer vaccinations, other than vaccinations for zoonotic diseases, by injection or nasal installation to the animal; and

(f) Implant subcutaneous identification microchips into the animal.

2. A licensed veterinary technician described in subsection 1 may not perform the tasks described in subsection 1 unless the employing agency or society has:

(a) Applied to the Board for authorization for licensed veterinary technicians employed by the society or agency to perform the tasks described in subsection 1; and

(b) Received such authorization from the Board.

3. The Board may revoke any authorization granted pursuant to subsection 2 after inspecting any agency or society that has received such authorization.

Sec. 4. *A euthanasia technician may implant a subcutaneous identification microchip into an animal if the euthanasia technician has successfully completed training in implanting subcutaneous identification microchips that has been approved by the Board.*

Sec. 5. NAC 638.053 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.053 1. A licensed veterinary technician may not perform the following tasks of animal health care:

- (a) Surgery.
- (b) Diagnosis and prognosis of animal diseases.
- (c) Except as authorized by a veterinarian, prescribe, administer or dispense drugs, medicines or appliances.
- (d) Any other activity which represents the practice of veterinary medicine or which requires the knowledge, skill and training of a licensed veterinarian.

2. A licensed veterinary technician may perform the following tasks under the immediate supervision of a supervising veterinarian:

- (a) Application of casts for the immobilization of fractures.
- (b) ~~[Dental extractions.]~~ *Removal of teeth that have extreme mobility and stage 4 periodontal disease.*
- (c) Induction of anesthesia.
- (d) Assisting a licensed veterinarian in surgery.
- (e) Euthanasia.

(f) Fluid aspiration from a body cavity.

3. A licensed veterinary technician may perform the following tasks under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising veterinarian:

(a) Endotracheal intubation.

(b) Blood administration.

(c) Monitoring of vital signs.

(d) Application of casts and splints.

(e) Tasks listed in subsection 4, if the animal is anesthetized.

(f) External noninvasive ultrasonography.

(g) Cystocentesis to obtain a urine specimen.

(h) Dental prophylaxis.

(i) Physical therapy.

4. A licensed veterinary technician may perform the following tasks under the immediate, direct or indirect supervision of a supervising veterinarian:

(a) Administration of enemas.

(b) Administration of an electrocardiogram.

(c) Application of bandages.

(d) Catheterization of an unobstructed bladder.

(e) Introduction of a stomach tube.

(f) Ear flushing with pressure or suction.

(g) Positioning of animals for X rays.

(h) Operation of X-ray machines.

(i) Administration of oral and rectal radio-opaque materials.

- (j) Administration of oral and topical medications, including controlled substances.
 - (k) Starting and restarting of intravenous fluids.
 - (l) Collection of a laboratory specimen for analysis, including, but not limited to, blood, urine, skin, parasites and microorganisms.
 - (m) Collection of tissue during or after a postmortem examination by a licensed veterinarian.
 - (n) Administration of intramuscular, subcutaneous or intravenous injections.
 - (o) Placement of an intravenous catheter.
- ↪ No examination within the previous 12 hours is required for the collection of laboratory specimens.

Sec. 6. NAC 638.450 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.450 As used in NAC 638.450 to 638.565, inclusive ~~§~~, *and section 4 of this regulation:*

1. “Agency” means:
 - (a) A law enforcement agency;
 - (b) An animal control agency; or
 - (c) A society for the prevention of cruelty to animals which is in compliance with chapter 574 of NRS,
- ↪ that employs a euthanasia technician to euthanize injured, sick, homeless or unwanted domestic pets and other animals.
2. “Euthanasia technician” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 638.005.
 3. “Handler” means a person who is trained in techniques of animal handling and human safety and is not licensed as a euthanasia technician.

Sec. 7. NAC 638.610 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.610 1. An examination conducted to determine whether an animal may be vaccinated at a vaccination clinic *or a veterinary facility* must include, without limitation, an examination of the temperature, pulse and respiration of the animal to determine:

(a) The presence of any respiratory, intestinal or other organ disease that may affect the efficacy of the vaccine; and

(b) Whether the hydration of the animal is normal.

2. A medical record of the examination must be kept pursuant to NAC 638.0475.

Sec. 8. NAC 638.620 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.620 1. A veterinarian who administers vaccines at a vaccination clinic *or a veterinary facility* shall, before he administers a vaccination to an animal, conduct a physical examination of that animal pursuant to NAC 638.610.

2. If, after conducting an examination of the animal, the veterinarian determines that a condition exists that would cause harm to the animal if the vaccine were administered, he shall:

(a) Not administer the vaccine; and

(b) Direct the owner of the animal to contact a veterinarian for treatment of the animal.