

1 SB104
2 115783-1
3 By Senators Butler, Orr, Little (Z) and Little (T)
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 12-JAN-10

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8 SYNOPSIS: Currently, the practice of veterinary
9 medicine is regulated and licensed by the Alabama
10 State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

11 This bill would amend certain existing
12 statutes regulating the veterinary medical
13 profession to revise and add certain definitions;
14 provide further for certain prohibited acts; and
15 revise and add authorized tasks for veterinary
16 technicians and unlicensed assistants.

17
18 A BILL
19 TO BE ENTITLED
20 AN ACT
21

22 To amend Sections 34-29-61, 34-29-76, 34-29-77, and
23 34-29-94 of the Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the practice
24 of veterinary medicine; to revise and add certain definitions;
25 to provide further for certain prohibited acts; and to revise
26 and add authorized tasks for veterinary technicians and
27 unlicensed assistants.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

2 Section 1. Sections 34-29-61, 34-29-76, 34-29-77,
3 and 34-29-94 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read
4 as follows:

5 "§34-29-61.

6 "For the purposes of this article, the following
7 terms shall have the following meanings ascribed by this
8 section:

9 "(1) ACCREDITED SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE. Any
10 veterinary college or division of a university or college that
11 offers the degree of doctor of veterinary medicine or its
12 equivalent and is accredited by the American Veterinary
13 Medical Association (AVMA).

14 "(2) ANIMAL. Any animal or mammal other than man,
15 including birds, fish, reptiles, wild or domestic, living or
16 dead.

17 "(3) APPLICANT. A person who files an application to
18 be licensed to practice veterinary medicine or licensed as a
19 veterinary technician.

20 "(4) BOARD. Alabama State Board of Veterinary
21 Medical Examiners.

22 "(5) CONSULTING VETERINARIAN. A veterinarian
23 licensed in another state who gives advice or demonstrates
24 techniques to a licensed Alabama veterinarian or group of
25 licensed Alabama veterinarians. A consulting veterinarian
26 shall not utilize this privilege to circumvent the law.

1 "(6) DIRECT SUPERVISION. The supervising
2 veterinarian has initially examined the animal and will
3 examine at other times as acceptable veterinary medical
4 practice requires, consistent with the particular delegated
5 animal health care task. The supervising veterinarian is on
6 the premises and is quickly and easily available ~~and the~~
7 ~~animal has been initially examined by a veterinarian and~~
8 ~~examined by a veterinarian at such other times as acceptable~~
9 ~~veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the~~
10 ~~particular delegated animal health care task.~~

11 "(7) EMERGENCY. The animal has been placed in a life
12 threatening condition and immediate treatment is necessary to
13 sustain life.

14 "(8) FOREIGN VETERINARY GRADUATE, EXCLUDING CANADA.
15 Any person, including a foreign national or an American
16 citizen, who has received a professional veterinarian medical
17 degree from an American Veterinary Medical Association listed
18 veterinary college that is not accredited by the American
19 Veterinary Medical Association.

20 "(9) IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION. The supervising
21 veterinarian is on the premises and in audible ~~and~~ or visual
22 range of the animal patient and the person treating the
23 patient.

24 "(10) INDIRECT SUPERVISION. The supervising
25 veterinarian ~~is not on the premises, but~~ has examined the
26 animal and has given ~~either~~ written or oral instructions for
27 the treatment of the animal ~~patient and the animal has been~~

1 initially examined by a veterinarian while the supervising
2 veterinarian is away from the premises.

3 "(11) LICENSE. Any permit, approval, registration,
4 or certificate of qualification issued by the board.

5 "(12) LICENSED VETERINARIAN. A person who is validly
6 and currently licensed to practice veterinary medicine in
7 Alabama.

8 "(13) LICENSED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN. A person who
9 is validly and currently licensed to practice as a veterinary
10 technician in Alabama.

11 "~~(13)~~ (14) PERSON. Any individual, firm,
12 partnership, association, joint venture, cooperative, or
13 corporation or any other group or combination acting in
14 concert; and whether or not acting as a principal, trustee,
15 fiduciary, receiver, or as any kind of legal or personal
16 representative, or as the successor in interest, assigning
17 agent, factor, servant, employee, director, officer, or any
18 other representative of such person.

