

Law No. 8 of 1995 on Practising Veterinary Medicine

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Articles (1-30)



We, Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar,
Having perused of the Amended Provisional Constitution, in particular Articles 23, 34 and 51 thereof;
Law No. 1 of 1985 concerning animal health, as amended;
Decree-Law No. 17 of 1990 on the prevention of infectious diseases;
Decree-Law No. 20 of 1993 organising the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, and specifying its functions;
Resolution No. 13 of 1992 of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture concerning the Executive Bylaw of Law No. 1 of 1985 regarding animal health;
The proposal of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture;
The draft law submitted by the Council of Ministers;
And having consulted the opinion of the *Shura* Council;
Hereby promulgate the following:

Articles

Article 1

In applying the provisions of this law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Minister” means the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture.

“Ministry” means the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture.

“Committee” means the Veterinary Medical Licensing Committee.

“Doctor” means a veterinary doctor.

“Clinic” means a veterinary clinic.

“Animal” means all kinds of animals, reptiles, birds and fish.

Article 2

Any person who practices, either by himself or under the supervision of another, the following acts on an animal shall be deemed a practitioner of veterinary medicine

- 1 - Examining, diagnosing or assessing the progress of a disease.
- 2 - Dispensing, prescribing or giving drugs.
- 3 - Practising any medical or surgical procedure.
- 4 - Collecting a biological sample for making a medical diagnosis.
- 5 - Providing a certificate or medical report on an animal's health.
- 6 - Conducting legitimate medical examinations or autopsies, or providing any medical reports thereon.

Article 3

Veterinary medicine shall only be practiced with a licence from the Ministry. The applicant shall hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent in veterinary and animal surgery from a recognized college or institute.

Article 4

No veterinary clinic or branch thereof may be opened without a licence and permit from the Ministry in accordance with the provisions of this law, and the clinic's owner shall:

1. Be a Qatari national. Where the applicant is a company, the Qatari percentage in the company capital shall not be less than fifty one (51) percent.
2. Be not younger than 21 years old.
3. Be of good character and reputation and not have been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude or dishonesty, unless such person has been rehabilitated.

Article 5

Conditions and specifications required in the clinic shall be determined by a decision of the Minister. The licence shall be obliged to implement such terms and specifications and any amendments or additions thereto during the period specified.

Article 6

1. A Veterinary Medical Licensing Committee (hereinafter "the Committee") shall be established at the Ministry and its formation determined by a decision issued by the Minister. In addition to the other terms of reference stipulated in this law, the Committee shall consider applications for and renewal of licences to practice veterinary medicine and to open veterinary clinics.

The Committee may take all necessary measures to verify the qualifications and experience of the applicant, as well as his commitment to open a clinic in accordance with the conditions and specifications required in veterinary clinics.

Article 7

1. The application for a license to practise veterinary shall be submitted to the Committee with the following data:

- a. Applicant's full name.
- b. Place and date of birth.
- c. Permanent address.
- d. Nationality.
- e. Qualifications, the date of acquisition of certificates, and the academic institution.
- f. Previous experience.
- g. Address of the proposed clinic.

2. The application shall be accompanied by the following documents:

- a. Birth certificate or an official extract thereof, or its substitute.
- b. Citizenship certificate or an official extract thereof, or its substitute.
- c. Certificates of degrees.
- d. Criminal status.
- e. Certificates of previous experience.

Any other documents required by the Committee.

Article 8

1. The application for a licence to open a clinic shall be submitted to the Committee and shall include the following:

- a. Applicant's full name. Where the applicant is a company, the names of all partners shall be specified.
- b. Place and date of birth.
- c. Nationality.
- d. Percentage quota of partners.
- e. Address of the proposed clinic.

2. The application shall be accompanied by the following documents:
 - a. Birth certificate or an official extract thereof, or its substitute.
 - b. Citizenship certificate or an official extract thereof, or its substitute.
 - c. Criminal status.
 - d. Lease contract or title deed.
 - e. Any other documents required by the Committee.

Article 9

1. The applicant shall be notified by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt of the Committee's acceptance or rejection of his application within thirty days from the date of submission of the application. Failure to notify the applicant within such period shall be deemed a rejection. Any rejection shall be based on good grounds.
2. The applicant whose application is rejected may file a grievance with the Minister within thirty days from the date of notification of the rejection or from the date on which his application is deemed rejected. The grievance petition shall include the supporting grounds and documents.
3. The decision issued by the Minister in the grievance shall be final and not subject to appeal.
4. A person whose application is rejected may submit a new application to the Committee after the lapse of at least six months.

Article 10 (Amended By Law 5/1999)

The granting or renewal of licences to practice veterinary medicine and the opening of veterinary clinics or branches thereof shall be based on the approval of the Committee. Renewal of a licence to practice shall occur every three calendar years; renewal of a licence to open a clinic or branch shall occur every calendar year.

Article 11 (Amended By Law 5/1999)

Fees for the granting and renewal of licences referred to in the preceding article shall be determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the Minister.

Article 12

The Committee shall prepare separate lists of doctors and clinics. The type, number and date of issue of each licence, as well as the data contained in Articles 7 and 8 herein, shall be specified in each list.

Article 13

1. With the exception of veterinary doctors in the Ministries of Defence and Interior, veterinary doctors working in ministries, other government bodies and public authorities and corporations may combine their practice herein with practice in the private sector when the following conditions are met:

- a. They shall be Qatari.
- b. They shall have practiced veterinary medicine for at least ten years.
- c. They shall have practiced their profession during unofficial working hours and overtime.
- d. Their practice shall not have been inconsistent with the required standard of performance or workflow.

