



VETERINARIANS LAW, 1991¹

Chapter One: Interpretation

1. Definitions:

"Animal" and "Carcass" - as these terms are defined in the *Animal Diseases Ordinance [New Version]*, 1985.

The "Advisory Committee" - The committee set up in accordance with section 10.

The "Scientific Council" - The scientific council of the Israeli Veterinary Medical Association.

The "Director" - The Director of Veterinary Services at the Ministry of Agriculture.

"Practice of Veterinary Medicine" - Medical treatment of Animals to prevent or cure disease, performance of an examination, diagnosis or operation on an Animal or issuing of a prescription for an Animal, including examination of the Carcass of an Animal for the purpose of diagnosing a disease or for the purpose of determining whether it is fit for human consumption.

"Veterinarian" - A person licensed to practice veterinary medicine in accordance with section 2.

The "Minister" - The Minister of Agriculture.

2. Veterinarian's Mission:

The Veterinarian's mission is to prevent and ease the suffering of Animals, to prevent and cure Animal diseases, to assist in the proper maintenance of the Animal economy, to protect man from damages and dangers originating in Animal diseases or in Animal-based food or food products, and to act to improve the quality of Animal-based food products.

Chapter Two: Exclusivity in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine

3. Practice of Veterinary Medicine:

A person holding a license, a temporary permit or restricted permit pursuant to this Law. May engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine as an occupation.

4. Prohibition Against the Practice of Veterinary Medicine by a Person Who Is Not a Veterinarian:

(a) A person who is not a Veterinarian may not engage in the practice of Veterinary Medicine and may not represent himself or herself, explicitly or implicitly, as a Practitioner of Veterinary Medicine or as qualified in the Practice thereof. However, the Minister may, in regulations approved by the Knesset Economic Committee, permit a person who is not a

¹ Codex 1342, 5751 (1.2.1991), page 76.

Veterinarian to perform certain activities belonging to the practice of Veterinary Medicine as an occupation, provided he or she possesses the qualifications stipulated in the regulations for the performance of such activities: and the Ministry may, in said regulations, prescribe which activities shall be performed under the supervision of the Veterinarian.

- (b) That stated in this section is not intended to prevent the rendering of advice or medical treatment other than in an occupational framework, or working under the direct personal supervision of the Veterinarian.

5. Persons Eligible for a License:

- (a) Anyone fulfilling each of the following conditions shall be eligible for a license to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine (hereinafter - License):

- (1) He or she is an Israeli citizen or holds a permit for permanent residence in Israel.
- (2) He or she possesses an education in veterinary medicine.
- (3) He or she passed the examinations set by the Director in consultation with the Scientific Council, except if he or she possesses an education in veterinary medicine as provided in Subsection (b)(1).

- (b) The following shall be deemed as possessing an education in veterinary medicine, for the purpose of Subsection (a):

- (1) Anyone awarded a degree by a faculty or school of veterinary medicine at an institution of higher education in Israel, attesting to the completion of his or her curricular studies as a Veterinarian, provided the Council for Higher Education has recognised such institution and such degree.
- (2) Anyone who completed his or her studies in veterinary medicine at a faculty or school of veterinary medicine outside Israel, which has been recognised by the Director, and who received a completion certificate which has been recognised by the Director.

6. Exclusivity of the Title:

A person may not use the title of "Veterinarian" or a similar title intimating that he or she is a Veterinarian, except if he or she is licensed to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine pursuant to this Law.

7. Employing Assistant:

A Veterinarian may employ, under his or her personal supervision, assistant in his or her professional work, but he or she shall not permit anyone who is not a Veterinarian to perform activities involving the Practice of Veterinary Medicine, when such matter requires the professional judgement or skill of a Veterinarian.

8. Permission to Hold Drugs and Medication:

A Veterinarian may keep on his or her premises drugs and medications required to treat Animals, and use them for such treatment or in an emergency, but he or she shall not issue or supply drugs or medications to the owner of a sick Animal except in accordance with the provisions of the *Pharmaceutics Ordinance [New Version]*, 1981. A Veterinarian shall be subject to all statutory provisions regarding the possession or use of drugs or poisons.