19 "~~(14)~~ (15) PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE:

20 "a. To diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve, or
21 prevent animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other
22 physical or mental condition; including the prescription or
23 administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus,
24 application, anesthesia, or other therapeutic or diagnostic
25 substance or technique on any animal including but not limited
26 to acupuncture, dentistry, animal psychology, animal
27 chiropractic, theriogenology, surgery, including cosmetic

1 surgery, any manual, mechanical, biological, or chemical
2 procedure for testing for pregnancy or for correcting
3 sterility or infertility, or to render service or
4 recommendations with regard to any of the above.

5 "b. To represent directly or indirectly, publicly or
6 privately, an ability and willingness to do any act described
7 in paragraph a.

8 "c. To use any title, words, abbreviations, or
9 letters in a manner or under circumstances which induce the
10 belief that the person using them is qualified to do any act
11 described in paragraph a. Such use shall be prima facie
12 evidence of the intention to represent oneself as engaged in
13 the practice of veterinary medicine.

14 "d. Collects blood or other samples for the purpose
15 of diagnosing disease or other conditions. This paragraph
16 shall not apply to unlicensed personnel employed by the United
17 States Department of Agriculture or the Alabama Department of
18 Agriculture who are engaged in the Brucellosis eradication
19 program or external parasite control program pursuant to
20 Section 2-15-192.

21 "e. To remove any embryo from a food animal or
22 companion animal for the purpose of transplanting the embryo
23 into another female animal or for the purpose of
24 cryopreserving the embryo, or to implant the embryo into a
25 food or companion animal. It shall not be considered the
26 practice of veterinary medicine for a person or his or her
27 full-time employees to remove an embryo from the food or

1 companion animal of the person for the purpose of
2 transplanting or cryopreserving the embryo, or to implant an
3 embryo into the food or companion animal of the person,
4 provided ownership of the food or companion animal shall not
5 be transferred or employment of the person shall not be
6 changed for the purpose of circumventing this article.

7 "f. To provide veterinary medical services to a
8 client or patient in this state, through telephonic,
9 electronic, or other means, regardless of the location of the
10 veterinarian, shall constitute the practice of veterinary
11 medicine in this state and shall require licensure within this
12 state and a veterinarian-client-patient relationship must be
13 established.

14 "~~(15)~~ (16) SUPERVISING VETERINARIAN. A veterinarian
15 who assumes responsibility for the professional care given to
16 an animal by a person working under his or her direction.

17 "~~(16)~~ (17) TEMPORARY LICENSE. Temporary permission
18 to practice veterinary medicine issued by the board pursuant
19 to this article.

20 "~~(17)~~ (18) ~~UNREGISTERED UNLICENSED~~ ASSISTANT. Any
21 individual who is not a licensed veterinary technician or
22 veterinarian and is employed by a licensed veterinarian.

23 "~~(18)~~ (19) VETERINARIAN, DOCTOR OF VETERINARY
24 MEDICINE, DVM, VMD, OR EQUIVALENT TITLE. A person who has
25 received a doctor's degree in veterinary medicine from an
26 accredited school of veterinary medicine or holds an
27 Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates

1 (ECFVG) certificate issued by the American Veterinary Medical
2 Association (AVMA).

3 ~~"(19)~~ (20) VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP
4 (VCPR). A relationship when the veterinarian has assumed
5 responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the
6 health of the animal or animals and the need for medical
7 treatment and is created by actual examination by the
8 veterinarian of the animal or a representative segment of a
9 consignment or herd.

10 ~~"(20)~~ (21) VETERINARY FACILITIES. Any place or unit
11 from which the practice of veterinary medicine is conducted.
12 The following are types of veterinary facilities:

13 "a. Veterinary or Animal Hospital or Clinic. Meets
14 or exceeds all mandatory requirements as listed in the
15 administrative code of the board for veterinary facilities. In
16 doing so, it provides quality examination, diagnostic, and
17 health maintenance services for medical and surgical treatment
18 of animals and is equipped to provide housing and nursing care
19 for the animals during illness or convalescence.

20 "b. Specialty Practice or Clinic. Provides complete
21 specialty service by a veterinarian who has advanced training
22 in that specialty and is a diplomat of an approved specialty
23 college. It meets all minimum standards that are applicable to
24 that specialty.

