

## The practice of veterinary medicine in Florida includes the following:

- Diagnosing the medical condition of animals.
- Prescribing, dispensing or administering drugs, medicine, appliance, applications, or treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury or disease.
- Performing any manual procedure for the diagnosis or treatment for pregnancy or fertility or infertility of animals.



# VETERINARIANS

Licensed by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

[www.MYFLORIDALICENSE.com](http://www.MYFLORIDALICENSE.com)  
(850) 487-1395



# PROTECT YOUR PET. VERIFY YOUR VETERINARIAN'S LICENSE.

By law, veterinarians in Florida are licensed by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). Additionally, veterinary establishments also require a premise permit. Veterinarian licenses are renewed every two years, however premise permits have no expiration date.

DBPR inspectors conduct inspections at veterinary establishments once every two years. Below is a sample of the requirements they look for and encourage consumers to also check for when selecting a veterinarian.

## Licensing Requirements

- Veterinarian holds valid, active license which is conspicuously displayed
- Establishment appropriately permitted and premise permit is conspicuously displayed

## Exterior Facility

- Exterior sign legible to identify location
- Facility clean and in good repair
- Telephone number for emergency care visible and legible from exterior
- Grounds clean and orderly

## Interior Facility

- Examination area clean and orderly
- Lined waste receptacle in examination area
- Disposable towels and a sink in examination area
- Holding areas – size must be consistent with the welfare of the animal
- Hospital ward well lighted and well ventilated
- Veterinarian must furnish clients with permanent address for obtaining medical records

## **Are veterinarians required to provide clients copies of medical records?**

Veterinarians are required to furnish copies of all reports relating to examination or treatment, including X-rays, in a timely manner. Veterinarians may charge up to one dollar per

page for the first 25 pages and 25 cents per additional page for typed or written documents. Actual costs may be charged for the duplication of x-rays and other special records.

## **Medical records need to contain the following information:**

- Name of owner
- Patient identification
- Record of any vaccinations administered
- Complaint or reason for provision of services history
- Physical examination
- Any present illness or injury noted

## **Medical records must also contain information about the following services if they are provided or occur during the examination or treatment of an animal:**

- Clinical lab reports
- Radiographs and their interpretation
- Consultation
- Treatment – medical, surgical
- Hospitalization
- Drugs prescribed, administered, or dispensed
- Tissue examination report
- Necropsy findings

## **Are veterinarians required to provide clients copies of written prescriptions upon request?**

Veterinarians should provide clients with a written prescription for medications upon request, if he/she has recently examined the pet and the prescription is consistent with treating a condition that was diagnosed during that recent visit, or if the prescription is for preventative medications consistent with recommended wellness care and the animal has been examined by that veterinarian within the past 12 months. The veterinarian may charge a fee for written prescriptions.

## **Do veterinary aides require a professional license?**

Veterinary aides and employees of a licensed veterinarian do not require a professional license. However, the licensed veterinarian is held responsible for work performed by employees under their supervision.

## **How do I verify a veterinarian's professional license?**

Consumers can verify professional licenses with DBPR online at [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com), by calling (850) 487-1395, or by downloading the free DBPR Mobile app through iTunes or the Google Play store.

## **How do I submit a complaint to DBPR against a licensed veterinarian?**

Complaint forms for veterinarians are located under the "File a Complaint" tab on **MyFloridaLicense.com**. Completed complaint forms should be mailed to the appropriate address listed at the end of the document. Please note, an Authorization for Release of Patient Information (included in the complaint form) must also be submitted giving DBPR the authority to request medical records as part of the investigation.

## **How do I report suspected unlicensed activity to DBPR?**

Unlicensed activity occurs when an individual offers to perform or performs services that require a state license and the individual does not hold the required license. The practice of veterinary medicine in Florida includes surgery, acupuncture, obstetrics, dentistry, physical therapy and radiology with respect to all animals.

Floridians are asked to report any suspected unlicensed activity to DBPR by emailing [ULA@MyFloridaLicense.com](mailto:ULA@MyFloridaLicense.com) or calling the Unlicensed Activity Hotline at 1 (866) 532-1440.

**Remember: Unlicensed Activity is Against the Law.**