



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

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South Carolina Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

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TO: Licensed Veterinarians and Veterinarian Technicians

FROM: The Veterinary Board of Medical Examiners

SUBJECT: Mobile Veterinary Clinics

The Veterinary Practice Act seeks to assure that licensed doctors of veterinary medicine and licensed veterinary technicians are held to the standards of their profession. Accordingly, the individual practitioner should become familiar with the statutes and regulations that govern the profession to avoid unlawful activities.

While the jurisdiction of the Practice Act is limited to licensed practitioners, the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") recognizes and is very much concerned with mobile veterinary clinics which fall outside the regulatory arm of the Board and set at risk both the public and practitioners. As a result, on August 8, 2007, the Board issued an Order to Cease and Desist to Judy Tabor, d/b/a, Pet Vac Express.

The Board would like to remind practitioners of the following:

- Know the facility. A mobile facility means a vehicle with special medical or surgical facilities or a vehicle suitable only for making house or farm calls. However, regardless of the mode of transportation, a mobile facility must have a permanent base of operation with a published address and telephone facilities for making appointments or responding to emergency situations.
- The Board does not license mobile vet clinics. Veterinary hospitals/clinics may be owned by non-veterinarians, but a licensed veterinary must perform all acts that constitute the practice of veterinary medicine. Therefore, if the Board receives a complaint against a practitioner stemming from activities associated with a mobile veterinarian clinic, the complaint will be investigated.

- A veterinarian risks disciplinary action if he or she assists an unlicensed individual in activities reserved solely for licensed practitioners. The practice of veterinary medicine means to diagnose, prescribe, or administer a drug, medicine, biologic, appliance, or application or treatment of whatever nature for the cure, prevention, or relief of a wound, fracture, or bodily injury or disease of an animal.
- Protect your credential information. Do not allow anyone to use your license or a copy thereof to purchase or administer medications. The Practice Act requires veterinarians to establish a veterinarian/client/patient relationship for the purpose of prescribing medications.
- Maintain proper records. Regardless of the location of your practice, practitioners are required to maintain written records concerning patients for a minimum of three (3) years.

To access the statutes and regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine, you may click <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Veterinary/> to be linked to the Board's website.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Board at (803) 896-4598.

Thank you.