25 "c. Central Hospital. Shall meet all requirements of
26 paragraph a, as well as provide specialized care including
27 24-hour nursing care and specialty consultation on a permanent

1 or on-call basis. It is mainly utilized on referral from area
2 veterinary hospitals or clinics.

3 "d. Satellite, Outpatient, or Mobile Small Animal
4 Clinics. A supportive facility owned by or associated with, or
5 both, and has ready access to, within a reasonable distance, a
6 full-service veterinary hospital or clinic or a central
7 hospital providing all mandatory services and meeting all
8 minimum standards. The public shall be informed of the
9 limitation of services by way of a posted notice in plain view
10 and easily readable or by notice provided to the client by
11 flyer or card which clearly specifies those mandatory
12 veterinary medical services which are not provided. In
13 addition, the main location and telephone number of the
14 veterinary hospital or clinic providing the required service,
15 as well as the signed agreement with the veterinary hospital
16 or clinic shall also be posted in plain view and be easily
17 readable. A veterinarian associated with this veterinary
18 hospital or clinic shall be on call during and after operation
19 of the satellite, outpatient, or mobile clinic to render aid
20 if necessary. The personnel of satellite, outpatient, or
21 mobile clinics shall consist of one or more veterinarians and
22 auxiliary personnel necessary to provide adequate outpatient
23 service. Operation of any satellite, outpatient, or mobile
24 clinic shall be under the direct supervision of a licensed
25 veterinarian who remains on the premises during the entire
26 time of operation.

1 "e. Large Animal Mobile Clinic. Must provide
2 examination, diagnostic, and preventive medicine, and minor
3 surgical services for large animals not requiring confinement
4 or hospitalization. Emergency service and radiology service
5 shall be provided by that veterinarian or by written agreement
6 with another veterinarian or group of veterinarians in
7 practice in that locale. These clinics shall provide a degree
8 of veterinary care compatible with the level of standards
9 considered adequate to the practice of veterinary medicine
10 currently available in the area. Complete hospital facilities
11 may be provided by the nearest large animal hospital or
12 veterinary school.

13 "f. Emergency Clinic. A facility established to
14 receive patients and to treat illnesses and injuries of an
15 emergency nature requiring treatment. The clinic shall provide
16 professional diagnostic and emergency treatment during hours
17 when local veterinary hospitals are normally closed. Emergency
18 clinics shall meet all mandatory requirements of a veterinary
19 hospital or clinic.

20 "~~(21)~~ (22) VETERINARY MEDICINE. Includes veterinary
21 surgery, theriogenology, dentistry, acupuncture, animal
22 psychology, chiropractic, and all other branches or
23 specialties of veterinary practice.

24 "~~(22)~~ (23) VETERINARY INTERN. A person who is
25 working towards completion of an ECFVG certificate and who is
26 working under the direct or indirect supervision of a board
27 approved licensed veterinarian in any state to complete the

1 practical experience internship required for licensing in
2 Alabama.

3 ~~"(23)~~ (24) VETERINARY STUDENT PRECEPTEE. A person
4 who is pursuing a veterinary degree in an accredited school of
5 veterinary medicine which has a preceptor or extern program
6 and who has completed the academic requirements of the
7 program.

8 ~~"(24) VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, LICENSED VETERINARY
9 ASSISTANT, VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST, ANIMAL TECHNOLOGIST,
10 ANIMAL TECHNICIAN. Persons other than a veterinarian who have
11 successfully completed a post-high school course in the care
12 and treatment of animals which is accredited by the AVMA
13 Committee on Activities and Training (CATAT) or is approved by
14 the Alabama board and is licensed in this state to perform
15 acts which require limited skill, responsibility, and minimal
16 exercise of independent judgement in the treatment of patients
17 of veterinarians and under direct, indirect, or immediate
18 supervision of a veterinarian as herein and hereafter
19 provided.~~

20 "(25) VETERINARY TECHNICIAN STUDENT. Any person
21 enrolled in an AVMA accredited veterinary technology program;
22 gaining clinical experience under the supervision of a
23 licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician in a
24 clinical setting.

25 "(26) VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY. The skills and
26 knowledge accrued in a post-high school course of study
27 accredited by the AVMA Committee on Education (COE) or the

1 Alabama board, in the area of care and treatment of animals.
2 It embodies limited skills, responsibility, and minimal
3 exercise of independent judgment in the treatment of patients
4 of veterinarians while under direct, indirect, or immediate
5 supervision of a veterinarian.

