

Veterinary Profession Act
B.E. 2545 (2002)

BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, Rex.
Given on the 12th April, B.E. 2545 (2002)
Being the 57th year of the present Reign.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:

Whereas it is deemed expedient to promulgate a law governing veterinary profession,

And whereas this Act contains certain provisions relating to the restriction of personal rights and freedom, for which Section 29 incorporating Section 31, Section 35, Section 48 and Section 50 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand provide that such can be made by virtue of the provisions of a law,

Be it, therefore, enacted with the advice and consent of the Parliament, as follows:

Section 1. This Act shall be called “Veterinary Profession Act B.E. 2545 (2002)”.

Section 2. This Act shall be enforced on and from the day following the date of its publication in the Royal Gazette onwards.

Section 3. The Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) shall be repealed.

Section 4. In this Act:

“The veterinary profession” means the profession which performs the following activities on animal beings: examination; diagnosis; prevention, treatment or elimination of animal diseases; any act done directly on the body of an animal by injection of any substance or an insertion of any article into the body for dressing or nourishing the animal’s body, for castration or breeding by a technique that can prevent transmission of reproductive system diseases; which shall mean to include communicable diseases between animals and human, and food safety in respect of food hygiene and food contamination from animal of origins;

“Animal” means a living thing that is not plant and human;

“Disease” means sickness, injury, or physical and mental abnormalities of an animal, and it shall mean to include any symptoms arisen from such conditions;

“License” means the license to be the veterinary practitioner issued by the Veterinary Council of Thailand;

“The veterinary practitioner” means the person who has registered and granted the license to be the veterinary practitioner by the Veterinary Council of Thailand;

“Member” means a member of the Veterinary Council of Thailand;

“Committee Member” means a Committee member of the Veterinary Council of Thailand;

“Committee” means the Veterinary Council of Thailand Committee;

“Secretary-General” means the Secretary-General of the Veterinary Council of Thailand;

“Deputy Secretary-General” means the Deputy Secretary-General of the Veterinary Council of Thailand;

“Officer” means a person appointed by the Minister to carry out the duties under this Act;

“Minister” means the Minister who has charge and control of the execution of this Act.

Section 5. In the case where any provisions of any laws refer to “animal treatment practices” or “animal treatment practitioner” under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962), they shall mean “veterinary practices” or “veterinary practitioner” under this Act, whichever the case may be.

Section 6. The Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives shall have charge and control of the execution of this Act, and shall be empowered to appoint officers and issue Ministerial Regulations prescribing fees not exceeding the rates hereto annexed, and also issue Ministerial Regulations and rules for the carrying out of duties under this Act.

Such Ministerial Regulations and rules shall come into force upon their publications in the Royal Gazette.

Chapter 1

Veterinary Council of Thailand

Section 7. There shall be established the Veterinary Council of Thailand which shall be a juristic person and whose objectives, authorities and duties are as prescribed in this Act.

Section 8. The Veterinary Council of Thailand shall have the following objectives:

- (1) Control the veterinary practices;

(2) Control the behaviour and the professional conduct of the veterinary practitioner so as to be in compliance with the veterinary professional ethics;

(3) Promote the studies, research and the professional practice of veterinary medicine;

(4) Promote the unity and maintain the honour of the members;

(5) Render assistance, advice, disseminate, and provide technical services to the members, including the public and other organizations in matters related to veterinary medicine;

(6) Give advice or recommendations to the Government concerning the policies and problems related to veterinary medicine;

(7) Act as a representative of the veterinary profession in Thailand;

(8) Maintain justice and promote welfare for the members;

(9) Engage in other activities as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 9. The Veterinary Council of Thailand shall have the following authorities and duties to:

(1) Register and to issue a license to an applicant applying to be the veterinary practitioner;

(2) Act in compliance with any order arising under Section 45;

(3) Recognize a degree, a diploma, a certificate, a recognition certificate, or a diploma in Committee of veterinary medical specialty in various fields of veterinary practices of various institutions for the benefit of the membership;

(4) Recognize the various curricula for the various fields of veterinary medical training of the various institutions;

(5) Recognize academic standard of the institutions conducting the training under (4);

(6) Issue the diploma in Committee of veterinary medical specialty in the various fields of the veterinary practices and to issue other certificates of special training in the veterinary profession;

- (7) Perform other duties in accordance with the objectives of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Section 10. The Veterinary Council of Thailand may have the following incomes:

- (1) Subsidies from the national budget.
- (2) Membership registration fee, annual fee, and other fees under this Act.
- (3) Benefits from the management of the property and other activities according to the objectives prescribed in Section 8.
- (4) Money and property donated to the Veterinary Council of Thailand.
- (5) Fruits of the money and property under (1), (2), (3), and (4).

