

Part 6 Standards of Practice

58-28-601 Animal abandonment.

- (1) Any animal which suffers abandonment for a period of five days may be sold or placed in the custody of the nearest humane society or county dog pound if the animal is not picked up within seven days after mailing a notification, by certified mail, to the last known address of the person placing the animal in the veterinarian's custody. If no humane society or dog pound is located in the county, the animal may be disposed of in a humane manner.
- (2) A veterinarian who complies with this section is relieved from liability for the disposal or sale of abandoned animals.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 109, 2006 General Session

58-28-602 Cruelty to animals -- Immunity for reporting.

A licensed veterinarian who in good faith and in the normal course of business, reports a suspected case of animal cruelty to law enforcement or the proper authorities is immune from liability in any civil or criminal action brought against the veterinarian for reporting the suspected cruelty.

Enacted by Chapter 109, 2006 General Session

58-28-603 Medical records.

Medical records maintained by a person licensed under this chapter:

- (1) shall meet the standards and ethics of the profession;
- (2) shall be maintained in accordance with administrative rules adopted by the division in consultation with the board; and
- (3) may be maintained in electronic format.

Enacted by Chapter 109, 2006 General Session

58-28-604 Veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

- (1) A licensee under this chapter may only practice under a veterinarian-client-patient relationship as defined in Section 58-28-102.
- (2) A veterinarian-client-patient relationship may not be established solely by telephone or other electronic means.

Enacted by Chapter 109, 2006 General Session

58-28-605 Veterinarian-client-patient confidentiality.

- (1) A licensee under this chapter may not disclose information about the licensee's care of an animal to anyone other than the client, as defined in Section 58-28-102, unless:
 - (a) the client consents to the disclosure in writing;
 - (b) disclosure to public health officials, animal health or welfare officials, agricultural authorities, or federal, state, or local officials is required, or necessary to protect the animal or to protect public health;
 - (c) disclosure is required by court order or subpoena; or

- (d) the client has placed the veterinarian's care or treatment of the animal or the nature or extent of injuries to the animal at issue in a civil or criminal proceeding.
- (2) A licensee who releases medical records under the provisions of this section is not liable to the client or any other person for the release of the records.

Enacted by Chapter 109, 2006 General Session

58-28-606 Veterinary corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies -- Unlicensed individuals -- Ownership of capital stock -- Service as officer or director.

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Veterinary corporation" means a professional corporation organized to render veterinary services under Title 16, Chapter 11, Professional Corporation Act.
 - (b) "Veterinary limited liability company" means a limited liability company organized to render veterinary services under Title 48, Chapter 2c, Utah Revised Limited Liability Company Act.
 - (c) "Veterinary partnership" means a partnership or limited liability partnership organized to render veterinary services under Title 48, Chapter 1, General and Limited Liability Partnerships.
- (2) A veterinary corporation may issue or transfer shares of the veterinary corporation's capital stock to a person that is not licensed to practice veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry under this chapter.
- (3) An individual who is not licensed to practice veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry under this chapter:
 - (a) may not serve as an officer or director of a veterinary corporation; and
 - (b) may serve as secretary or treasurer of a veterinary corporation.
- (4) A veterinary limited liability company or a veterinary partnership may include an individual who is not licensed to practice veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry under this chapter.

Enacted by Chapter 61, 2015 General Session