VETERINARY SURGEONS (JERSEY) LAW 1999

Official Consolidated Version

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Jersey

VETERINARY SURGEONS (JERSEY) LAW 1999

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Jersey

VETERINARY SURGEONS (JERSEY) LAW 1999[1]

A LAW to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine and surgery in Jersey, and for connected purposes

Commencement [see endnotes]

1 Interpretation[2]

In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires –

"authority to practise" means the registration, licence, permit or other authority by virtue of which a person is authorized to practise veterinary surgery in another country or territory;

"Minister" means the Minister for Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries;

"recognized veterinary surgeon" means a person whose name is for the time being entered, in accordance with Article 6, on the list of recognized veterinary surgeons maintained under that Article;

"States Veterinary Officer" means a person appointed as such under Article 5 of the Animal Health (Jersey) Law 2016;

"veterinary surgery" means the art and science of veterinary medicine and surgery, including –

(a) the diagnosis of diseases in animals and injuries to animals;

(b) the performing of tests on animals for diagnostic purposes;

(c) the giving of advice based on any such diagnosis;

(d) the medical or surgical treatment of animals; and

(e) the performing of surgical operations on animals.

2 Right to practise veterinary surgery

No person shall –

(a) practise veterinary surgery; or

(b) hold himself or herself out as practising or being prepared to practise veterinary surgery,

unless the person is a recognized veterinary surgeon.

3 Eligibility for recognition[3]

(1) A person is eligible to be a recognized veterinary surgeon if but only if he or she fulfils the requirements for registration (which may include a requirement to hold a prescribed authority to practise) prescribed by Order of the Minister.

(2) An Order made under paragraph (1) may make such transitional arrangements and savings as the Minister thinks fit.

4 Applications for recognition[4]

(1) An application to be recognized as a veterinary surgeon shall be made to the Royal Court.

(2) The application shall contain such particulars and shall be accompanied by such proof as may be prescribed, by Order of the Minister, that the person fulfils the requirements for registration prescribed under Article 3.

5 Recognition of veterinary surgeons

(1) If the Royal Court is satisfied, on an application under Article 4, that the applicant is eligible to be a recognized veterinary surgeon –

(a) it shall grant permission for the applicant's name to be entered on the list of recognized veterinary surgeons; and

(b) in granting permission, it shall specify in its Act the qualifications or authority to practise by reason of which the applicant is registered in the register of veterinary surgeons.[5]

(2) If the Royal Court is not satisfied that an applicant is eligible to be a recognized veterinary surgeon, it shall refuse to grant the application.

6 List of recognized veterinary surgeons

(1) The Judicial Greffier shall continue to maintain under this Law the list of veterinary surgeons prepared and kept under Article 4 of the Loi (1939) sur l'exercice de la médecine et la chirurgie vétérinaires dans cette Ile, and that list shall be the list of recognized veterinary surgeons for the purposes of this Law.

(2) The Judicial Greffier shall enter on the list –

(a) the name of each person who is granted permission by the Royal Court under Article 5 for the person's name to be entered on the list; and

(b) the qualifications or authority to practise, as specified in the Act of the Court, by reason of which the person is registered in the register of veterinary surgeons.[6]

(3) Where the Royal Court –

(a) orders under Article 7 that the name of any person be removed from the list; or

(b) orders under Article 8 that any entry on the list be amended,

the Judicial Greffier shall amend the list accordingly.

(4) The list shall remain posted in the Vestibule of the Royal Court House.

6A Suspension of recognition[7]

(1) This Article applies where a person is registered in the register of veterinary surgeons by reason of holding an authority to practise prescribed under Article 3.

(2) The Royal Court shall order –

(a) the suspension of the person's recognition as a veterinary surgeon upon being satisfied that the person's authority to practise is suspended;

(b) the end of the suspension of the person's recognition as a veterinary surgeon upon being satisfied that the suspension of the person's authority to practise has ended.

(3) An order may only be made under paragraph (2)(a) on the application of the Attorney General.

(4) The Attorney General shall give notice of the application to the veterinary surgeon.

7 Withdrawal of recognition

(1) The Royal Court shall order that the name of a person be removed from the list of recognized veterinary surgeons if it is satisfied that the person has ceased to satisfy the requirements for registration prescribed under Article 3.[8]

(1A) The Court may, on the application of a person whose registration has been cancelled under paragraph (1), rescind the order made under paragraph (1) and direct that the person's name be restored to the list, if the Court is satisfied that the qualification or authority to practise by virtue of which the person fulfilled the requirements for registration prescribed under Article 3 has been reinstated.[9]

(2) The Royal Court may order that the name of a person be removed from the list if it is satisfied that, by reason of having been convicted of any offence, the person is no longer a fit and proper person to practise veterinary surgery in Jersey.