Section 11. The Minister shall be the Honorary President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand and shall have the authorities and duties as prescribed in this Act.

Section 12. There shall be established the Veterinary Council of Thailand Office with the duties of carrying out various administrative works for the Committee and the Veterinary Council of Thailand, and there shall also be set up branch offices thereof according to necessity, however, as prescribed by the Committee.

Chapter 2 Members

Section 13. Members of the Veterinary Council of Thailand must have the following qualifications:

- (1) Not being less than twenty years of age;
- (2) Having knowledge in the veterinary profession by having been awarded a degree, a diploma, a certificate in veterinary medicine from an educational institution recognized by the Ministry of University Affairs or the Veterinary Council of Thailand, or having knowledge in the veterinary profession by having been conferred a degree of other branch that is not a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or a certificate from an educational institution recognized by the Veterinary Council of Thailand;
- (3) Not being a person of bad conducts which in the opinion of the Committee, will bring dishonor to the profession;

(4) Not having been sentenced to imprisonment by the final judgement or the lawful order which in the opinion of the the Committee, will bring dishonor to the profession;

(5) Not being a person having mental disorder or the diseases prescribed in the Rule of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Section 14. Rights and duties of the members are as follows:

(1) Apply for registration and receive the license to be a veterinary practitioner; apply for a diploma in Committee of veterinary specialty in various fields of veterinary practices, or apply for other certificates of special training in veterinary medical profession, by complying with the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand on the matter;.

(2) Provide opinions and put forward questions in writing concerning the affairs of the Veterinary Council of Thailand to the Committee for consideration, and in the case where not less than fifty members submit a proposal to the Committee to consider any matter concerning the affairs of the Veterinary Council of Thailand, the Committee must consider the matter and notify the result of consideration to the submitting members within ninety days from the date of receipt of such proposal. .

(3) Elect or be elected as a Committee member.

(4) Maintain the honour of the profession and comply with this Act.

Section 15. A membership of a member shall be terminated upon:

(1) death;

(2) resignation;

(3) being disqualified under Section 13 (1), (2) or (5);

(4) the order of the Committee terminating the membership due to the fact that the person brings dishonour to the profession under Section 13 (3) or (4);

(5) failure to pay membership registration fee, annual fee, or fees without reasonable grounds based on procedures and conditions prescribed in the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Chapter 3

Veterinary Council of Thailand Committee

Section 16. There shall be established the Veterinary Council of Thailand Committee comprising:

- (1) Ex officio members, namely the Director-General of Department of Livestock Development; the Deans of the Faculty of Veterinary Science/Medicine of public universities and those of private universities established under the law governing private universities; the Presidents of the Thai Veterinary Practitioner Association, and the Thai Veterinary Medical Association Under the Patronage of H.M. the King;
- (2) Committee members who are a representative from the Ministry of Defense, a representative of the Ministry of Interior, a representative of the Ministry of Public Health, a representative of the Department of Fisheries, a representative of the Department of Livestock Development, and a representative of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration;
- (3) Committee members who are elected among the members at the equal number to the number of Committee members in (1) and (2) altogether at the time of each election.

Section 17. The Committee may appoint qualified persons to be its advisers, and shall also be authorized to remove the said advisers.

The advisers shall hold the office according to the term of the Committee members under Section 16 (3).

Section 18. The Committee ex officio and elected members shall hold a meeting to select the President, the First Vice President, and the Second Vice President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand within thirty days from the election date of Committee members under Section 16 (3).

The President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand shall select Committee members to hold the positions of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Public Relations Officer, and the Treasurer, and he/she may select members to hold other positions as necessary, and shall also be authorized to remove the said persons from those positions, however, an approval of the Committee is thereby required.

The President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand, the First Vice President, and the Second Vice President shall hold office according to the term of the Committee members under Section 16 (3).

The Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Public Relations Officer, the Treasurer, and the persons holding other positions under paragraph two, shall vacate offices upon the termination of the President's term of office

Section 19. An election of Committee members under Section 16 (3), an appointment of the advisers under Section 17, a selection of Committee members to hold various positions under Section 18, and a selection of Committee members under Section 23, shall be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Section 20. The Committee members under Section 16 (2) and (3) must possess the following qualifications:

- (1) Being a Category 1 veterinary practitioner;
- (2) Being a person whose license has never been suspended or revoked under this Act or under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962);
- (3) Not being a bankrupt person.

Section 21. The Committee members under Section 16 (3) shall hold office for a period of three years each term from the date of election, and may be re-elected. However, they shall not hold offices for more than two consecutive terms.

The Committee members who have vacated offices upon having completed their terms shall continue performing the duties until the newly elected Committee members assume the offices. In this respect, the Committee shall hold an election of Committee members under Section 16 (3) within ninety days from the day the Committee members have vacated office under paragraph one.

Section 22. Other than vacating office by completing their term, the Committee members under Section 16 (3) shall vacate office upon:

- (1) death;
- (2) resignation;
- (3) termination of their memberships under Section 15;
- (4) Being disqualified under Section 20.

Section 23. Whenever the positions of Committee members under Section 16 (3) are vacant at the number not exceeding one-half of the total number of the Committee members before the office term is completed, the Committee shall select members who are qualified under Section 20 to be Committee members in replacement thereof within thirty days from the day the said positions are vacant.

In the case the positions of Committee members under paragraph one are vacant altogether at the number exceeding one-half of the total number of elected

Committee members, the Committee shall hold an election of Committee members for replacement thereof within ninety days from the day the said number of Committee members are vacant by more than one-half.

If the remaining term of the Committee members under Section 16 (3) is less than ninety days, the Committee may or may not select or hold an election of Committee members to replace the said Committee members.

The said selected or elected Committee members shall hold office only for the remaining term of the Committee members whom they have replaced.

Section 24. The Committee shall have the following authorities and duties:

- (1) Administer the Veterinary Council of Thailand affairs according to the objectives and within the authorities and duties of the Veterinary Council of Thailand as prescribed in Section 8 and Section 9.
- (2) Appoint an Ethics Sub-committee, an Investigation Sub-committee, and other sub-committees, for carrying out work or for considering any matters which are within the scope of the objectives, authorities and duties of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.
- (3) Set up a branch office of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.
- (4) Issue the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand governing:
 - (a) membership;
 - (b) prescription of diseases under Section 13 (5);
 - (c) setting of membership's fee, annual fee, and other fees apart from those prescribed in the Rates of Fees hereto annexed;
 - (d) selection and election of Committee members under Section 16 (3), appointment of advisers under Section 17, and selection of Committee members to hold various positions under Section 18;
 - (e) meetings of the Committee, sub-committees, advisory Committees, and members;
 - (f) designation of authorities and duties of advisers under Section 17;

- (g) designation of authorities and duties of other positions under Section 18, paragraph two;
 - (h) criteria governing examination of knowledge of veterinary practitioner under Section 33;
 - (i) qualifications of veterinary practitioner under Section 34;
 - (j) forms and categories of licenses, principles, procedures and conditions respecting registration, issuance, validity, renewal of license; issuance of the diploma in board of veterinary medical specialty in various fields of the veterinary practices and other certificates of special training in the veterinary profession; issuance of substitute license, substitute letter of approval, or substitute certificate or diploma of veterinary specialty under Section 31;
 - (k) establishment, operations, and dissolution of institution holding training courses as experts in various fields of veterinary profession;
 - (l) restrictions and conditions on practicing veterinary profession under Section 35;
 - (m) ethics of the veterinary profession under Section 36;
 - (n) prescription of criteria on suspension of license or revocation of license;
 - (o) criteria on inquiry or interrogation when there is an accusation or a charging against a veterinary practitioner;
 - (p) other matters which are within the scope of the objectives of the Veterinary Council of Thailand or the authorities and duties of the Veterinary Council of Thailand under this Act or other laws.
- (5) Perform the duties provided by the laws that they are under the authorities and duties of the Committee.

The Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand under (a), (b), (c), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n) and (o) shall become enforceable upon their publications in the Royal Gazette.

