

## AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 207, 6504, 6507, and 6704-a of the Education Law and Chapter 398 of the Laws of 2016

1. Paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of section 62.8 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective February 2, 2017, as follows:

(3) Self-instructional coursework means structured study, provided by a sponsor approved pursuant to subdivision (i) of this section, that is based on audio, audio-visual, written, on-line, and/or other media, and does not include live instruction, transmitted in person or otherwise, during which the student may communicate and interact with the instructor and other students and may include free spaying and neutering and other veterinary services in conjunction with a municipality, duly incorporated not-for-profit society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, duly incorporated humane society, or duly incorporated animal protection association or persons who would otherwise be eligible under paragraph (a) of subdivision three of section one hundred seventeen-a of the agriculture and markets law, provided that such services be administered at practices, facilities and properties that are appropriately equipped and staffed to provide such services.

2. Paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of section 62.8 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is added, effective February 2, 2017, as follows:

(4) Other veterinary services means follow-up service(s) for any post-operative complications related to any free spaying or neutering surgery, as defined in paragraph (3) of this subdivision, that arise within twenty-four hours of performing any such surgery.

3. Paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of section 62.8 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective February 2, 2017, as follows:

(1) General Requirement.

(i) During each three-year registration period, meaning a registration period of a three years' duration, an applicant for registration as a veterinarian shall complete at least 45 hours of continuing education, acceptable to the department, as defined in paragraph (2) of this subdivision, a maximum of 22 1/2 hours of which may be self-instructional coursework acceptable by the department. Furthermore, for an applicant for registration as a veterinarian, the department may offset up to three hours of the requisite number of hours of continuing education required, pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 6704-a of the education law, by the number of free spaying and neutering services rendered by such an applicant, at a rate of one-half of one hour of continuing education for each hour of free spaying and neutering services, provided that such services satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subdivision (2) of section 6704-a of the Education Law, that the veterinarian shall be required to provide follow-up service for any post-operative complications related to the surgery that arise within twenty-four hours of performing the surgery, and shall also be required to complete the core requirements established by the department. Any such hours shall be considered part of the maximum of 22 1/2 hours of self-instructional coursework, which an applicant may complete, per each three-year registration period, to satisfy the 45 hours of continuing education requirement. Such veterinarians are otherwise required to complete the core requirements for veterinary continuing education established by the department as described in this section.

(ii) During each three-year registration period, meaning a registration period of three years' duration, an applicant for registration as a veterinary technician shall complete 24 hours of continuing education, acceptable to the department, as defined in paragraph (2) of this subdivision, a maximum of 12 hours of which may be self-

instructional coursework acceptable to the department. [Any licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician whose first registration date following January 1, 2011 occurs less than three years from that date, but on or after January 1, 2012, shall complete continuing education hours on a prorated basis at the rate of 1 1/4 hours per month, in the case of a veterinarian, and 40 minutes per month, in the case of a veterinary technician, for the period beginning January 1, 2012 up to the first registration date thereafter. Such continuing education shall be completed during the period beginning January 1, 2010 and ending before the first day of the new registration period.]

[(ii)](iii) During each triennial registration period, at least two hours of the required continuing education credits shall focus on the use, misuse, documentation, safeguarding and prescribing of controlled substances.

[(iii)](iv) Proration. Unless otherwise prescribed in this section, during each registration period of less than three years' duration, an applicant for registration shall complete acceptable continuing education, as defined in paragraph (2) of this subdivision and within the limits prescribed in such paragraph, on a prorated basis at a rate of 1 1/4 hours in the case of a veterinarian and 40 minutes per month in the case of a veterinary technician.

4. Subdivision (g) of section 62.8 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective February 2, 2017, as follows:

(g) Licensee records.

(1) Each licensee subject to the requirements of this section shall maintain, or ensure access by the department to, a record of completed continuing education, which includes: the title of the course if a course, the type of educational activity if other than a course of learning, the subject of the continuing education course or activity, the number of hours of continuing education completed, the sponsor's name and any identifying

number (if applicable), attendance verification if a course, verification of participation if another educational activity, and the date and location of the continuing education. Such records shall be retained for at least six years from the date of completion of the continuing education and shall be made available for review by the department in the administration of the requirements of this section. A sponsor's failure to satisfy its obligations under subdivision (i) of this section shall not relieve a licensee of his or her obligation to provide evidence of participation in a continuing education activity for which credit is claimed.

(2) Each applicant for registration as a veterinarian seeking to offset up to three hours of the required number of hours of continuing education, pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 6704-a of the education law, by the number of free spaying and neutering services rendered by such an applicant, shall maintain, on a form prescribed by the department, and ensure access by the department to, a record of all the free spaying and neutering services provided by the applicant, as well as any follow-up services for any post-operative complications related to any free spaying or neutering surgery, as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of this section, that arise within twenty-four hours of performing any such surgery. Such records shall be retained for at least six years from the date of completion of the continuing education and shall be made available for review by the department in the administration of the requirements of this section.