

VETERINARY COUNCIL OF INDIA (STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, ETIQUETTE AND CODE OF ETHICS FOR VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS)

-33004/92 REGD, NO. 1541 No. 154] Che Gazette of India EXTRA PART II—section 3—Sub-section (i) PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY 1, 12, 1914 NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1992/CHAITRA 12, 1914 Separate Paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation 1 1992. Part 1 984 (1984 52) 31 qfr 1992 1 863GI/92 1984 (1984 52) (q) T5T, JTT (1) 2 THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : 16 EXTRAORDINARY PART 11—SEC. 3. #7TT I 4. 3 10. 34qfäii, 12. 15. qft (ii) (iii) (iv) n 4 THE GAZETTE OF INDIA EXTRAORDINARY (PART 11—SEC. 17. 18. 20. (2) Efr it 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 3(i)] qrfi I 27. ft--etp•q- Td--qfä 5 29. 31. Eb--x-ä THE -GAZETTE -EXTRAORDINARY 30)] 34. y: q-tt (fVTt) 0, FT\$Bff 36. 37. ft-ü VI tTTFfi• fifiTRUT 40. 1 41 • 31 frq--ä (qfQä) qfrqq (qf-«ü) qfrqx F,TTQ: 3. friit-ä 3ATG (.29 •l (q) (3) (31) (3) qq-fqfiræTT 7 trT frfg 8 THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : EXTRAORDINARY [PART 3(i); EftqJTT fr-ffä.--=r 10. 44. 30 G. 4-4/91 / 3] VETERINARY COUNCIL OF INDIA NOTIFICATION New Delhi, the 1st April, 1992 G.S.Rö 395(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 66 read with section 31 of Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 (52 of 1984) the Veterinary Council of India, with previous approval of the Central Government, hereby makes the following regulations, namely Short title and commencement.—(1) These regulations may be called, the Veterinary Council of India (Standard of Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Code of Ethics, for Veterinary Practitioners) Regulations, 1992. (2) They shall come into force on the dates in the Official Gazette. Definitions.—(1) (In these regulations, otherwise requires, 'Veterinary' means a registered veterinarian as defined in the Act. date of its publication— unless the contrary appears— (c) (d) (e) (f) (b) 'Act' means the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 (52 of 1984). 'Regulations' means the Standard of Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Code of Ethics Regulations. This definition limits its meaning to the terms used within the said regulations. 'Patient' shall mean an animal, bird or a group of them being treated or managed or advised to be treated or managed by a veterinarian. 'Client' means the legal owner of the patient or his representative. or the person or persons directly assigned responsibility of the patient. 'Profession' means veterinary profession covering all its branches, namely, animal health animal production and technology, and shall include any other profession wherein veterinary service is extended or is sought or is made use of, namely tending laboratory animal medicine, animal experimentation and vaccine production,

3. Declaration and oath by a Veterinarian.—Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine. I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of livestock resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of knowledge in veterinary science. I shall practise my profession conscientiously, with dignity, and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics. I accept as a lifelong obligation the continuous improvement of my professional knowledge and competence. GENERAL PRINCIPLES 4. Character of the veterinarian.—The primary object of the veterinary profession is to render service to humanity by facilitating better animal production, ensuring veterinary public health as also caring for the sick animals and alleviating their suffering; financial reward is always a subordinate consideration. Whosoever chooses the profession, assumes the obligation to conduct oneself in accordance with the noble ideals of serving the dumb and mute creatures. The veterinarian shall be an upright person and shall be sincere and diligent in caring for the sick and managing the healthy animals. He/She shall be modest, sober, and prompt in discharging his/her duties. He/She shall conduct himself/herself with propriety in his/her profession and in all actions of his/her life

