

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Livestock
[Livestock Wing]

Islamabad, the 15th April, 2002

NOTIFICATION

S.R.O _____ (1)/2002.- In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 23 of the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council Act, 1996 (III of 1996), the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council, with the previous sanction of the Federal Government, is pleased to make the following regulations, namely:-

The Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council (Standards of Conduct and Professional Ethics of Veterinary Practitioners) Regulations, 2002.

1. **Short title and Commencement:-** (1) These regulations may be called the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council (Standards of Conduct and Professional Ethics of Veterinary Practitioners) Regulations, 2002.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions:-** (1) In these regulations, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or content:-

(a) “Act” means the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council Act, 1996 (III of 1996).

(b) “client” means the owner or legal guardian of the patient or his representative or the person directly assigned with the responsibility of the patient.

(c) “patient” means an animal, bird or a group of them being treated or managed or advised to be treated or managed by a veterinarian.

(d) “Council” means the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council constituted under the Act; and

- (e) “profession” means veterinary profession covering all its branches including animal health, animal production and related technology, and shall also sought or is made use of, such as laboratory animal medicine, animal experimentation and vaccine production, etc.
2. The words and expressions used but not defined in these regulations shall have the same meanings as assigned to them in the Act.
3. **Veterinarian’s responsibility:-** A veterinarian shall maintain, uphold and advance the honour and dignity of the profession and shall honestly serve the country, his employer, client and shall also use his knowledge and skill for the welfare and improvement of animal health in the country.
4. **Advertising:-** (1) No veterinarian shall publicize or advertise, directly or indirectly, by any means whatsoever, to project him in a position of superiority in the profession.
- (2) A veterinarian shall not advertise his professional services in a manner derogatory to the dignity of the profession. He may, however, make the formal announcement in the press about the following matters, namely:-
- a) starting of practice;
 - b) change of type of practice;
 - c) change of address;
 - d) temporary absence;
 - e) resumption of practice; and
 - f) succeeding to another’s practice.
- (3) He shall not advertise directly or indirectly, through price lists, or publicity materials of manufacturing firms or traders with whom he may be connected in any capacity nor shall he publish cases, operations or letters of thanks from patients, in non-professional newspapers or journals.

Provided that it is permissible to publish his name in connection with a technical expert’s report or publication in a professional journal.

5. **Fee for professional service:-** A veterinarian, engaged in practice or advisory service, shall limit the fee received for such services in the form and amount specifically announced or decided mutually to the client at the time the services are rendered.

6. **Rebates, gifts and commissions:-** A veterinarian shall not receive rebate, gift, commission or any other benefit from a professional colleague or a trader of medicines or medical appliances.

7. **Secret remedies:-** A veterinarian shall not prescribe or promote any such medicines or other remedial agents the composition of which is not known to him.

8. **Avoidance of Legal restrictions:** A veterinarian, regulating the practice of veterinary medicine, shall not assist or abet others to avoid compliance of such laws which are necessary for regulating administration of veterinary medicines, promotion and protection of veterinary health.

9. **Obligation to the patient:-** (1) A veterinarian shall treat each and every case requiring his service or advice, as the case may be, in emergencies and shall also be mindful of the high character and the responsibility that incurs in the discharge of his professional duties.

(2) A veterinarian shall, in respect of every patient, prepare a statement of history including his observations, entering clinical and laboratory examinations details, medicines recommended and other necessary data required on every check up from time to time.

10. **Withdrawal of Service:-** A veterinarian shall withdraw his services whose:-

- (a) he finds another veterinarian in attendance;
- (b) remedies other than prescribed are being used;
- (c) remedies advised and instructions are avoided;
- (d) he feels that the illness or the need of his services is an imposture and he is being made a party to a false pretence;

- (e) a client is resorting to the use of intoxicating drugs, means of quackery or witchcraft against medical advice; and
- (f) complete information or history concerning the facts and circumstances of the case are not supplied by a client.

11. **Act of negligence:-** (1) A veterinarian shall not willfully commit an act of negligence that may deprive the patient of the care that is absolutely necessary.

(2) A veterinarian shall to show such diligence and skill in service as would be expected of another veterinarian of similar qualifications, experience and attainments.

(3) A veterinarian who does not use a drug prepared under standard pharmacological principals and does not adopt all necessary preparations and precautions, like sterilization and verification of disease, as are normally required for that drug, shall be considered to commit a willful act of negligence.

Provided that the acts of commission or omission of a veterinarian shall not be judged by any non-veterinary standards and principles.

12. **Visit:-** A veterinarian shall visit a patient at the appointed hour and place as committed to a client for this purpose.

