

# FACT SHEET

## UTAH VETERINARY LICENSING ACT LICENSING FACTS

**November 3, 2003**

**Prepared For:** Health and Human Services Interim Committee

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**Act Name:** Utah Veterinary Practice Act.  
Title 58, Chapter 28, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**Summary of Act:** The practice of an Veterinarian is outlined in 58-28-2(4). The law states:

(The) "Practice of Veterinary Medicine, surgery and dentistry" means to  
(a) diagnose, prognose, or treat any disease, defect, deformity, wound, injury, or Physical condition of any Animal.

((b) administer or prescribe any drug, medicine, treatment, method, or practice, or perform any operation or manipulation, or apply any apparatus or appliance for the cure, relief, or correction of any animal disease, deformity, defect, wound, or injury, or otherwise practice any veterinary medicine, dentistry, or surgery on any animal.

The majority of the licensed Veterinarians are self-employed. A few licensed Veterinarians work for State or Federal governmental organizations.

The services provided by Veterinarians ultimately affect the public by providing medical services for household pets, wild life, livestock and poultry. The services of the Veterinarian are offered to the public and the community at large. The unprofessional or unlawful conduct by a Veterinarian poses a clear danger to public health, safety, and welfare.

### Requirements for Licensure

The licensed Veterinarian must graduate from a Veterinarian college accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Then must pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination, the Utah Jurisprudence examination, and be of good moral character. The applicant must complete a 1000 hours internship program under the supervision of a Licensed Utah Veterinarian.

D.O.P.L Licensing Information

Number of Licensed Veterinarians: 544  
Number of Licensed Veterinarian Interns: 14

Licensing Bureau: No law changes have occurred since 2001 when the Veterinarian Licensing Act 58-28 was changed to include Animal Chiropractic requirements. There has been little or no interaction with licensees or the public regarding practice act issues. The Utah Veterinary Licensing Board had approximately two licensees on probation at this time.

Investigations: The Professional Conduct Unit investigates reports of “unlicensed practice” and “standards of care” related cases. Several cases a year involve unprofessional or unlawful conduct based on gross negligence or criminal conduct. The number of complaints received and assigned is listed below:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Received	34	35	33	18
Assigned	17	13	15	11

Utah Veterinary Licensing Board: Composed of four Licensed Utah Veterinarians and one public member. The Veterinary Licensing Board meets quarterly.

**Contact Information:**

Please contact Daniel T Jones, Bureau Manager for the Utah Veterinary Licensing Board at (801) 530-6767 or Email at [dantjones@utah.gov](mailto:dantjones@utah.gov) if you have any questions.