9. Specialists Degrees':

The Minister may, after consulting the Scientific Council, exact regulations for:

- (1) Establishing specialisation in the various branches of veterinary medicine and the conditions for approving the relevant degrees.
- (2) Requiring a person applying for authorisation to use the title of "Specialist" to pass examinations, and determining their form, content and times.

Chapter Three: Licensing Of Veterinarians

10. Application for License and Granting thereof:

- (a) An application for a License to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine shall be submitted to the Director.
- (b) If the applicant fulfils the conditions specified in Section 5, the Director shall grant him or her a License.
- (c) If the Director is not persuaded that the applicant fulfils the required conditions, he or she shall refer the application for consideration to the Advisory Committee.
- (d) The Director shall act in accordance with the Advisory Committee's recommendation, except if he or she is convinced, for reasons to be set forth, that its recommendation should not be accepted.

11. Advisory Committee on Matter of Licenses:

- (a) In the matter of the grant of Licenses to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine, the Minister shall establish a three-person Advisory Committee, whose members comprise:
 - (1) A Veterinarian from the Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture.
 - (2) Two Veterinarians, at least one of whom is a member of the teaching staff at the Institution of Higher Education, as this term is defined in the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958, with no less grade than Senior Lecturer, both to be appointed from a list which the Israel Veterinary Medical Association failed to submit said list within two months from receipt of a demand to do so, the Minister shall appoint whichever two Veterinarians he or she shall deem fit.

- (b) The Minister shall appoint the committee's Chair from amongst its members.
- (c) The Minister shall appoint a substitute for each member of the Advisory Committee, in the same manner and upon the same conditions as the member was appointed.
- (d) An announcement regarding the appointment of the committee members and their substitutes shall be published in the official gazette.

12. Term of Office of a Committee Member:

The Term of office of a committee member shall be three years, and he or she may be reappointed, provided he or she does not serve more than three consecutive terms. A committee member whose term of office has ended shall continue serving on the committee until another member is appointed in his or her stead.

13. Office of Substitute:

Should a committee member die or resign or be prevented from holding office, his or her substitute shall serve on the committee in his or her stead.

14. Work Procedure of the Committee:

- (a) The validity of the decisions of the Advisory Committee shall not be affected by the vacating of the office of a committee member or by a defect in his or her appointment or continued service in office.
- (b) Decisions of the Advisory Committee shall be carried by a majority of the votes of its members.
- (c) The Advisory Committee shall set its own work procedures, to the extent that they have not been set in this Law or in the regulations pursuant thereto.

15. Summons:

- (a) The Advisory Committee may invite the applicants to appear before it to answer its questions concerning his or her studies and Practice of Veterinary Medicine.
- (b) The Advisory Committee shall not recommend refusal to grant a License except if it granted the applicant adequate opportunity to appear before it and argue his or her case.

16. Temporary Permit:

- (a) Up to the completion of the License granting procedure, the Director may from time to time issue a temporary permit to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine for a period not exceeding one year each time, and he or she may do so in any case where he or she deems it necessary.
- (b) The Director may, at his or her discretion, renew a temporary permit.

- (c) A person who received a temporary permit shall return it to the Director on the date of its expiration.
- (d) The provisions of the Law in regard to Licenses, with the exception of Section 5(a)(1) and (3) shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, also to temporary permits and to the holders thereof.

17. Restricted License:

- (a) The Director may issue a restricted permit to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine to a person who is not an Israeli citizen or to the holder of a permanent residence permit, providing he or she fulfils the conditions in Section 5(a)(2) and (4) and came to Israel with a view to engaging in instruction, research or consultancy in the field of veterinary medicine.
- (b) The Director may limit the validity of a permit pursuant to this Section to a specific time, branch of veterinary medicine or location, and he or she may set other conditions and limitations, as he or she shall see fit.

18. Appeal Against Non-Issue of a License:

- (a) A person whose application for a License was refused may appeal in this regard to the District Court within three months from the day on which he or she received notice of the refusal. The District Court shall assign a sole judge to consider his or her appeal.
- (b) A person who was not granted a License within six months from the day on which he or she submitted an application to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine shall be deemed as if his or her application was refused.
- (c) In an appeal pursuant to this Section, the District Court may issue instructions as it shall see fit.
- (d) The Minister of Justice may enact regulations regarding the procedures in an appeal.