(3) An order may only be made under paragraph (1) or (2) on the application of the Attorney General.

(4) The Attorney General shall give notice of the application to the veterinary surgeon.

(5) On the application of a recognized veterinary surgeon, the Royal Court may order that that veterinary surgeon's name be removed from the list.

8 Amendment of list

(1) On the application of a recognized veterinary surgeon, the Royal Court may order that the veterinary surgeon's entry on the list of recognized veterinary surgeons be amended in respect of that veterinary surgeon's name, qualifications or authority to practise.[10]

(2) The Royal Court shall order that a veterinary surgeon's name be removed from the list if it is satisfied that the person has died.[11]

9 Offences

(1) Any person who contravenes Article 2 shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of level 3 on the standard scale.[12]

(2) Any person who, for the purpose –

(a) of obtaining permission for the person's name to be entered on the list of recognized veterinary surgeons;

(b) of obtaining the removal of the person's name from the list; or

(c) of obtaining any amendment of the person's entry on the list,

wilfully or recklessly makes any statement that the person knows to be untrue in a material particular shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to a fine or to both.

(3) Any person who aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of an offence under paragraph (1) or (2) shall be liable to be dealt with, tried and punished as a principal offender.

10 Exemptions

(1) Nothing in Article 2 or 9(1) prohibits a dentist or a doctor from assisting a veterinary surgeon, at the latter's request and under the veterinary surgeon's supervision, in the practise of veterinary surgery or holding himself or herself out as being prepared to do so.[13]

(2) Nothing in Article 2 or 9(1) prohibits a person who is not a recognized veterinary surgeon from carrying out an activity that is described in Part 1 of Schedule 1 provided that –

(a) in relation to an activity that must be carried out by a person of a description specified in that Part, the person falls within that description; and

(b) such activity is not excluded from the application of Part 1 of Schedule 1 by Part 2 of that Schedule.[14]

(3) Nothing in Article 2 or 9(1) prevents a person who is not a recognized veterinary surgeon from carrying out any activity that is described in paragraph 1 or 2 of Schedule 2 provided that –

(a) the person is approved to carry out that activity under paragraph 3(1) or (2) of that Schedule;

(b) the person carries out that activity in accordance with any conditions imposed under paragraph 3(4) or (5) of that Schedule; and

(c) the person's approval is not suspended or revoked in accordance with paragraph 4 of that Schedule.[15]

10A Fees for certain exemptions[16]

The Minister may prescribe by Order fees for the giving of approvals by the States Veterinary Officer under paragraph 3 of Schedule 2.[17]

11 Amendment of Schedules[18]

The Minister may by Order amend Schedules 1 and 2.

12 Citation

This Law may be cited as the Veterinary Surgeons (Jersey) Law 1999.

SCHEDULE 1[19]

(Article 10(2))

EXEMPTIONS FROM RESTRICTIONS ON PRACTICE OF VETERINARY SURGERY NOT REQUIRING APPROVAL OF STATES VETERINARY OFFICER

PART 1

ACTIVITIES THAT MAY BE CARRIED OUT

1. Any minor medical treatment given to an animal by its owner, by another member of a household of which the owner is a member, or by a person in the employment of the owner.

2. Any medical treatment or any minor surgery (not involving entry into a body cavity) given in either case to an animal used in agriculture (as defined in the Agriculture Act 1947 of the United Kingdom), and so given by its owner or by a person engaged or employed in caring for animals so used.

3. The rendering in an emergency of first aid for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain or suffering.

4. The performance by any person who has attained the age of 18 years of either of the following operations, that is to say –

   (a) the docking, by means of an elastrator, of the tail of a lamb that has not reached the age of 1 week; and

   (b) the amputation of the dew claws of a dog that has not reached the age of 72 hours.

5. The performance, by any person who has attained the age of 17 years and is a veterinary student or a student veterinary nurse under instruction, or is undergoing instruction in animal husbandry, of –

   (a) any operation mentioned in paragraph 4(a) or (b) of this Part; or

   (b) the castration of a male animal or the caponizing of an animal,

   if the instruction is given by a recognized veterinary surgeon and the operation is performed under the veterinary surgeon's direct personal supervision.

6.