5. Standards of character and morals.—The veterinary profession expects from its members the highest level of character and morals. Every veterinarian owes to the profession and the public a duty to achieve such a level. It shall be incumbent on veterinarians to be in all matters of practice of the profession and to exercise clear and vigorous application of mind. responsibility.—A veterinarian shall 6. Veterinarian's merit the trust and confidence of his/her clients, rendering their animals full measure of service with devotion. The honoured ideals imply that responsibilities of a veterinarian extend not only to one client and the animals he brings but also to the entire society, 7. Advertising.—Solicitation of clients by a veterinarian directly or indirectly through an advertisement in newspapers, circular cards, placards,

or handbills in a manner projecting himself or herself to be in a position of superiority which he/she himself/herself has not achieved, is unethical. A veterinarian should not make use of or let others make use of his/her or his/her name as a subject of any form or manner of advertising or publicity through lay channels which shall be of such a character as to invite attention to his/her or his/her professional position or skill or as would ordinarily result in his/her self-aggrandisement; provided that a practitioner is permitted formal announcement in press about the following matters namely (1) starting of his/her practice, (2) change of type of practice, (3) change of address, (4) temporary absence from duty, (5) resumption of practice, (6) succeeding to another's practice. He/She shall further not advertise directly or indirectly through price lists or publicity materials of manufacturing firms or traders with whom he/she may be connected in any capacity, nor shall he/she publish cases, operations or letters of thanks from patients in non-professional newspapers or journals; provided that it shall be permissible for him/her to publish his/her name in connection with a technical expert's report or publication in a professional journal

8. Fee for professional service.—A veterinary engaged in practice! advisory service {consultancy, shall limit the 863 01192—2 9 source of his/her income to the fee received for service rendered to the client. Remuneration received for such services shall be, in the form and amount specifically announced to the client at the time the service is rendered

9. Patent and Copyrights.—A veterinarian may patent surgical instruments, appliances and medicine or copyright applications of methods and procedure

10. Running an Open Shop.—(Dispensing of drugs and appliances by veterinarians). A veterinarian shall not run an open shop for sale of medicine for dispensing prescriptions by doctors other than himself

11. Rebates, gifts and commissions.—A veterinarian shall not give, solicit or receive nor shall he/she offer to give, solicit or receive, any gift, gratuity, commission or bonus in consideration for the referring or procuring of, any client exclusive treatment advice for specialist/expert service or thereof; nor shall he/she receive any commission or other benefit from a professional colleague, trader of medicine or appliances or from a technologist

12. Secret Remedies.—The prescribing or dispensing by veterinarian of secret medicines or other secret remedial agents, of which he/she does not know the composition or the manufacture, or promotion of their use, is unethical

13. Evasion of Legal Restrictions.—A veterinarian shall observe the laws of the country in regulating the practice of veterinary medicine and will not assist others to evade such laws. He/She should co-operate in the observance and enforcement of sanitary laws and regulations in the interest of public health. A veterinarian shall observe the provisions of the State Acts like Drugs Act, Pharmacy Act, Rules and Regulations made by the Central Government, State Governments or Local Self Governments and Administrative Bodies for protection and promotion of veterinary public health. **DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS TO THEIR CLIENTS AND PATIENTS** 14. Obligation to the patient.—Though a veterinarian is not bound to treat cases of each and every one asking for his/her service, except in emergencies, he/she shall for the sake of humanity and the noble tradition of the profession, not only be ever ready to respond to the need of the sick and injured animals/birds, but shall also be mindful of the high character of his/her mission and the responsibility he/she incurs in the discharge of his/her professional duties