13. **Prognosis:-** (1) A veterinarian shall neither exaggerate nor minimize the gravity of a patient's condition and shall ensure that the legal owner of the patient has such knowledge of the patient's condition so as to serve the best interest of the patient and its owner hereinafter referred as the client.

(2) In case of dangerous manifestations or when grave and highly communicable diseases are encountered, the veterinarian shall inform the client and other persons concerned to whom the disease can be of a potent danger.

14. **Membership of societies:-** For the advancement of veterinary profession, a veterinarian may affiliate himself with professional societies and contribute his time, means and energy to their progress, so that they may represent and promote the ideals of the profession in a better manner.

15. **Safeguarding the profession:-** (1) Every veterinarian shall help in safeguarding the profession against those who are deficient in moral character or education and shall

not employ any unqualified personnel to treat or perform surgical operations upon patients.

(2) An unethical conduct on the part of any member of the profession shall be exposed without any fear or favour. The incompetent, corrupt, dishonest or unethical conduct on the part of any member of the profession shall be discouraged at all costs.

16. **Appointment of substitute:-** (1) Whenever a veterinarian shall requests another veterinarian to attend the patient during his temporary absence from practice, the attending veterinarian, under such appointment, shall give utmost consideration to the interest and reputation of the absent veterinarian and he shall not charge either the patient or the absent veterinarian for his services, except in case of special arrangement made between them.

(2) All such patients shall be restored to the care and treatment of the absent veterinarian on his return.

Provided that the owner of the patient may continue the treatment of the latter veterinarian if so preferred by him.

17. **Professional services of veterinarians to one another:-** (1) A veterinarian may charge another veterinarian or a member of a sister profession for services rendered. However, he may render gratuitous services to his professional colleagues or to a veterinary student if they are in his vicinity.

(2) When a veterinarian is called to attend a case of a fellow veterinarian or a member of a sister profession, reimbursement shall be made for traveling and other incidental expenses as well as a fee for his services, if any, agreed previously.

(3) When a veterinarian is consulted at his residence, he in the interest of the patient shall, while ascertaining history, go through the treatment followed earlier, if any. Thereafter, it shall be his duty to decide as to what modes of treatment shall be adopted.

(4) If a veterinarian is engaged to attend a patient of dystokia or a similar distress, his refusal to do so under excuse of another engagement shall be unethical except when he might already have been engaged in a similar or another serious cases.

(5) When a veterinarian engaged to attend a serious case is absent and another veterinarian is sent for, the latter shall be entitled to charge reasonable fees subject to

condition that he shall secure the client's consent to withdraw on arrival of the former at a mutually consented or logical phase.

18. **Consultation shall be encouraged:-** (1) A veterinarian shall resort for consultations in cases of serious illness, difficult conditions, or in the case of major surgical interventions in the interest of patient and veterinary profession. He shall also consult with other members of the profession during the outbreak of herd diseases, poisoning, endemic or un-diagnosable situations.

(2) In each case for consultation, the benefit of the patient shall be of prime importance and it shall not be done with an ulterior motive of avoidance of responsibility or for any monetary consideration.

19. **Conduct of Consultant:-** (1) A veterinarian, during the process of consultation, shall avoid insincerity, rivalry and professional jealousy. No such remarks shall be passed against any veterinarian, which shall be in violation of the professional ethics and damage the confidence of the client.

(2) All statements to the client shall be made in the presence of consulting veterinarian except as otherwise agreed. Difference of opinion shall not be divulged unless both feel that it is in the interest of the patient or dignity of the profession.

(3) It shall be the right of the client to obtain further advice by consulting another veterinarian if he considers it necessary. However, the attendance of consulting veterinarian shall cease after the process of consultation is concluded or another consultant is arranged by the initially attending veterinarian, as the case may be.

20. **Treatment after consultation:-** (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations, no decision shall restrain the attending veterinarian from making such subsequent variations in the treatment, as any unexpected change or development in disease may demand. However, all such details shall be recorded in the statement of history as prepared under paragraph (2) of regulation 9.

(2) Subject to paragraph (1), the same privilege with its obligations, shall belong to the consultant whenever he shall be required in an emergency in the absence of attending veterinarian. The attending veterinarian may prescribe new treatment or vary it at any time but the consultant shall do this only in case of emergency or instant need. All treatment as well as variations, as the case may be, by both shall be stated to each other.

(3) A consultant veterinarian, in the most exceptional circumstances, shall be justified to take over the charge of the patient completely in consultation with the attending veterinarian and after the consent of the owner of the patient or client.

21. **Bar on consulting non-registered veterinary practitioners:-** No veterinarian shall consult a practitioner who is not registered with the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council.