Chapter Four: Disciplinary Means

19. The Minister's Powers:

- (a) The Minister may issue an order revoking the License of a Veterinarian, suspending it for a period determined by him or her or reprimanding or warning the Veterinarian, if, pursuant to a complaint by the Director or by an injured person, he or she finds the Veterinarian to have committed any of the following:
 - (1) He or she acted in a manner unbecoming his or her profession.
 - (2) He or she obtained his or her License on the basis of a misinterpretation.
 - (3) He or she demonstrated serious inability or negligence in the performance of his or her duties as a Veterinarian.
 - (4) He or she was convicted of an offence deemed infamous in the circumstances.

- (5) He or she violated any of the provisions of Chapter E.
- (6) While in the employment of a local authority, he or she engaged in outside work as a private Veterinarian, in contravention of the provisions of any law and in a manner upholding a conflict of interest between the two occupations.
- (b) A License in respect of which a revocation or suspension order was issued shall be returned by the holder thereof to the Director.

20. Opportunity for Defence:

- (a) No order shall be issued pursuant to section 19 unless the Veterinarian was granted an opportunity to defend himself or herself in writing and to argue his or her case orally and in writing before a committee appointed by the Minister, whether on a permanent or ad hoc basis (hereinafter - the Committee)
- (b) The Veterinarian shall be deemed to have been granted an opportunity to defend himself or herself under Subsection (a), if at least 30 days prior to the issue of the order, a notice explaining the nature of the complaint and setting out the details thereof was delivered to him or her personally or sent to him or her by registered mail.
- (c) The Committee shall number three, including a representative of the State Attorney General, who shall preside as Chair, the Director and Veterinarian chosen from a list which the Israel Veterinary Medical Association shall submit; and if the Association failed to submit said list within two months from receipt of a demand to do so, the Minister shall appoint to the Committee whichever Veterinarian he or she shall deem to fit.

21. The Committee's Powers²:

- (a) The Committee shall have the following powers:
 - (1) It may summon a person to testify before it or present anything to it.
 - (2) It may request the District Court within whose jurisdiction it is sitting to issue an order pursuant to section 13 of the Evidence Ordinance [New Version], 1971.
 - (3) It may adjudicate travel and accommodation expenses and attendance allowance to witnesses who were summoned pursuant to this Section, as for a witness summoned to testify in court.
- (b) If a person who was required to testify or present anything before the Committee refuses to do so without reasonable justification, the District Court within whose jurisdiction the Committee is sitting may enforce compliance with the Committees instructions, using the same manner of enforcement as that for a witness who refuses to appear in court, including imprisonment of the person so refusing.
- (c) The Minister of Justice shall establish procedures in regard to this Section.

- (d) The Committee shall submit its conclusions and recommendations to the Minister in writing.

22. Appeal:

- (a) A person against whom an order was issued pursuant to section 19, may appeal the order to the District Court within 45 days from the day on which he or she received notice of the issue thereof, except if the court extended said period for special reasons, which shall be recorded. The District Court shall assign a sole judge to consider the appeal.
- (b) The submission of an appeal shall not delay execution of the order being appealed, except if directed otherwise by the court considering the appeal.
- (c) The Minister of Justice may enact regulations regarding the procedures in an appeal.

Chapter Five: Publications

23. Prohibition against Advertising:

- (a) A Veterinarian shall not advertise himself or herself in the press or in any other manner as a Practitioner of Veterinary Medicine; however, he or she may post a notice in this regard outside his or her clinic, of such form and content as shall be determined.
- (b) Should a Veterinarian have changed his or her address, he or she may post outside his or her former clinic, for a period not exceeding three months, a notice regarding the address of his or her new clinic, as shall be determined, and he or she may give written notice of his or her new address to people who have already sought his or her professional advice.

24. Prohibition against Self-Advertising:

Subject to the provisions of Section 23, a Veterinarian shall not -

- (1) Advertise his or her occupation, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of acquiring clients or obtaining a professional advantage for him or herself.
- (2) Initiate or lend a hand to publications lauding or noting his or her professional skill, knowledge, services and qualifications, or belittling those of another.
- (3) Make propaganda for him or herself so as to acquire clients, or employ an agent or propagandist for this purpose.

25. Permitted Publication:

The publication of scientific or professional articles or papers in scientific or professional journals only, and advertising in a telephone directory or in a classified telephone directory, shall not constitute an offence under section 23 and 24.

