

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2891

By: Denney and Nance of the
House

and

Coates of the Senate

An Act relating to professions and occupations;
amending 59 O.S. 2001, Section 698.16, as amended by
Section 2, Chapter 172, O.S.L. 2005, and Section 1,
Chapter 78, O.S.L. 2004 (59 O.S. Supp. 2005, Sections
698.16 and 698.29), which relate to the Oklahoma
Veterinary Practice Act; modifying certain
requirements; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2001, Section 698.16, as
amended by Section 2, Chapter 172, O.S.L. 2005 (59 O.S. Supp. 2005,
Section 698.16), is amended to read as follows:

Section 698.16 A. 1. Any animal except domestic animals as
such term is defined in Section 85.1 of Title 4 of the Oklahoma
Statutes placed in the custody of a licensed veterinarian for
~~boarding, treatment or any other such reason~~ services which is
abandoned by its owner, the owner's agent, or any other person for a
period of more than three (3) days after written notice, is given by
registered or certified mail, return receipt ~~requested,~~ is
received, or refused by, unclaimed or by actual hand-delivery to
the owner or the owner's agent at the last-known address of the
owner or the owner's agent, shall be deemed abandoned and may be
sold, disposed of in a humane manner by the veterinarian or turned
over to the custody of the nearest humane society, ~~dog pound,~~ or
animal shelter ~~in the area for disposal as deemed proper by the~~
~~humane society, dog pound or animal shelter. If no humane society,~~
~~dog pound or animal shelter is available in the county, the animal~~
~~may be disposed of in a humane manner or sold by the licensed~~
~~veterinarian or the sheriff of the county.~~

2. Any animal except domestic animals as such term is defined
in Section 85.1 of Title 4 of the Oklahoma Statutes placed in the
custody of a licensed veterinarian for, but not limited to,
boarding, treatment, or any other care, which is abandoned by an
anonymous individual for a period of more than five (5) days, shall
be deemed to be abandoned and may be sold, disposed of in a humane
manner by the veterinarian or turned over to the custody of the
nearest humane society or ~~dog pound or~~ animal shelter ~~in the area~~
~~for disposal as deemed proper by the humane society, dog pound or~~
animal shelter. ~~If no humane society, dog pound or animal shelter~~

~~is available in the county, the animal other than domestic animal may be disposed of in a humane manner or sold by the licensed veterinarian or sheriff of the county.~~

B. Any domestic animal as such term is defined by Section 85.1 of Title 4 of the Oklahoma Statutes placed in the custody of a licensed veterinarian for boarding, treatment or any other reason which is abandoned by the owner, the owner's agent or by an anonymous individual may be disposed of as required for estrays pursuant to Chapter 4 of Title 4 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

C. 1. Compliance with the notice provisions of this section by the licensed veterinarian or the disposal of an animal pursuant to subsection B of this section, as provided in subsection A of this section, shall relieve the licensed veterinarian and any custodian to whom such animal may be given of any further liability for disposal.

2. Such procedure by a licensed veterinarian shall not constitute grounds for disciplining pursuant to the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act.

3. Compliance with this section shall relieve the veterinarian from liability for such disposal or sale.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 78, O.S.L. 2004 (59 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 698.29), is amended to read as follows:

Section 698.29 A. ~~The~~ Except as provided in subsection D of this section, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and its employees, independent contractors, appointed committee members, or other agents shall keep confidential, all information obtained:

1. During an investigation of citizen complaints into allegations of violations of the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act, including:

- a. any review or investigation made to determine whether to allow an applicant to take an examination, or
- b. whether the Board shall grant a certificate, license, or permit; and

2. In the course of conducting an investigation, including:

- a. investigative reports provided to the Board by a registrant, and
- b. examinations and test scores.

B. To ensure the confidentiality of the information for the protection of the affected individual or entity, the information obtained shall not be deemed to be a record as that term is defined in the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

C. ~~Information~~ Except as provided in subsection D of this section, information obtained by the Board or any of its agents shall be considered competent evidence in a court of competent jurisdiction only in matters directly related to actions of the Board and the affected individual or entity as a result of the Board

obtaining the information. ~~The~~ and the information shall not be admissible as evidence in any other type of civil or criminal action.

D. At the discretion of the Board or any committee designated by the Board and in the interest of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public, any information contained in the investigation files of the Board may upon request be provided to the following:

1. Any board or commission of the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States which exercises disciplinary authority; and

2. Any law enforcement agency which makes a proper showing that such information is necessary to conduct or complete a pending investigation of a crime not covered by the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

Passed the House of Representatives the 2nd day of March, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 12th day of April, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the Senate