Section 25. The President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand, the Vice Presidents of the Veterinary Council of Thailand, the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Public Relations Officer, and the Treasurer shall have the following authorities and duties:

(1) The President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand shall have the following authorities and duties:

- (a) Manage the activities of the Veterinary Council of Thailand in accordance with the resolutions of the Committee;
- (b) Serve as the official representative of the Veterinary Council of Thailand in the matters concerning the third person;
- (c) Chair the Committee meetings.

The President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand may designate in writing other Committee members to perform the duties in his/her place as he/she may deem it appropriate.

(2) The First Vice President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand shall serve as an assistant of the President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand in the affairs which are under the authorities and duties of the President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand as designated by the President, and shall act on behalf of the President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand when the President is not present or is unable to perform his/her duties.

(3) The Second Vice President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand shall serve as an assistant of the President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand in the affairs which are under the authorities and duties of the President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand as designated by the President, and shall act on behalf of the President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand when both the President and the First Vice President are not present or are unable to perform their duties.

(4) The Secretary-General shall have the following authorities and duties:

- (a) Supervise the officers of the Veterinary Council of Thailand at all levels;
- (b) Be responsible for general administrative works of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.
- (c) Keep in order the registration of members, veterinary practitioners and other registers of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.
- (d) Oversee and to maintain the properties of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.
- (e) Serve as the secretary at the Committee meetings.
- (f) Perform any other duties as assigned by the Committee.

(5) The Deputy Secretary-General shall assist the Secretary-General in the activities which are under the authorities and duties of the Secretary-General as assigned by the Secretary-General, and shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General when the Secretary-General is not present or is unable to perform his/her duties.

(6) The Public Relations Officer shall have the authorities and duties to carry out public relations activities, to introduce and disseminate the affairs of the Veterinary Council of Thailand to the members, the public, and other organizations.

(7) The Treasurer shall have the authorities and duties to be responsible for the accounting, the financial control, and the budgeting of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

The persons who hold the positions as the advisers under Section 17 and the persons who hold other positions under Section 18, paragraph two, shall have the authorities and duties as designated by the Committee.

Chapter 4 **Operations of the Committee**

Section 26. At a meeting of the Committee, there shall be Committee members being present at not less than one-half of the total number of the existing Committee members to form a quorum.

The resolution of the meeting shall be by a majority of votes. One Committee member is entitled to cast one vote. In the case of a tie, the chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to another deciding vote.

The resolution of the meeting in the case of terminating the membership of a member under Section 15 (4) or in the case of suspending the license or revoking the license under Section 45, paragraph three, shall be by votes of not less than two-thirds of the total number of Committee members.

The provisions of paragraph one and paragraph two shall apply to the meetings of the sub-committees *mutatis mutandis*.

The meetings of the advisors to the Committee shall be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Section 27. The Honorary President may attend the meeting and present his opinion at the meeting or he may send his opinion on any matters in writing to the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Section 28. The resolution of the Committee meeting in the following matters must first obtain an approval from the Honorary President before the said resolutions can be implemented:

- (1) Issuance of Rules and Regulations.
- (2) Determination of the budget of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.
- (3) Termination of membership of a member under Section 15 (4).
- (4) Decision to suspend or revoke the license under Section 45, paragraph three, (2) (c) or (d).

The President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand shall propose the resolutions under paragraph one to the Honorary President without delay. The Honorary President may suspend the said resolutions. In the case suspension of the resolution is not received within fifteen days from the date the said resolutions are submitted by the President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand, it shall be considered that the Honorary President approves such resolutions accordingly.

If the Honorary President suspends any resolution, the Committee shall hold a meeting to reconsider the matter within thirty days from the date suspension is received. At the said meeting, if not less than two-thirds of the total number of Committee members vote to confirm the said resolutions, the said resolutions shall then be executed.