15. Patient not to be neglected.—A veterinarian is free to choose whom he/she will serve, provided that he/she shall respond to any request for his/her assistance in an emergency or whenever temperate public opinion expects the service. Once having undertaken a case, a veterinarian shall not neglect the patient nor shall he/she withdraw from the case without giving notice to the client sufficiently in advance to allow him secure another professional veterinarian. A veterinarian shall 16. Termination of withdraw his/her service under following valid reasons . (i) Where he/she finds another veterinarian in attendance (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi) Where remedies/advice other than those prescribed by him/her are being used. Where his/her remedies and advice and instructions are refused. Where he/she feels that the illness or the need of his/her service is an imposture and that he/she is being made a party to a false pretence. Where a client is resorting to the use of intoxicating drugs. means of quackery or witchcraft against medical advice; and information: history concerning Where complete the fact and circumstances of the case are not supplied by a client. **THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : (b) The discovery that the malady is incurable:the**

client's problems are unsolvable, is no excuse to discontinue attendance by a veterinarian as long as his/her client desires the service

17. Act of negligence.—(1) No veterinarian shall wilfully commit act of negligence that may deprive patient of the care that is absolutely necessary. (2) A veterinarian is expected to show such diligence and skill in service as would be expected of another veterinarian of similar qualifications, experience and attainments. (3) Either acts of commission or omission shall not be judged by any non-veterinary standards, but as those expected from a veterinarian of his/her training, standing and experience, (4) A veterinarian shall use any drug prepared under standard pharmacological principles and shall adopt all preparations/precautions, like sterilization and verification of doses as are normally prescribed for that drug

18. Behaviour to patients. The demeanour of a veterinarian towards his / her patient shall always be kind, tender and full of patience. Every patient shall be treated with attention, consideration and concentration

19. Visit. Notwithstanding the fact that a veterinarian is not bound to visit his/her patient/client, he/she shall make it at the indicated time, once he/she had committed to do so

20. Prognosis. (a) A veterinarian shall neither exaggerate nor minimise the gravity of a patient's condition. He/she shall ensure that the legal owner of the patient has such knowledge of the patient's condition as will serve the best interest of the patient and its owner (client). (b) In case of dangerous manifestations, or when grave and highly communicable diseases are encountered he shall not fail to inform the client and those to whom the disease can be of potent danger. **DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS TO THE PROFESSION** 21. Upholding the honour of the profession. A veterinarian is expected to uphold the dignity and honour of his profession

22. Membership of societies. For the advancement of his/her profession a veterinarian may affiliate himself/herself with professional societies and contribute his/her time, means and energy to their progress, so that they may represent and promote the ideals of the profession better

23. Safeguarding the profession. Every veterinarian shall be laid in safeguarding the profession against admission to it of those who are deficient in moral character or education. He/she should not employ in connection with his/her professional practice any unqualified personnel to treat or perform operation upon patients. 24. Exposure of unethical conduct. EXTRAORDINARY [PART 11—SEC. 3(i)] her patient/clients during his/her temporary absence from practice professional courtesy requires the acceptance of such an appointment by the latter, if consistent with his/her other duties. The veterinarian under such appointment shall give utmost consideration to the interest and reputation of the 'absent' veterinarian. He/She shall not charge either the patient or the absent veterinarian for his/her services, except in case of special arrangement between them. All such patients shall be restored to the care of the absent veterinarian upon his/her return

26. Professional services of veterinarians to one another. (1) There is no rule that a veterinarian shall not charge another veterinarian or a member of a sister profession for service rendered. But a veterinarian shall consider it a pleasure and privilege to render gratuitous service to his/her professional brethren, if they are in his/her vicinity, or to a veterinary student. (2) When a veterinarian is called from a distance to attend to a case of a fellow veterinarian or a member of a sister profession, reimbursement shall be made for travelling and other incidental expenses. (3) A veterinarian called in any emergency to visit a patient under the care of another veterinarian, shall, when the emergency is over, retire in favour of the latter; but shall not be entitled to charge the client for his/her services. (4) When a veterinarian is consulted at his/her own residence, it is not binding on him/her to enquire if the patient has been under the care of another veterinarian. But in the interests of the patient he/she shall, while ascertaining his story, go through the treatment followed if any. However, it is unethical that this information be used to malign or instigate against, directly or indirectly, the veterinarian who happened to attend on the patient previously. When a veterinarian sees a patient at the request of another veterinarian, it shall be the duty of the first veterinarian to write a letter to the veterinarian making the request stating his/her opinion of the case with the modes of treatment he/she thinks proper to be adopted. 27. (1) If a veterinarian is engaged to attend on a patient of distress or a similar distress he/she shall do so. Refusal to do so under excuse of another engagement is unethical except when he/she is already engaged in similar or another serious case(s). (2) When a veterinarian engaged to attend a serious case is absent and another veterinarian is sent for, the