² In the original, this Section was also numbered 20, apparently by mistake.

Chapter Six: Offences, Judging and Penalties

26. Law in Respect of a Person passing as a Veterinarian:

Anyone transgressing the provision of Section 4 shall be liable to one year's imprisonment.

27. Prohibition on the Use of the Title of Specialist:

A veterinarian using the title of "specialist" in contravention of the provisions of this Law shall be liable to three months imprisonment.

28. Obtaining a License by Fraud:

A person obtaining or attempting to obtain, for himself or herself or for another, on the basis of misrepresentation, a License to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine or authorisation to use the title "specialist" pursuant to this Law, shall be liable to three years' imprisonment.

29. Unlawful Employment:

Any person employing in a capacity constituting Practice of Veterinary Medicine a person who is not a Veterinarian and to whom sections 4(a) or 36 do not apply, shall be liable to one years' imprisonment.

30. Offences:

Any person transgressing any provision of this Law or of the regulations enacted pursuant thereto, in respect of which no other penalty is prescribed - shall be liable to payment of a fine.

31. Incidental Powers:

A court convicting a person of an offence pursuant to this Law may, in addition to imposing a penalty, also revoke, or suspend his or her License to engage in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine.

32. Notice Regarding the Conviction of a Veterinarian:

A court convicting a Veterinarian of an infamous crime shall furnish the Director a copy of the judgement.

Chapter Seven: General Provisions

33. Examination of Certificates:

The Director may, at any time, require a Veterinarian to present to him or her, within a reasonable time to be determined, all the certificates on the basis of which he or she was issued a License.

34. Inspection:

The Director and any Government Veterinarian authorised by him or her may, at any reasonable time, enter and inspect a Veterinarian's professional place of work.

35. Publication in the Official Government Gazette:

Notice regarding the issue, revocation or suspension of a License pursuant to this Law shall be published in the Official Government Gazette.

36. Exemption:

The Director may exempt from any provision of this Law persons whom he or she has confirmed are students of veterinary medicine, in the framework of their studies.

37. Regulations:

The Minister may enact regulations in any matter pertaining to the implementation of this Law, including determination of the drugs and medications which a Veterinarian may keep on his or her premises, and the quantities and manner of safeguarding thereof.

38. Fees:

- (a) The Minister may, in any order issued with the approval of the Knesset Finance Committee, fix License fees, License replacement fees in respect of temporary permits and the renewal thereof.
- (b) A person issued a License after receiving directly prior thereto a temporary permit or consecutive temporary permits - shall have the fees paid in respect of such temporary permits deducted from the License fee.
- (c) The Minister, in consultation with the Minister of Finance, may set examination fees for examinations held pursuant to this Law.

39. Amendment of Animal Disease Ordinance:

- (a) In the Animal Diseases Ordinance [New Version], 1985 -
 - (1) Wherever the words "veterinary doctor" appear, they shall be replaced by - "Veterinarian."
 - (2) That stated in Section 22 shall be marked (a) and followed by:
- (b) The Minister may, after consulting with the Scientific Council of the Israel Veterinary Medical Association, establish in regulations concerning clinics, both generally and by classification of the clinics according to service sectors or the treatment provided thereat, provisions regarding -
 - (1) Methods of monitoring compliance with the regulations enacted pursuant to this Section.

- (2) Imposition of a duty of registration of certain types of clinics.
- (3) Conditions, which the clinics are required to fulfil in order to provide veterinary services and veterinary treatment of certain kinds.
- (4) Sanitary arrangements.
- (5) Management, maintenance, safeguarding and auditing records.
- (c) Regulations pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (5) of Subsection (b) shall be enacted with the approval of the Knesset Economic Committee".

40. Cancellation and Transitory Provisions:

- (a) The Veterinary Surgeons Ordinance, 1929 - is cancelled.
- (b) A License issued under the Veterinary Surgeon's Ordinance, 1929, and valid on the eve of inception of this Law - shall be deemed to have been issued pursuant to this Law.

41. Inception:

This Law shall come into effect six months after its publication.

Yizhak Shamir
Prime Minister

Rafael Eitan
Minister for Agriculture

Chaim Herzog
President of the State

Dov Shilansky
Knesset Speaker