Chapter 5

Control of the Veterinary Practices

Section 29. No one shall perform veterinary practices or shows by any method to make others to understand that he/she has the right to practice the said profession without having registered or been granted the license from the Veterinary Council of Thailand, except in any of the following cases:

- (1) Performing the veterinary practices on his/her own animals, except in the case of animal raising for commercial purpose whereby the size, type and number of animals shall be as prescribed by the Committee and published in the Royal Gazette;
- (2) Treatment of animals without receiving any fee in return, and such an action must not apply the surgery, the use of radiation, acupuncture for treatment of diseases or control of feeling, or an administration of specially controlled drugs, psychotropic substances, or narcotics under the laws governing such, as the case may be;
- (3) Students or trainees who are practicing under the control and supervision of a government's veterinary educational institutions or those permitted by the government to set up educational institution or other veterinary institutions recognized by the Veterinary Council of Thailand, however, under the

supervision of a training officer or a training instructor who is a veterinary practitioner;

(4) Civil servants, staff, employees or officers of the Ministries, Departments, Municipalities, Provincial Administration Organizations, Sub-district (Tambon) Administration Organizations, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Pattaya City, other special local administration organizations prescribed by law, or the Thai Red Cross Society, who perform veterinary practices under the authorities and duties or as assigned in writing by the said Authorities or Government agencies.

(5) Persons who are authorized by the Ministries, Departments, Municipalities, Provincial Administration Organizations, Sub-district (Tambon) Administration Organizations, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Pattaya City, other special local administration organizations prescribed by law, or the Thai Red Cross Society, to perform veterinary practices under the supervision of the officers who are a veterinary practitioner, however, according to the Ministerial regulations issued by the Minister.

(6) Performing of veterinary practices of an adviser or an expert of the government or a lecturer in an educational institution or other veterinary institution recognized by the Veterinary Council of Thailand, who holds a veterinary practitioner license from abroad, however, with approval of the Committee.

Section 30. No one who does not register and is not granted the license shall use the words or phrases in Thai or other language, or use abbreviations of such words accompanying his/her name or surname, or use any other words or phrases of the same meaning, or show by any method that makes others understand that he/she is a veterinary practitioner, including using, hiring, asking or allowing other persons to do so for him/her, however, it shall be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Section 31. The forms and the categories of license, procedures and conditions respecting registration, issuance of license, validity period of license, renewal of license, issuance of diploma in board of medical specialty in various fields of veterinary medical practice and other certificates of special training in the veterinary profession including issuance of substitute license, substitute diploma or certification shall be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Section 32. The veterinary practitioner shall be classified into two categories, namely Category 1 veterinary practitioner and Category 2 veterinary practitioner.

Section 33. The applicant for registration and license under Section 32 shall have following qualifications:

(1) Category 1 veterinary practitioner must:

(a) have been conferred upon a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from an educational institution in Thailand duly recognized by the Ministry of University Affairs or the Veterinary Council of Thailand, or;

(b) have been conferred upon a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from an educational institution abroad and duly permitted to practice the profession in the country he/she has obtained such degree, except in the case of a person who holds Thai nationality who needs not be permitted to practice veterinary profession in the country he/she has obtained the degree, however, he/she must have passed the knowledge tests under the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

(2) Category 2 veterinary practitioner must have knowledge in the veterinary medicine, whereby he/she must have obtained a degree in other branch that is not a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree or a certificate from an educational institution recognized by the Veterinary Council of Thailand and who must also have passed the knowledge tests under the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Section 34. The person applying for registration and license must be a member of the Veterinary Council of Thailand and shall possess other qualifications as prescribed in the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Whenever the membership of the veterinary practitioner is terminated, his license shall be automatically terminated.

The person whose membership is terminated under paragraph two shall surrender the license to the Secretary-General within fifteen days from the day the membership is terminated under Section 15 (2) or (3), or from the day he/she knows of his/her membership termination under Section 15 (4) or (5).

Section 35. A veterinary practitioner must practice the profession under the enforcement of the restrictions and the conditions set forth in the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Section 36. A veterinary practitioner must maintain the ethics of the veterinary profession as prescribed in the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

Section 37. A person who has encountered damages as a result of any veterinary practitioner violating the restrictions or conditions of the veterinary practices under Section 35 or violating the professional ethics under Section 36 shall have the right to bring accusation against the said veterinary practitioner by filing a complaint to the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

A Committee member or other person who has found or learnt that any veterinary practitioner violates the restrictions and conditions of the veterinary practices under Section 35 or violates the professional ethics under Section 36 shall

have the right to bring accusation against the said veterinary practitioner by filing a complaint to the Veterinary Council of Thailand.