latter shall be entitled to legitimate fees; provided that he /she shall secure the client's consent to withdraw on arrival of the former at a mutually consented or logical phase

28. When it becomes the duty of a veterinarian occupy- inc an official positi0'n to see and report on an illness or injury or any other professional problems concerning n patient.he/she shall do so, but communicate to the veteri- naria•n in attendance, so as to give him / her an opt;on to be present. The former shall avoid remarks on the diagno- sis or ffeafment that has been fidopfed. This does not pre- vent him/her from discussing the matter with (he later in isolation. **DUTY OF PRACTITIONERS IN CONSULTATION** 29. ConsultatÉcn shall be encouraged. Til, case of serious illness/doubtful or difficult conditions. m shall always request consultaion: he [she shall do so -hvthe case of maior surgical out break of herd diseaSes. poisoning, endemics or undiagnos:ble Exposure of unethical conduct on the part of any mem- situations. ber of the profeS9ion shall be done w]thOut fear of favour The incompetent, corrupt; dishonest on upethicallconduct on 30e PUnctualty Gin consultations. the part of any member of the pgofessiop shaw be\$ disc ouraged at any cost

25. Apponitment of substitute, Punctuålitv sh'all be observed by a veterinarian in attend- Nßconsultation.Tf a conqultant veterinarian does not @trive w;thin reasonable time. keening in view the distance Whenever a veterinarian (hereinafter mentioned#i\$å absent. he/she has to travel and othpr relevabnt faefors ih'e co•nsult- v terinaria'n) request* anOther veterinarian his/ Veterinarian shall be at libertv to see the patient; pro- I{-ÄE 3(i)] vided that he/she shall leave his/her conclusion in closed e'nvelope. The same rule applicable comulting veterinarian fails to turn up in time

31. Patient referred to another veterinarian.writing if the Whe•n a patient is referred to another veterinarian, a statement of the history, observation, cline'cal and laboratory examination as well as the tentative treatments undertaken shall be given. (2) On receipt of the above statement the veteri'narian lecc1Ving the referred case shall communicate . his/her opi- nien to the 'attending veterinarian and either shall continue the treatment as per his/her opinion or return the case along- v;iith his/her opinion communicated

32. Consultation for patient's benefit.every consultation, the benefit of the patient shall be of prime importance. It should 'not be done with an ulterior rn.otive of evasion of responsibilities or on monetary con- siderations. **33, Conduct of consultation.** (1) In consultation there shall be no place for insincerity, rivah-y or envy. All due respect shall be shown to the veter(narian in charge of the case and no statement or rcrrnrk shall be made which would impair the confidence reposed in him/her by the client. For this purpose no such discussion shall, therefore. be made before the clie'nt. (2) All statements to the client sh'all be made in the precence of consulting veterinarian, except as otherwise agreEd. Announcement to the client also shall be made by the consulting veterinarian to the extent possible. (3) Difference of opinion shall not be divulged unless both feel that is would be in the interest of the patient or dignity of the profession. (4) It shall be open to the client to take further advice and the consulting veterinarian with the consent of the client may consult yet another veterinarian, the rules of ethics remaining the same

34. Cessaiton of consultation.Attendance of consulting veterinarian shall cease when consultation is concluded; unless another appointment is arr21tged by the attending veteri'narian

