

State of Georgia Board of Veterinary Medicine:
(Office 478-207-2440) (fax 866-888-1308) (web site -www.sos.ga.gov/plb/veterinary)

The information in this document is part of but not the entire "Georgia Veterinary Practice Act". For complete information refer to the "Georgia veterinary Practice Act" O.C.G.A. § 43-50-1

§ 43-50-3. Definitions

(11) "Practice veterinary medicine" or "practice of veterinary medicine" means:

- (A) To diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve, or prevent animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical or mental conditions, including the prescription, administration, or dispensing of any prescription drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique on, for, or to any animal, including but not limited to acupuncture, animal dentistry, manual or mechanical adjustment procedures, physical therapy, surgery, diagnostic veterinary pathology, any manual, mechanical, biological, or chemical procedure used for pregnancy testing or for correcting sterility or infertility, or to render advice or recommendations with regard to any of the above; but not including such administration or dispensing pursuant to prescription or direction of a licensed veterinarian;
- (B)(i) To apply or use any instrument or device on any portion of an animal's tooth, gum, or any related tissue for the prevention, cure, or relief of any wound, fracture, injury, disease, or other condition of an animal's tooth, gum, or related tissue.
- (ii) To engage in preventive dental procedures on animals including, but not limited to, the removal of calculus, soft deposits, plaque, or stains or the smoothing, filing, or polishing of tooth surfaces.
- (iii) Nothing in this subparagraph shall prohibit any person from utilizing cotton swabs, gauze, dental floss, dentifrice, toothbrushes, or similar items to clean an animal's teeth;
- (C) To represent, directly or indirectly, publicly or privately, an ability and willingness to do any act described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph;
- (D) To use any title, words, abbreviation, or letters in a manner or under circumstances which induce the belief that the person using them is legally authorized or qualified to perform an act included in this paragraph. Such use shall be evidence of the intention to represent oneself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine;
- (E) To apply principles of environmental sanitation, food inspection, environmental pollution control, zoonotic disease control, and disaster medicine in the promotion and protection of public health as it specifically relates to animals. This subparagraph shall apply only to licensed veterinarians and not to other qualified individuals;
- (F) To collect blood or other samples for the purpose of diagnosing diseases or related conditions. This subparagraph shall not apply to unlicensed professionals employed by or under contract with the United States Department of Agriculture or the Georgia Department of Agriculture who are engaged in their official duties;
- (G) To administer a rabies vaccination to any animal that the state requires to be vaccinated.

§ 43-50-44. Activities not prohibited

This article shall not be construed to prohibit:

- (7)(A) The owner of an animal or the owner's full-time regular employee caring for and treating the animal belonging to such owner;
- (B) The owner's friend or relative caring for or treating the animal belonging to such owner, provided that no fee is charged and the friend or relative does not solicit, advertise, or regularly engage in providing such care or treatment or administer or dispense prescription drugs without a valid prescription;
- (8) The owner, operator, or employee of a licensed kennel, animal shelter, or stable or of a pet-sitting service providing food, shelter, or supervision of an animal or administering prescription drugs pursuant to prescription of a licensed veterinarian or over-the-counter medicine to an animal;

§ 43-50-45. Unlawful practice

- (a) Any person who practices veterinary medicine without a valid license in violation of this article shall be guilty of the misdemeanor offense of practicing veterinary medicine without a license and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in this Code section, provided that each act of such unlawful practice shall constitute a distinct and separate offense.