6 ~~"(25)~~ (27) WHOLESALE VETERINARY DRUG DISTRIBUTOR. A
7 person engaged in the business of distributing veterinary
8 drugs and medicines for resale to veterinary practitioners and
9 other veterinary wholesalers and possesses a current permit
10 issued by the Alabama Board of Pharmacy to engage in the
11 selling of veterinary drugs or medicines in the State of
12 Alabama.

13 "§34-29-76.

14 "No person shall practice veterinary medicine or
15 veterinary technology unless the person holds an active
16 license to practice veterinary medicine or veterinary
17 technology in the State of Alabama and in addition:

18 "(1) No person shall use the name or title of
19 licensed veterinarian when the person has not been licensed
20 pursuant to this article.

21 "(2) No person shall use the name or title of a
22 licensed veterinary technician when the person has not been
23 licensed pursuant to this article.

24 ~~"(2)~~ (3) No person shall present as his or her own
25 the license of another.

1 "~~(3)~~ (4) No person shall give false or forged
2 information to the board or a member thereof for the purpose
3 of obtaining a license.

4 "~~(4)~~ (5) No person shall use or attempt to use a
5 veterinarian's license which has been suspended or revoked.

6 "~~(5)~~ (6) No person shall knowingly employ unlicensed
7 persons in the practice of veterinary medicine.

8 "~~(6)~~ (7) No person shall knowingly conceal
9 information relative to violations of this article.

10 "~~(7)~~ (8) No person shall falsely represent himself
11 or herself as being in a supervisory status without providing
12 such supervision.

13 "~~(8)~~ (9) No person shall provide veterinary medical
14 services to a client or patient in this state through
15 telephonic, electronic, or other means, regardless of the
16 location of the veterinarian, without a license to practice in
17 this state and without establishing a
18 veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

19 "~~(9)~~ (10) No person convicted of fraud, deceit,
20 gross negligence, incompetency, violation of the
21 administrative code of the board, or any other misconduct in
22 the practice of veterinary medicine shall be allowed to retain
23 his or her license to practice veterinary medicine and surgery
24 in Alabama.

25 "~~(10)~~ (11) No person convicted of or pleading nolo
26 contendere to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude

1 shall be allowed to retain his or her license to practice
2 veterinary medicine and surgery in Alabama.

3 "§34-29-77.

4 "No person shall practice veterinary medicine or
5 veterinary technology in the State of Alabama who is not a
6 currently and validly licensed veterinarian or licensed
7 veterinary technician or the holder of a temporary permit
8 issued by the board. This article shall not be construed to
9 prohibit any of the following:

10 "(1) A student in a school or college of veterinary
11 medicine from the performance of duties assigned by his or her
12 instructor or from working as a veterinary student preceptee
13 under direct or indirect supervision of a licensed
14 veterinarian.

15 "(2) A student in a school or college of veterinary
16 technology accredited by the AVMA from the performance of
17 duties assigned by his or her instructor or from working as a
18 veterinary technician student under direct or indirect
19 supervision of a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary
20 technician.

21 "~~(2)~~ (3) Any doctor of veterinary medicine in the
22 employ of a state or federal agency while actually engaged in
23 the performance of his or her official duties; however, this
24 exemption shall not apply to a person when he or she is not
25 engaged in carrying out his or her official duties or is not
26 working at or for the installations for which his or her
27 services were engaged.

1 "~~(3)~~ (4) Any person or his or her regular employee,
2 administering to the ills or injuries of his or her own
3 animals, including but not limited to, castration and
4 dehorning of cattle unless title is transferred or employment
5 changed for the purpose of circumventing this article.

6 "~~(4)~~ (5) State agencies, accredited schools,
7 institutions, foundations, business corporations or
8 associations, physicians licensed to practice medicine and
9 surgery in all its branches, graduate doctors of veterinary
10 medicine, or persons under direct supervision thereof, which
11 or who conduct experiments and scientific research on animals
12 in the development of pharmaceuticals, biologicals, serums, or
13 methods of treatment or techniques for diagnosis or treatment
14 of human ailments or when engaged in the study and development
15 of methods and techniques directly or indirectly applicable to
16 the problems of the practice of veterinary medicine.