35. Treatmet after consultation.(1) No decision shall restrain the attending veterinarian from maki'ng such subsequent variation in the treatment as any unexpected change or development may demand; provided that at the next consultation, reasons for variations are stated. (2) The same privilege, with its obligations, belo'ngs to the consultant when sent for in an emergency during the absence of attending veterinarian. The attending veteri'narian may prescribe at any time; but the consultant only i'n case of emergency or instant need, All treatments by moth shall be •tated to each other

36. Consultant not to take charge of the case.When a consultant veterinaria'n is called upon to be consulted, none but the rarest and most exceptional circum- stances shall justify the consultant taking charge of the case He must not do so merely on solieation of the client or his representative

37. Bar on consulting non-registered veterinary practioners.No veterinarian shall have consultation with pa veterinary practitioner who is not registered. **11 DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS TO THE PUBLIC** 38. Veterinarian as citizen. Veterinaria•ns as good citizens possessed of special train- ling, shall advise concerning the health and husbandry of the animals, in the localities wherein they dwell. They Shall play their part in e•nforcing the laws of the community (not favolving aåW commu'nai overtones or

prejudices) and maintaining the institutions that advance the interests of humanity. They shall cooperate with the authorities in the observance and enforcement of sanitary laws and the laws relating to drugs poisons and pharmacy, made for the protection of health

39. Public health. A veterinarian engaged in public health work shall enlighten the public concerning quarantine regulations and measures for the prevention of epizootic, zoonotic and food borne diseases and intoxications and communicable diseases. At all times, the veterinarians shall notify the respective authorities of every case of communicable diseases under their care, in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of the authorities. When an epidemic prevails, the veterinarian shall continue his/her labour without regard to the risk to his/her own health. He/She shall endeavour to ensure hygienic handling of animal products and wastes thereof and educate the public of food-borne diseases and intoxications

40. Livestock production and technology. A veterinarian shall strive for the betterment of animal production through timely advice/ propagation on scientific management involving economically viable and hygienic housing, adoption of scientific breeding schedule, disease prevention routines, reproductive health monitoring, hygienic and systematic care before, at and following parturition, care of new born, hygienic collection of farm products and proper disposal of animal products and wastes thereof. He/She should strive to educate the public and paraveterinary staff/personnel regarding timely insemination and aseptic handling during A.I. and discourage the unscientific and unhygienic inseminations.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION 41. The Veterinary Council of India brings to the notice of the registered veterinary practitioners the following : In matters regarding offences and form of professional misconduct, which may be brought before the appropriate Veterinary Council for disciplinary action, in view of the authority conferred by section 31 of the Act, the appropriate Veterinary Councils may award such punishments as deemed necessary or may direct the removal altogether, or for a specific period, from the register, the name of any registered veterinary practitioner, who has been convicted of any such offence as implies in the opinion of the Veterinary Council(s), a defect of character or who after an enquiry at which an opportunity has been given to such registered veterinary practitioner to be heard in person or through a pleader. It has been held by the Veterinary Council to have been guilty of serious professional misconduct. The appropriate Veterinary Council may also direct that any name so removed shall be restored. It must be clearly understood that the instances of offences and of professional misconduct which are given do not constitute and are not intended to constitute a complete list of the infamous acts which may be punished by erasure from the register and That by issuing this notice the Veterinary Council of India and/or State Veterinary Council is/are in no way precluded from considering and dealing with any professional misconduct on the part of a registered veterinary practitioner. Circumstances may and do arise from time to time in relation to which may occur questions of professional misconduct which do not come within any of these categories. Every care be taken that the code is not violated in letter or spirit. In such instance, as in all others the Veterinary Council of India and/or State Veterinary Council(s) has [have to consider and decide upon the facts]

12 THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : brought before the Veterinary Council of India and/or State Veterinary Council(s)

42. Misconduct The following actions shall constitute professional misconduct : 1. Improper conduct with a patient or maintaining an improper association with a client

2. Conviction by a Court of Law for offences involving, [moral turpitude]

3. Tampering with or falsifying professional certificates, reports and other documents.—

The registered veterinary practitioners are in certain cases bound by law to give or refrain from doing at any time to be called upon or requested to give reports and other documents of kindred signed certificates, character by courts administrative offices, banks as part of (See section 30 of the Act). veterinary services.