2. Where a veterinary doctor satisfies the said conditions, the competent authority shall authorize him to commence his practice. The allowance of work nature shall stop from the date of issuance of the authorisation.

Such authorisation shall be for a renewable period of three years. The competent authority may cancel the authorisation in the case of a breach of any of the above conditions or where the public interest so requires. Where the authorisation is cancelled, the doctor shall be granted a grace period specified by the competent authority to liquidate his practice.

Article 14

Veterinary doctors shall perform their work according to the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and honesty. In particular, they shall not:

1. Refuse to treat an animal.
2. Conduct tests or research on animals without the approval of the Ministry.
3. Combine their practice with any other activity or business.
4. Advertise their services in a manner inconsistent with the dignity of their profession.
5. Promote establishments or medical products, either directly or indirectly.
6. Allow the use of their name in the promotion of medicines, drugs or animal treatments, or lend their name to any commercial purpose.
7. Publish false information or information not documented in the doctors' registry about their degrees, honours or type of specialization in any medical publication or anywhere on the door of their office or their home.

Article 15

Where a veterinary doctor suspects that an animal is infected with an epidemic or contagious disease, he shall immediately inform the competent veterinary medical centre and follow the decisions and instructions issued by the Ministry on epidemic or contagious diseases, whether or not such diseases are confined to animals or shared between humans and animals

Article 16

A veterinary doctor licensed to open a clinic shall display, in a conspicuous place at the entrance thereof, a statement of the amounts charged for each treatment. Such charges shall be approved by the Ministry.

Article 17

A clinic shall not store or sell medicines or free specimens. Some medical drugs may be kept, provided that their purpose is only for first aid and emergencies.

Article 18

A clinic shall be closed where the licensed veterinary doctor is absent for any reason, unless the owner of the clinic receives written permission from the Committee for another licensed veterinary doctor to replace the absent doctor.

Article 19

The clinic may not be relocated without the approval of the Committee.

Article 20

A licence to open a clinic shall be revoked where such clinic is closed for more than six consecutive months without an excuse acceptable to the Committee.

Article 21

The Committee may order the administrative closure by the police of an unlicensed clinic. Such closure may be appealed to the Minister in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article 9 herein.

Article 22

Members of the Committee and persons delegated by the Minister from the staff of the Ministry shall be vested with the capacity of judicial officers to investigate violations of the provisions of this law and its implementing resolutions. They shall have the right, at any time, to inspect clinics and access the records and documents therein to ensure compliance with the implementation of the provisions of this law and its implementing resolutions.

Article 23

Without prejudice to any greater penalty provided for by another law, any person convicted of abusing a judicial officer, or resisting him by force or violence, or the threat thereof, during the performance of such officer's duties, or preventing or hindering any investigation, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or to a fine not exceeding ten thousand (10,000) Riyals, or to both.

Article 24

Without prejudice to any greater penalty provided for by another law, a sentence of imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding five thousand (5,000) Riyals, or both, shall be imposed on any person convicted of the following:

1. Practising veterinary medicine or opening a clinic without a licence.
2. Advertising the practice of veterinary medicine by brochures, banners, plates or any other means of publication, or using the title of veterinary doctor, in a manner that leads the public to believe that such person is licensed to practice veterinary medicine.
3. Providing incorrect data or resorting to illegal methods that results in the unlawful granting of a licence to practice veterinary medicine or to open a clinic.
4. Using without a licence the instruments, equipment or machines usually used by the industry personnel, unless it is proved that such use was for a legitimate purpose other than for veterinary medicine.

In all cases the premises where such offences occurred shall be closed and the instruments, tools, machines and means of publication confiscated.

Article 25

1. Without prejudice to any greater penalty provided for by another law, any person convicted of violating the provisions of Articles 5, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 herein shall be sentenced to a fine not exceeding five thousand (5,000) Riyals.

Where such violation involves any of the materials referred to in the said articles, the premises where such violation occurred shall be closed and the materials confiscated, depending on the circumstances.

Article 26

1. Without prejudice to the penalties set forth in the previous articles, the Committee shall convene a disciplinary hearing regarding any licensed veterinary doctor or person authorized to open a clinic whose actions violate both the standards and regulations of veterinary medicine and the provisions of this law.

2. The defendant shall be notified by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt, at least one week in advance, to attend such hearing in person and to present a defence to the allegations against him.

3. The Committee may impose one of the following disciplinary sanctions:

- a. A warning.
- b. Preventing the veterinary doctor from practicing his profession for a period not exceeding one year.
- c. Revoking the license to practice the profession and removing the doctor's name from the list referred to in Article 12 herein.
- d. Revoking the licence of a clinic.

4. The concerned person may appeal against the Committee's decision to the Minister in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article 9 of this law.

Article 27

Any person whose licence to practice veterinary medicine or to open a clinic has been revoked may apply for a new licence after the lapse of two years from the date of such revocation.

Article 28

1. Owners of clinics and veterinary doctors working in ministries, other governmental bodies, public authorities or corporations, companies or private clinics existing at the effective date of this law shall apply to the Committee within three months of such date for a licence to open a clinic or practice the profession pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Articles 7 and 8.
2. Owners of clinics and veterinary doctors shall continue their work until the Committee issues its decision accepting or rejecting the application. In case of rejection, they shall cease the opening of a clinic or practicing their profession until they obtain a licence in the manner prescribed in this law.

Article 29

The Minister shall issue the necessary resolutions to implement the provisions of this law.

Article 30

All competent authorities, each within its jurisdiction, shall enforce this law ninety days after the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