The right to file an accusation under paragraph one or the right to file a charge under paragraph two shall expire after the period of one year from the date the person who has encountered the damages or the person filing the charge against the violator, however, it must not exceed three years from the date of violation thereof.

A withdrawal of the accusation or a charge already filed deems not to cause withholding the proceeding carried out under this Act.

Section 38. Upon the Veterinary Council of Thailand having received the accusation or the charge under Section 37, the Secretary-General shall forward the said matter to the Chairman of the Professional Ethics Sub-Committee without delay.

Section 39. The Committee shall appoint an Professional Ethics Sub-committee comprising one chairman and not less than two sub-committee members, who shall have the authorities and duties to investigate and find out the facts relevant to the matter received under Section 38 and submit the report together with its opinions for forwarding to the Committee for consideration.

The Committee may appoint several Professional Ethics Sub-Committees.

Section 40. Upon the Committee having received the report accompanied with the opinions of the Professional Ethics Sub-Committee, the Committee shall consider such report and opinions and pass any one of the following resolutions:

(1) The Professional Ethics Sub-Committee conduct an additional investigation to find out additional facts for submission to the Committee for reconsideration.

(2) The Investigation Sub-committee conduct an investigation in case the Committee consider that the said accusation or charge has grounds.

(3) The accusation or charge be dismissed in case the Committee consider that the said accusation or charge has no grounds.

Section 41. The Committee shall appoint an Investigation Sub-committee among members comprising one chairman and not less than two sub-committee members who shall have the authorities and duties to investigate, submit the result together with its own opinions to the Committee for a decision.

The Committee may appoint several Investigation Sub-committees.

Section 42. The Committee, the Professional Ethics Sub-committee and the Investigation Sub-committee shall be empowered to issue an order in writing to any person to provide information and to send relevant documents for the purpose of the inquiry or investigation of the said Sub-committees and the Committee.

In carrying out the duties of the Committee, the Professional Ethics Sub-committee and the Investigation Sub-committee, the Committee members, the Professional Ethics Sub-committee members and the Investigation Sub-Committee members shall be the officers under the Penalty Code.

Section 43. The Chairman of the Investigation Sub-Committee shall send a notification of accusation or charge, together with a copy of the accusation or charge to the accused or the person who has been charged, not less than fifteen days prior to the date of commencement of the investigation.

The accused or the person who has been charged shall have a right to provide clarification or to bring to any evidences for consideration of the Investigation Sub-committee.

The clarification or evidences shall be submitted to the chairman of the Investigation Sub-committee within fifteen days from the date of receipt of the notification from the Chairman of the Investigation Sub-committee or within the timeframe extended by the Investigation Sub-committee.

Section 44. Upon the Investigation Sub-committee having completed its investigation, the results of investigation, together with its own opinions, shall be submitted to the Committee without delay, so that the Committee can make a decision accordingly.

Section 45. Upon the Committee having received the results of investigation and opinions of the Investigation Sub-committee, it shall consider the said results of investigation and the opinions without delay.

The Committee may ask the Investigation Sub-committee to conduct an additional investigation before it passes a decision.

The Committee shall be empowered to decide any one of the followings:

(1) Dismiss the accusation or charge, in the case it is of an opinion that the veterinary practitioner does not commit any wrongdoing as being accused or charged, or;

(2) Inflict any one of the following punishments, in the case it is of an opinion that the veterinary practitioner committing the wrongdoing as accused or charged:

- (a) provide a warning;
- (b) pass a reprimand;
- (c) suspend the license for a period deemed appropriate, but shall not exceed the period of two years;
- (d) revoke the license.

Subject to Section 28, the decision of the Committee under this Section shall be made in the form of an order of the Veterinary Council of Thailand, in which shall state the reasons of passing such a decision, and it shall be final.

Section 46. The Secretary-General shall notify the accused or the person who has been charged of the order of the Veterinary Council of Thailand within fifteen days from the date of passing such order, and a statement under the said order shall be recorded in the registration record of the veterinary practitioner.

The principles and procedures respecting the notification of the order under paragraph one shall be in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Committee.

Section 47. Subject to Section 29, no veterinary practitioner whose license has been suspended or revoked shall practice veterinary profession or show by any means to make others to understand that he/she has the right to practice such profession from the day he/she learnt of the order of the Veterinary Council of Thailand suspending or revoking the said license.

