



## THE KANSAS BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

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February 9, 2012

The Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners respectfully requests your support for passage of Senate Bill 289, amending the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act.

On page 1, line 17, SB 289 would clarify the existence of the Board of Veterinary Examiners' authority to inspect and audit veterinarians' compliance with the currently existing minimum standards of veterinary practice. The Board has been conducting such inspections and audits since 1996 for veterinarians who practice in association with a registered veterinary premises. Passage of this amended language would clarify the Board's authority to similarly inspect and audit the standards of practice for veterinarians who do not practice in association with a registered premises, such as a exclusively house call veterinarians and farm call veterinarians.

Skipping ahead to page 4, line 16, the bill would establish the range of the fee the agency would assess the veterinarian for inspecting and auditing compliance with recordkeeping and other currently existing standards of practice.

Going back now to page 2, line 24, the bill would clarify the existence of the Board of Veterinary Examiners' authority to assess the qualifications of an applicant for registration as a veterinary technician, similar to its current authority to assess the qualifications of an applicant for licensure as a veterinarian.

Also on page 2, line 26, the bill would clarify the Board's authority to sanction the registration of a registered veterinary technician, similar to its current authority to sanction the license of a veterinarian.

On page 4, line 35, the bill as amended by the Senate Agriculture Committee would add a veterinarian's entering into a plea agreement (pleading to a misdemeanor or felony) or a diversion agreement in lieu of further criminal proceedings on a complaint alleging a violation of a felony as a basis for the Board's seeking sanction against the veterinarian's license. The current statute only provides as a basis for seeking sanction the actual conviction of a felony.

On page 6, line 19, the currently existing wording "*any* violation" would be amended to "*each* violation". The purpose is to clarify the Board's authority to assess a fine not in excess of \$5,000 against the licensee of a veterinarian for *each* of the causes for which the Board seeks license sanction. The fine total could thus exceed \$5,000 in cases where multiple causes have occurred.

Passage of SB 289 would better enable the agency to fulfill its legislatively mandated mission of promoting public health, safety, and welfare relative to the practice of veterinary medicine in Kansas. **We respectfully ask for your "Yes" vote in support of favorable passage of SB 289.**

On behalf of the members of the Board of Veterinary Examiners, thank you.

Dirk Hanson, DVM, Executive Director

House Ag. & Natural Resources  
February 9, 2012  
Attachment 1