22. **Veterinarian to cooperate with authorities, etc:-** A veterinarian shall advise on matters concerning the health and husbandry of the animals, in the localities wherein they reside. They shall cooperate with the authorities in the observance and enforcement of sanitary laws relating to drugs, poisons and pharmacy, made for the protection of animal and human health.

23. **Public health:-** (1) A veterinarian engaged in public health work shall enlighten the public about quarantine regulations and measures for the prevention of epizootic, zoonotic, food-borne, intoxication and communicable diseases.

(2) A veterinarian shall inform the respective authorities of every case of communicable diseases under their care in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

(3) When an epidemic outbreaks, the veterinarian shall continue his efforts without regard to the handling of animal products and wastes thereof and educate the public of food-borne diseases and intoxication.

24. **Livestock production and technology:-** (1) A veterinarian shall strive for the betterment of animal production through timely advice on scientific management involving economically viable and hygienic housing, adoption of scientific breeding schedules, disease prevention routines, reproductive health monitoring, hygiene and systematic care, care of new born, hygienic collection of farm products and proper disposal of animal products and wastes.

(2) He shall strive to educate the public and para-veterinary staff regarding timely insemination and aseptic handling during artificial insemination and discourage the unscientific and unhygienic inseminations.

25. **Issuance of certificates:-** (1) A registered veterinary practitioner may issue, duly signed and stamped bearing his registration number, certificates, reports and other documents of various kinds for administrative authorities or banks as the part of veterinary services.

(2) Notwithstanding the certificates, reports or documents mentioned in paragraph (1), a veterinarian may also issue the certificates, reports or documents of the following nature, namely:-

- a) a vaccination certificate for licensing of pets;
- b) a vaccination certificate for transport from one area or province to another area or province;
- c) a vaccination certificate for export of animals;
- d) a soundness certificate for a horse or health certificate for cattle for the purposes of insurance or registration etc;
- e) a certificate indicating results of tests (diagnostic), like, tuberculin tests etc;
- f) postmortem reports in vetro-legal cases, for the purposes of insurance claims, etc;
- g) trauma certificates indicating the extent and nature of damage or deterioration in vetro-legal cases involving accidents, cruelty or vindication, etc;
- h) birth certificates required for the purposes of insurance, registration and loans, etc;
- i) a certificate indicating reproductive defects, diseases and other conditions rendering an animal uneconomical (fit for culling);
- j) a certificate for euthanasia where treatment is unlikely to be beneficial and a certificate of performance of euthanasia, etc;
- k) a quarantine clearance certificate for having cleared quarantine at places of disembarkation of animals, birds and livestock products, etc; and
- l) any other certificate, report or document relating to veterinary professional services rendered or opinion given in any case or matter.

(3) Every registered veterinary practitioner shall maintain a register and record the details of the certificates, reports or other documents issued under paragraphs

(1) and (2) and particulars of the patients including name, number, if any, age, owner's name and address.

26. **Professional Misconduct:-** The following actions shall constitute professional misconduct, namely:-

- (a) improper conduct with a patient or maintaining an improper association with a client;
- (b) conviction by a court of law of offenses involving moral turpitude;
- (c) tampering with or falsely providing professional certificates, reports and other documents;
- (d) contravention of the provisions of law relating to drugs, rules and regulations made thereunder;
- (e) selling a drug or poison to the public or clients, in violation of any law or rule;
- (f) performing or enabling an unqualified person to perform an operation for which there is no medical, surgical or psychological indications;
- (g) fixing a signboard on a chemist's shop or in places where the veterinarian does not reside or work;
- (h) displaying a board or a nameplate, to write anything other than his name, qualifications obtained from a university or a statutory body, titles and names of his speciality, if any;
- (i) before euthanasia or before performing an operation by not obtaining in writing the consent of the client;
- (j) hiring touts for procuring patients; and
- (k) violation of any of these regulations.

27. **Disciplinary Committee:-** (1) The Council shall constitute a Committee consisting of not more than three members from amongst its members including the Registrar of the Council as Secretary of the Committee. The Council shall also appoint the Chairman amongst the members of the Committee.

- (2) The Committee shall consider the following matters, namely:-
 - (a) complaints relating to professional misconduct or violation of these regulations;
 - (b) any case of indiscipline referred by the Council;

- (c) take suo motu notice of any violation of these regulations or acts declared as professional misconduct; and
- (d) any other case which the Council may think appropriate and suitable.

(3) The Committee shall call the complainant alongwith substantial evidence to prove the contents of the complaint and investigate it.

(4) The Committee shall issue a show cause notice to the concerned veterinarian by giving him a reasonable time for its reply and opportunity of being heard personally, if so desired.

(5) The Committee shall complete its proceedings within the period of three months and shall send its recommendations to the Council for its consideration and for taking necessary action in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

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