Section 48. Any veterinary practitioner whose license has been suspended violates Section 47, the Committee shall revoke the license of the said person.

Section 49. The veterinary practitioner whose license has been revoked may apply for the license after the period of two years from the date of revocation of his/her license. Upon the Committee having considered the application and refused to issue the license, the said person may re-apply for the license after the period of one year from the date of refusal of the Committee to issue the license. If the Committee refuses to issue the license for the second time, the said person shall no longer have the right to apply for the license.

The provisions under paragraph one shall apply to the animal treatment practitioner under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) whose license has been revoked prior to the enforcement date of this Act.

Chapter 6 Supervision

Section 50. The Minister shall have the authorities and duties to control the operations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand and the practices of veterinary profession and to order the officers to conduct an investigation of any matters concerning the operations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand as well as the practices of veterinary profession.

Section 51. In carrying out the duties under the order of the Minister under Section 50, the officers shall have the following authorities:

(1) enter into the place of a veterinary practitioner during the office hours of such place to make an inspection in accordance with this Act;

(2) enter into any premises or vehicles, when there is reason to suspect that there might be a commission of an offence under this Act, during sunrise and sunset, or during office hours of such premises, so as to search for any documents or materials that may be used as evidences relating to a commission of an offence under this Act, and when also there is reason to believe that if it was delayed in obtaining a search warrant, the said documents or materials might have been removed, concealed, destroyed or changed from their original conditions.

(3) seize any documents or materials that may be used as evidences relating to a commission of an offence under this Act.

In carrying out the duties of the officers under paragraph one, the involving persons shall facilitate the officers as appropriate.

Section 52. In carrying out the duties, the officers must show their identity cards.

The identity card of the officer shall be per the form prescribed by the Minister and published in the Royal Gazette.

Section 53. In carrying out the duties, the officers shall be the official under the Penalty Code.

Chapter 7

Penalty

Section 54. Whoever violates Section 29 or Section 47 shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or a fine not exceeding Baht sixty thousand, or both.

Section 55. Whoever violates Section 30 shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or a fine not exceeding Baht twenty thousand, or both.

Section 56. Whoever fails to comply with Section 34, paragraph three, or fails to facilitate the officers under Section 51, paragraph two, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding Baht one thousand.

Section 57. Whoever fails to provide information or fails to send any documents or materials as requested or notified to do so under Section 42, paragraph one, without reasonable grounds therefor, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month, or a fine not exceeding Baht one thousand, or both.

Transitional Provisions

Section 58. Whoever is an animal treatment practitioner under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) on the enforcement date of this Act shall be regarded as being a member of the Veterinary Council of Thailand and also a veterinary practitioner under this Act.

The members of Veterinary Council of Thailand under paragraph one must pay membership registration fee, annual fee, and related fees, within ninety days from the date of enforcement of the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary Council of Thailand under Section 24 (4) (c). If he/she fails to make payment within the said timeframe, his/her membership shall be terminated, and, in this respect, Section 34, paragraph two and paragraph three, shall apply thereto *mutatis mutandis*.

Section 59. Whoever has registered and been granted the animal treatment practitioner license under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) and the said license is still valid on the date of enforcement of this Act, it shall be regarded that the said person has been registered and granted the veterinary practitioner license under this Act, as follows:

(1) Whoever has registered and been granted the Category 1 animal treatment practitioner, shall be regarded as having registered and been granted the Category 1 veterinary practitioner license.

(2) Whoever has registered and been granted the Category 2 animal treatment practitioner license, shall be regarded as having registered and been granted the Category 2 veterinary practitioner license.

The veterinary practitioners under (1) and (2) shall have the right to practice veterinary profession under the conditions set forth in the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) and the conditions laid down in the license for the remaining period of such license, except where the said person has applied for registration and duly been granted the veterinary practitioner license under this Act prior to the expiry date of the said license, when he/she shall have the right to continue practicing veterinary profession until the Committee has passed an order refusing to issue the license, and, in this respect, the provisions of Section 34, paragraph three, shall apply thereto *mutatis mutandis*.

Section 60. In the initial period when there has not yet been elected members as Committee members under Section 16 (3), the Committee shall comprise the Director-General of the Department of Livestock Development as the President of Veterinary Council of Thailand and the Committee members under Section 16 (1) and (2) shall be Committee members.