17 "~~(5)~~ ~~Any unregistered assistant, nurse, lab~~
18 ~~technician, or other employee of a licensed veterinarian who~~
19 ~~administers medication or renders auxiliary or supportive~~
20 ~~assistance under the immediate supervision of a licensed~~
21 ~~veterinarian.~~

22 "(6) Qualified practitioners of veterinary medicine
23 and surgery from without the State of Alabama consulting with
24 licensed veterinarians in Alabama. No veterinarian of any
25 other state shall actively and actually practice veterinary
26 medicine in Alabama unless and until he or she shall obtain a
27 license to practice veterinary medicine from the Alabama State

1 Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and shall comply with
2 the other requirements contained in this article.

3 "(7) A member of the faculty of a veterinary school
4 performing his or her regular functions or a person giving
5 board approved lectures, instructions, or demonstrations in
6 connection with continuing education courses or seminars to
7 licensed veterinarians, licensed veterinary technicians,
8 veterinary students, or veterinary technician students.

9 "(8) Persons from gratuitously giving aid,
10 assistance, or relief in emergency cases if they do not
11 represent themselves to be veterinarians or use any title or
12 degree appertaining to the practice thereof.

13 "(9) Fishery biologists actively employed by the
14 State of Alabama, the United States government, or any person
15 in the production or management of commercial food or game
16 fish while in the performance of their official duties.

17 "(10) A person from being or practicing as a
18 "veterinary intern", as that term is defined in subdivision
19 (22) of Section 34-29-61.

20 "§34-29-94.

21 "(a) In order to obtain a license as a veterinary
22 technician, the applicant shall do all of the following:

23 "(1) Submit a complete notarized application on a
24 form prescribed by the board setting forth that the applicant
25 meets all of the following qualifications:

26 "a. At least 18 years of age.

27 "b. Of good character.

1 "c. Has attained a competent school education and
2 has received a diploma in ~~animal~~ veterinary technology from an
3 American Veterinary Medical Association accredited school, or
4 other school of ~~animal~~ veterinary technology approved by the
5 board.

6 "(2) Submit an application accompanied by an
7 authenticated copy of the college transcript of the applicant
8 signed by the dean or the registrar of the school, college, or
9 university.

10 "(3) Submit an application accompanied by a
11 photograph of reasonable likeness of the applicant taken
12 within six months of the date of the application.

13 "(4) Submit an application fee as prescribed by the
14 board.

15 "(b) Notification and penalty for nonrenewal of
16 licenses for veterinary technicians shall be applied as
17 provided in this article for veterinarians.

18 "(c) The board may adopt the Veterinary Technician
19 National Examination and passing criteria prepared by the
20 Professional Examination Service (PES), or any other
21 veterinary technician national examination as the sole
22 veterinary technicians examination or in addition to a state
23 examination at its discretion.

24 "(1) Examination of applicants for licensing as
25 veterinary technicians in Alabama shall be held at a time,
26 place, and date set by the board. Appropriate public notice of

1 the time and place of the examination shall be given at least
2 90 days in advance of the date set forth for the examination.

3 "(2) A passing score on the AVMA approved National
4 Licensing Examination shall be determined by the professional
5 examination provider based on a national criteria which
6 reflects a passing score of at least 70 percent. Each
7 applicant who passes the examination and meets all other
8 requirements for licensure prescribed by the board shall be
9 granted a license as a veterinary technician and shall be
10 registered as such and a record kept by the board, and shall
11 receive a license in a form to be prescribed by the board.

12 "(d) There shall be an annual renewal of each
13 veterinary technician's license and the renewal fee
14 established and published by the board.

15 "(e) The supervising veterinarian may require a
16 licensed veterinary technician to perform any task for which
17 he or she has been trained as delineated in the American
18 Veterinary Medical Association's essential tasks list for
19 veterinary technician teaching programs. The following tasks
20 may be performed under the level of supervision indicated
21 unless specifically prohibited by regulation and the
22 supervision shall be under a licensed veterinarian currently
23 registered to practice in this state, provided the
24 veterinarian ~~makes a daily physical examination of the patient~~
25 treated makes examinations in a manner and frequency
26 consistent with the accepted standard of care for the
27 condition of the patient and for the condition being treated:

1 "(1) A licensed veterinary technician may perform
2 the following tasks under the indirect supervision of a
3 veterinarian~~7~~. ~~if~~ If the animal is anesthetized, these tasks
4 shall require the direct supervision of a veterinarian:

5 "a. ~~Teeth cleaning~~ Dental Prophylaxis.

