Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant

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Laws Related to Veterinary Medicine

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Objectives

- Discuss the laws governing veterinary practice
- Discuss the effects these laws have on management and operations in the practice
- Describe how these laws have affected veterinary practice
Practice of Veterinary Medicine

- Receives compensation for performing an act
  - Diagnosis
  - Treatment, correction, change, manipulation, relief, or prevention
  - Animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical condition
  - Prescription or administration of a drug, biologic, anesthetic, apparatus, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique
Identification for a veterinarian

- Use of title, words, or letters
State Veterinary Licensing Act
State Veterinary Practice Act

- Requires practicing veterinarians to obtain valid veterinary license from the state
- Prohibits practice of veterinary medicine by persons not qualified and licensed

- Requires State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
  - Examine applicants
  - Issue licenses
Defines requirements

- Practice of veterinary medicine
- Acceptable veterinary medical schools
- Qualifications and fees required for licenses
- Procedures for revoking or suspending licenses
Defines exceptions

- Animal owners and their employees
- Persons performing accepted livestock management practices
- Out-of-state veterinarians when consulting with a licensee
- Veterinary students
- USDA veterinarians
- Paraprofessional veterinary assistants and technicians under supervision of a veterinarian
Responsibilities

- Veterinarian is responsible for own actions
- Veterinarian is responsible to the client for care of patient
- Veterinarian is responsible for performance of paraprofessional employees
- Paraprofessional employees carry out duties
  - With direct instructions from veterinarian
  - Under supervision of veterinarian
  - Under common law rules of negligence
Other Regulations

- Veterinarian, client, and patient relationship
- Negligence and malpractice
- Local, state, and federal animal disease laws
- Food and feed laws
- Livestock and fence laws
- Narcotic, drug, medicine, biologic, serum, and pesticide regulations
- Safety laws