An appointment of Committee members under Section 16 (2) shall be made within thirty days from the date of enforcement of this Act.

The Director-General of the Department of Livestock Development shall select Committee members under paragraph one to assume the positions of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Public Relations Officer and Treasurer, until the persons selected to hold such positions under Section 18, paragraph two, will have assumed the posts.

An election of members to be Committee members under Section 16 (3) shall be made within one hundred and twenty days from the date of enforcement of this Act.

Section 61. The application for registration and for animal treatment practitioner license and the application for amendment or addition of statements duly registered which have been duly filed under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) prior to the enforcement date of this Act, shall be subject to the followings:

(1) If the Animal Treatment Control Committee under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) has not yet passed any order concerning the said applications, it shall be taken that they are the applications submitted under this Act, and upon the applicants have applied to be a member of the Veterinary Council of Thailand, proceedings shall be carried out in relation to the said applications under this Act.

(2) If the Animal Treatment Control Committee under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) has passed any order concerning the said applications, the proceedings concerning the said applications shall still be subject to the provisions of the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962), until an animal treatment control practitioner license is issued, and, in this respect, the provisions of Section 58 shall apply thereto *mutatis mutandis*.

Section 62. For inquiries and consideration to suspend or revoke the animal treatment practitioner license which are being processed under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) on the date of enforcement of this Act, they shall be subject to the proceedings under this Act, except:

(1) the case that the inquiries properly conducted under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) and completed before the enforcement of this Act, but the Animal Treatment Control Committee has not yet passed any decision, when it shall be taken that the said inquiries are valid, and the Committee and the Secretary-General under this Act shall continue to proceed under Section 45 and Section 46 of this Act;

(2) the case that the inquiries properly conducted and the Animal Treatment Control Committee has passed orders under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) before the enforcement date of this Act, but the animal treatment practitioner licensees who were accused have not yet been notified of such, it shall be taken that the said inquiries and the Committee's decision are valid, and the proceeding shall then be continued under Section 46 of this Act, whereby the provisions of Section 45, paragraph four, of the this Act shall apply thereto *mutatis mutandis*.

Section 63. Subject to Section 60 and Section 61 of this Act, any matter which is being proceeded under the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) on the date of enforcement of this Act shall now be proceeded according to that prescribed by the Committee.

Section 64. All Ministerial Regulations, Regulations, or Notifications issued by virtue of the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) shall still be enforceable as long as they are not contradictory to or inconsistent with this Act, until there will have been issued Ministerial Regulations, Regulations, or Rules issued by virtue of this Act for enforcement, which must not exceed one hundred and eighty days from the date of enforcement of this Act.

Countersigned:

Police Lieutenant Colonel Thanksin Shinnawat
Prime Minister

Note: This Act is promulgated because there has been changed the animal treatment profession to veterinary profession, and because the Animal Treatment Control Act B.E. 2505 (1962) which controls the animal treatment profession contain certain provisions which are not in line with and not suitable to the control on the practices of veterinary profession, it is then deemed expedient to revise the principles and procedures on the control on the practices of veterinary profession anew, whereby there shall be an organization that the control on the practices of veterinary profession in the form of a professional council, so as to promote the practices of veterinary professional to an extent that it be operated smoothly, and at the same time, allowing the said professional fields to control and promote the standards of veterinary profession practicing, and also preventing any illegitimate exploitation from persons who have no knowledge thereof which may eventually create danger and damages to the innocent people who may receive the services from the said persons. Hence, it is necessary that this Act be enacted.

[Ref.: Royal Gazette, Legislation Issue, Volume 119, Part 36 Kor., of 23rd April 2002]

Rates of Fees

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| (1) Registration fee and fee for Category 1 veterinary practitioner license and license renewal fee | Baht 5,000 each. |
| (2) Registration fee and fee for Category 2 veterinary practitioner license and license renewal fee | Baht 3,000 each. |
| (3) Fee for certificate of registration as veterinary practitioner | Baht 500 each. |

- (4) Letter of approval or certificate of qualifications showing knowledge and expertise in practicing veterinary profession and other certificate of qualifications in veterinary profession Baht 2,000 each.
- (5) Fee for substitute licenses under (1) and (2) and substitute documents under (4) Baht 500 each.
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