6 "b. Enemas.

7 "c. Electrocardiography.

8 "d. Application of bandages.

9 "e. Catheterization of the unobstructed bladder and
10 inserting indwelling catheter.

11 "f. Gavage.

12 "g. Ear flush.

13 "h. Surgical site preparation.

14 "i. Diagnostic imaging:

15 "1. Patient preparation and positioning.

16 "2. Operation of X-ray and ultrasound machines.

17 "3. Oral and rectal administration of radio-opaque
18 materials.

19 "j. Injections of medications not otherwise
20 prohibited:

21 "1. Intramuscular.

22 "2. Subcutaneous.

23 "3. Intravenous.

24 "4. Intradermal.

25 "k. Oral medications.

26 "1. Topical medication.

27 "m. Laboratory:

- 1 "1. Collection of tissue during or after a
2 veterinarian has performed necropsy.
- 3 "2. Urinalysis.
- 4 "3. Hematology.
- 5 "4. Parasitology.
- 6 "5. Exfoliative cytology.
- 7 "6. Microbiology.
- 8 "7. Blood chemistry.
- 9 "8. Serology.
- 10 "9. Coprology.
- 11 "n. Administration of preanesthetic drugs.
- 12 "o. Oxygen therapy.
- 13 "p. Removal of partially exposed foreign objects
14 from skin and feet.
- 15 "q. Removal of sutures.
- 16 "r. Euthanasia.
- 17 "s. Administration of immunological agents.
- 18 "t. Blood collection for diagnostic purposes.
- 19 "u. Cystocentesis.
- 20 "v. Placement of a device to allow vascular access.
- 21 "w. Handling of biohazardous waste materials.
- 22 "(2) A licensed veterinary technician may perform
23 the following tasks under the direct supervision of a
24 veterinarian:
- 25 "a. Endotracheal intubation.
- 26 "b. Blood administration and collection.
- 27 "c. Fluid aspiration.

1 "d. Intraperitoneal injections.

2 "e. Assist during surgery and diagnostics and
3 treatment procedures.

4 "e. f. Monitoring of vital signs of anesthetized
5 patient.

6 "f. g. Application of splints.

7 "g. h. Induce anesthesia by intravenous,
8 intramuscular, or subcutaneous injection, or by inhalation.

9 "h. i. When the animal is anesthetized, those tasks
10 listed under subdivision (1).

11 "i. j. Suturing skin lacerations, the site shall be
12 examined by a veterinarian prior to and following suture.

13 "~~(3) A veterinary technician may perform the~~
14 ~~following tasks under the immediate supervision of a~~
15 ~~veterinarian:~~

16 "~~a. Assist veterinarian during surgery and~~
17 ~~diagnostics.~~

18 "~~b. Perform procedures listed under direct and~~
19 ~~indirect supervision.~~

20 "(3) An unlicensed assistant may perform the
21 following tasks under the indirect supervision of a licensed
22 veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician:

23 "a. Blood collection for diagnostic purposes.

24 "b. Fecal sample collection.

25 "c. Surgical site preparation.

26 "d. Administration of previously prescribed
27 medications: Ophthalmic, otic, oral, topical, or parenteral.

1 "e. Handling of biohazardous waste materials.

2 "~~(4) Under An unlicensed assistant may perform the~~
3 following tasks under the immediate supervision of a licensed
4 veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician an
5 ~~unregistered assistant may perform the following tasks:~~

6 "a. Blood ~~administration and collection and~~
7 administration.

8 "~~b. Surgical site preparation~~ Placement of a device
9 to allow vascular access.

10 "c. Gavage.

11 "d. Diagnostic imaging:

12 "1. Patient preparation and positioning.

13 "2. Film exposure.

14 "3. Oral and rectal administration of radio-opaque
15 materials.

16 "e. Intravenous injections of medications not
17 otherwise prohibited.

18 "~~Laboratory, specimen collection and preparation~~
19 Exfoliative cytology preparation:

20 "~~1. Blood collection.~~

21 "~~2. Exfoliative cytology preparation.~~

22 "~~3. Fecal parasite sample collection and~~
23 ~~preparation.~~

24 "g. Application of bandages.

