

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9268, March 19, 2004]

**AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 382 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

ARTICLE I

TITLE, POLICY AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as "The Philippine Veterinary Medicine Act of 2004."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It shall be the policy of the State to upgrade the practice of veterinary medicine for the purpose of protecting the animal population in the country through safe and proper diagnosis, treatment and surgery of these animals. The State recognizes the important role of veterinarians in nation building and promotes the sustained development of veterinarians whose competence has been validated by honest and credible licensure examination and whose standards of professional practice and service are world-class and internationally recognized and globally competitive.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* — This Act provides for all and shall govern:

- a. The administration and conduct of licensure examinations, registration and licensing of veterinarians;
- b. The supervision of regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine;
- c. The integration of veterinarians under an accredited veterinary professional organization; and
- d. The development of the professional competence of veterinarians through continuing professional education (CPE) in accordance with the guidelines set by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* —

- a. "Veterinarian" is a natural person who has been registered and issued a valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card by the Professional Regulatory Board of Veterinary Medicine in accordance with this Act.
- b. "Accredited Professional Organization" refers to the professional organization of veterinarians accredited by the Board and the Commission.

ARTICLE II

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

SEC. 5. *Composition of the Board.* — There shall be created a Professional Regulatory Board of Veterinary Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative supervision and control of the PRC, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to be composed of a chairman and two (2) members, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from among a list of three (3) recommendees for each position submitted by the Commission from a list of five (5) nominees for each position submitted by the accredited professional organization of veterinarians.

SEC. 6. *Qualifications of Members of the Board.* — The members of the Board must at the time of nomination, recommendation, and appointment:

- a. be a Filipino citizen and resident of the Philippines for at least five (5) years immediately preceding nomination, recommendation and appointment;
- b. be of good health, sound mind, good moral character and reputation and have not been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude;
- c. be a registered veterinarian and holder of a valid Certificate of Registration and a valid Professional Identification Card;
- d. be a member of good standing of the accredited professional organization;
- e. not be a member of the faculty whether full time, part time or as lecturer, of any school, college or university where a regular course in veterinary medicine is taught, or be a member of a staff of reviewers in a review school or center, and not have any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any such institution;
- f. have practiced veterinary medicine for ten (10) years; and
- g. not be an officer of an accredited professional organization at the time of nomination.

SEC. 7. *Term of Office.* — The chairperson and the two (2) members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years from the date of their appointments until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified and may be reappointed once. The member serving the last year of his/her term shall automatically become the chairperson of the Board. Vacancies In the Board shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. Each member shall take the proper oath prior to assumption of duty. Upon effectivity of this Act, the Incumbents whose term have not yet expired or who are on holdover status shall be allowed to serve the unexpired portion of their terms.

SEC. 8. *Powers, Functions, Duties and Responsibilities of the Board.* — The Board shall have the following specific powers, functions, duties and responsibilities:

- a. Enforce, administer, and implement the provisions of this Act;
- b. Determine and evaluate the qualifications of the applicants for examination, registration and for issuance of Certificates of Registration and Professional Identification Cards and/or special permits pursuant to the provisions of this Act;
- c. Prepare, adopt, issue or amend the syllabi for the subjects in the licensure examination, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the academe and the accredited professional organization;

- d. Register successful examinees in the licensure examination and issue the corresponding Certificates of Registration;
- e. Enroll in the registry book of veterinarians the names of successful examinees and to issue Certificates of Registration and Professional Identification Cards;
- f. Prescribe guidelines providing for the continuing professional education (CPE) program for registered and licensed veterinarians upon recommendation of the accredited professional organization of veterinarians;
- g. Revoke Certificates of Registration of or suspend registered and licensed veterinarians from the practice of his/her profession or to cancel special temporary permits after due notice and hearing;
- h. Adopt and administer Code of Ethics and a Code of Technical Standards for Doctors of Veterinary Medicine;
- i. Hear or Investigate on its own or by delegation to a board of member and a legal hearing officer of the Commission cases arising from violations of this Act, the Rules and Regulations, Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards issued thereunder and, in connection therewith, to issue *subpoena ad testificandum* and *subpoena duces tecum* to alleged violators or witnesses to compel their attendance and the production of documents;
- j. Look into the conditions affecting the practice of veterinary medicine in the Philippines, adopt measures for the enhancement of the profession and the maintenance of high professional, technical and ethical standards of the profession;
- k. Recommend to the CHED, in coordination with the accredited professional organization, the prescribing, amending and/or revising of the collegiate course leading to the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine;
- l. Adopt the official seal of the Board;
- m. Promulgate such rules and regulations or administrative orders and issuances as may be necessary to properly and fully carry out the provisions of this Act; and
- n. Perform such other functions and duties as may be necessary to implement this Act.

The policies, resolutions, and rules and regulations issued or promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and approval by the Commission. However, the Board's decisions, resolutions or orders which are not interlocutory, rendered in administrative case, shall be subject to review only if on appeal with the Commission. The decision of the Board and/or the Commission may be appealed to the Court of Appeals in accordance with the Rules of Court.

SEC. 9. *Compensation and Allowances of the Board.* — The chairman and members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to the compensation and allowances received by existing regulatory boards under the Commission as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. *Removal of Board Members.* — The chairman and members of the Board may be removed from office by the President of the Philippines, upon recommendation of the Commission on the following grounds:

- a. Neglect of duty;
- b. Incompetence;
- c. Violation of Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as "The Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees," and "The Code of

Ethics of the Veterinary Medicine Profession;"

- d. Manipulation or rigging of the veterinary licensure examination results;
- e. Disclosure of the examination questions or similar secret information;
- f. Tampering of the grades therein; and
- g. Final conviction by the court of criminal offense involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 11. *Administrative Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat and its Support Services.* — The Board shall be under the administrative and executive management of the Commission. All records of the Board, including applications for examination, minutes of deliberations, and administrative and other investigative cases shall be under the custody of the Commission. The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the secretariat and support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Annual Report.* — The Board shall, after the close of the fiscal year, submit an annual report to the Commission giving a detailed report of the activities and proceedings of the Board during the year and embodying such recommendations as the Board may desire to make.

ARTICLE III

EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF VETERINARIANS

SEC. 13. *Examination Required.* — Except as otherwise specifically allowed under this Act, all applicants for registration for the practice of veterinary medicine shall be required to pass a licensure examination to be given by the Board and the Commission in such places and dates as the Commission may designate in accordance with Republic Act No. 8981, subject to compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 14. *Subjects Covered by the Examination.* — The subjects for the licensure examination, shall cover the following:

1. Veterinary Parasitology;
2. Veterinary Pharmacology;
3. Veterinary Medicine (including Ethics, Surgery, Animal Welfare and Jurisprudence);
4. Zootechnics (including Animal Behavior and Environmental Health);
5. Veterinary Microbiology and Veterinary Public Health;
6. Veterinary Physiology;
7. Veterinary Anatomy; and
8. Veterinary Pathology.

The Board may amend, modify or exclude any of the subjects in the syllabi and add new ones as technological need arises subject to the approval of the Commission.

SEC. 15. *Qualifications of Applicant for Examination.* — In order to qualify for examination, an applicant shall establish to the satisfaction of the Board that:

- a. he/she is a citizen of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country has reciprocity with the Philippines in the practice of veterinary medicine;
- b. he/she is in good health and moral character, and sound mind;