(1) Notwithstanding the existence of other similar and/ shall such documents or kindred declarations include (a) A vaccination certificate for licensing of pets. (b) A vaccination certificate for transport across border from one state to another. (c) A vaccination certificate for export of animals. (d) A soundness certificate for a horse or health certificate for cattle for the purpose of insurance, registration, etc. (e) A certificate indicating results of tests (diagnostic) like tuberculin test. (f) Post-mortem reports in veterinary legal cases, for purpose of insurance claims etc. (g) Trauma certificate indicating the extent and nature of damage and/or deterioration, in veterinary legal cases involving accidents, cruelty or vindication (h) Birth certificates required at times for purposes of insurance, registrations, loans etc. reproductive defects, (i) A

certificate indicating diseases and other conditions rendering an animal uneconomic (fit for culling). (j) A certificate for euthanasia where it is unlikely to be rewarding and; a certificate of performance of euthanasia. k) Quarantine clearance certificate for having cleared quarantine at places of disembarkation of animals/ birds/livestock products. (2) Any registered veterinary practitioner who shall be proved to have signed or given under his/her name and authority any such certificate, report or document of a kind and character which is untrue, misleading or immaterially relating to the several matters, some of which are specified above, is liable to have his/her name erased from the Indian Veterinary Practitioners' Register. (3) A registered veterinary practitioner shall maintain a Register or Veterinary Medical Certificates giving full details of certificates issued, (4) When issuing such a certificate the identification mark of the patient, name or number, if any, age [PART II—SEC. 3(i) EXTRAORDINARY and other details including owner's name and keep a copy of the Certificate for record with him. The client's signature and/or thumb impression and (r) declaration that he is the genuine owner of patient or is his authorised representative shall} invariably be obtained

4. Contravention of the provisions of law relating to drugs and regulations made thereunder

5. Selling a drug or poison regulated by law to the public: his /her clients, save as provided by that law

6. Performing, or enabling an unqualified person to perform, any illegal operation for which there is no surgical or psychological indication

7. **Alfixing a signboard or** a chemist's shop or in place where the veterinarian does reside or work. his should not be construed to mean announcement, boards or directional indicators. 8. While displaying a board or a name plate, to write obtained anything other than his /her name, qualifications from a University or a statutory body, titles and names his/her speciality if any (Such name being the content of his/her prescription papers), and the registration number

9. Before euthanasia or before performing an operation:} not obtaining in writing the consent from the client

10. Using touts or agents for procuring patients

43. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES There shall be a Committee charged with the duty of considering and determining : (a) Any case of indiscipline referred to them by State Veterinary Council or appeal by aggrieved registered veterinary practitioners. (b) Any other case of which the Disciplinary Committee has cognisance: 44. The State Veterinary Council shall investigate, through (by fact-finding and receiving 8 complaints), regarding (a) Registered veterinary practitioners being convicted of any criminal offence which in the opinion the committee renders unfit to practise profession. (b) any such veterinarian detected/judged to have guilty of disgraceful conduct in any professional respect. (c) any person whose name is fraudulently entered in the register

45. The State Veterinary Council(s) shall on receipt of complaints regarding any unregistered individual and individuals who while rendering minor veterinary services described under subsection (b) of section 30 of the act, undertake unsupervised treatment [veterinary service assuming himself/ himself to be a veterinarian, shall make necessary investigations and advise the concerned State government to take appropriate action or shall themselves initiate action under the law.] [No. 4-4/91NC1/31 PROF. (DR) RAMA KUMAR V., secy. Printed by the Manager, Govt. of India Press, Ring Road, New Delhi-110064 and Published by the Controller of Publications. Delhi-110054. 1992