25 "h. Ear flush.

26 "i. Electrocardiography.

27 "j. Removal of sutures.

1 "k. Euthanasia.

2 "l. Assist during surgery and diagnostics.

3 "m. Place endotracheal tube.

4 "(f) Under the conditions of an emergency, a
5 ~~certified~~ licensed veterinary technician may render the
6 following lifesaving aid and treatment:

7 "(1) Application of tourniquets or pressure
8 bandages, or both, to control hemorrhage.

9 "(2) Administration of pharmacological agents and
10 parenteral fluids shall only be performed after direct
11 communication with a veterinarian authorized to practice in
12 this state and the veterinarian is either present or in route
13 to the location of the distressed animal.

14 "(3) Resuscitative ~~oxygen~~ respiratory procedures.

15 "~~(4) Establishing open airways including intubation~~
16 ~~appliances.~~

17 "~~(5)~~ (4) External cardiac massage.

18 "~~(6)~~ (5) Application of temporary splints or
19 bandages to prevent further injury to bones or soft tissue.

20 "~~(7)~~ (6) Application of appropriate wound dressings
21 and external supportive treatment in severe burn cases.

22 "(g) Any persons licensed or certified pursuant to
23 this article who gratuitously and in good faith give emergency
24 treatment to a sick or injured animal at the scene of an
25 accident or emergency shall not be liable for damages to the
26 owner of the animal in the absence of gross negligence.

1 "(h) Any licensed veterinary technician who in good
2 faith renders or attempts to render emergency care at the
3 scene of an accident or emergency to the human victim or
4 victims thereof shall not be liable for any civil damages as a
5 result of any act or omission by the person in rendering or
6 attempting to render the emergency care.

7 "(i) Any veterinary technician shall display his or
8 her license at his or her place of employment as to be easily
9 accessible to the public or his or her clients.

10 "(j) The board shall revoke the license of any
11 veterinary technician convicted of or pleading nolo contendere
12 to a felony, a crime involving moral turpitude, or who is
13 guilty of one or more of the following:

14 "(1) Soliciting patients from any practitioner of
15 the healing arts.

16 "(2) Willfully or negligently divulging a
17 professional confidence or discussing a diagnosis or treatment
18 of a veterinarian without the express permission of the
19 veterinarian.

20 "(3) The habitual or excessive use of intoxicants or
21 drugs.

22 "(4) Fraud or misrepresentation in applying for or
23 procuring a license to perform as a veterinary technician or
24 in applying for or procuring an annual registration.

25 "(5) Impersonating another person licensed as a
26 veterinary technician or allowing any person to use his or her
27 license as a technician.

1 "(6) Abetting or aiding the practice of veterinary
2 medicine by a person not licensed by the board.

3 "(7) Gross negligence in the performance of duties,
4 tasks, or functions assigned to him or her by a licensed
5 veterinarian.

6 "(8) Manifest incapability or incompetence to
7 perform as a veterinary technician.

8 "(k) The board may revoke or suspend any license
9 which they may have issued for violation of this article
10 relating to the practice of veterinary medicine or the conduct
11 of veterinary technicians, or both, for the violation of the
12 administrative code of the board after notice and hearing
13 proceedings, as provided by Section 34-29-79. Appeals from any
14 adverse action of the board under this section shall be made
15 to the Circuit Court of Montgomery County.

16 "(l) Any veterinarian who permits a veterinary
17 technician to work and perform the duties of a licensed
18 technician in his or her office without having been issued a
19 license or any licensed veterinary technician working in a
20 veterinary office without a license shall be guilty of a
21 misdemeanor. Nothing, however, in this article shall be
22 construed to prevent a student of veterinary ~~medicine~~
23 technology from performing ~~operations~~ duties necessary to
24 complete course requirements from an accredited school or
25 college of veterinary technology while under the supervision
26 of a competent instructor of veterinary medicine recognized by
27 the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

1 "(m) A minimum number of hours of continuing
2 education shall be required yearly for license renewal as
3 provided by the administrative code of the board.

4 "(n) Graduates of veterinary technology programs not
5 accredited by the AVMA may become eligible for licensure by
6 meeting all of the requirements of the AVMA and successfully
7 passing the AVMA approved veterinary technician licensing
8 examination."

9 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
10 first day of the third month following its passage and
11 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.