(1) Any medical treatment or any minor surgery (not involving entry into a body cavity) to a companion animal by a veterinary nurse if the following conditions are complied with, that is to say –

   (a) the companion animal is, for the time being, under the care of a recognized veterinary surgeon and the medical treatment or minor surgery is carried out by the veterinary nurse at the veterinary surgeon's direction;

(b) the recognized veterinary surgeon is the employer or is acting on behalf of the employer of the veterinary nurse; and

(c) the recognized veterinary surgeon directing the medical treatment or minor surgery is satisfied that the veterinary nurse is qualified to carry out the treatment or surgery.

(2) In sub-paragraph (1) –

(a) "companion animal" means an animal kept as a pet or for companionship, not being a horse, pony, ass or mule, nor an animal used in agriculture (as defined in the Agriculture Act 1947 of the United Kingdom); and

(b) "veterinary nurse" means a nurse whose name is entered in the register of veterinary nurses maintained by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

7. Any medical treatment or any minor surgery (not involving entry into a body cavity) to any animal by a student veterinary nurse if –

(a) the animal is, for the time being, under the care of a recognized veterinary surgeon and the medical treatment or minor surgery is carried out by the student veterinary nurse at the veterinary surgeon's direction and in the course of the student veterinary nurse's training;

(b) the treatment or surgery is supervised by a recognized veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse and, in the case of surgery, the supervision is direct, continuous and personal; and

(c) the recognized veterinary surgeon is the employer or is acting on behalf of the employer of the student veterinary nurse.

In this paragraph –

"student veterinary nurse" means a person undergoing training as a veterinary nurse at an approved training and assessment centre or a veterinary practice approved by such a centre; and

"approved training and assessment centre" means a centre approved by the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of the United Kingdom for the purpose of training and assessing student veterinary nurses.

PART 2

EXCLUSIONS FROM PROVISIONS OF PART 1

1. Paragraph 2 of Part 1 does not apply –

(a) to a laparotomy; or

(b) to anything done for reward.

2. Part 1 does not apply to –

(a) the castration of a male animal that is –

(i) a horse, pony, ass or mule,

(ii) a bull, boar or goat that has in any such case reached the age of 2 months,

(iii) a ram that has reached the age of 3 months, or

(iv) a cat or dog;

(b) the spaying of a cat or dog;

(c) the removal (otherwise than in an emergency for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain or suffering) of any part of the antlers of a deer before the velvet of the antlers is frayed and the greater part of it has been shed;

(d) the desnooding of a turkey that has reached the age of 21 days;

(e) the removal of the combs of any poultry that have reached the age of 72 hours;

(f) the cutting of the toes of a domestic fowl or turkey that has reached the age of 72 hours;

(g) the performance of a vasectomy or the carrying out of electro-ejaculation on any animal or bird kept for production of food, wool, skin or fur or for use in the farming of land;

(h) the removal of the supernumerary teats of a calf that has reached the age of 3 months;

(i) the dehorning or disbudding of a sheep or goat (other than the trimming of the insensitive tip of an ingrowing horn that, if left untreated, could cause pain or distress); or

(j) the extraction of the teeth of an animal.

SCHEDULE 2[20]

(Article 10(3))

EXEMPTIONS FROM RESTRICTIONS ON PRACTICE OF VETERINARY SURGERY REQUIRING APPROVAL OF STATES VETERINARY OFFICER

1 Equine dental activities

A person who is approved by the States Veterinary Officer in accordance with paragraph 3 may carry out any of the following activities in relation to horses –

(a) examination, evaluation and recording of dental abnormalities;

(b) the removal of loose teeth or dental fragments with negligible periodontal attachments;

(c) the removal of erupted, non-displaced wolf teeth in the upper or lower jaw;

(d) palliative rasping of fractured and adjacent teeth;

(e) the use of motorised dental instruments to reduce overgrowths and remove sharp enamel points.

2 Other activities

(1) A person who is approved by the States Veterinary Officer in accordance with paragraph 3 may carry out any of the following activities for which such approval has been given –

(a) artificial insemination of a domestic animal;

(b) a procedure to transfer, or to assist in transferring, embryos between cattle;

(c) the implantation into an animal of a transponder;

(d) the collection of blood from an animal for diagnostic or surveillance purposes; or

(e) the testing of an animal for diagnostic or surveillance purposes.

(2) In paragraph (1) "transponder" means a read-only passive radio frequency device.

3 Approval by States Veterinary Officer

(1) The States Veterinary Officer may approve a person to carry out the activities described in paragraph 1 if –

(a) the person is a current member of the British Association of Equine Dental Technicians; and

(b) the requirements of sub-paragraph (3) are complied with.

(2) The States Veterinary Officer may approve a person to carry out any activity described in paragraph 2 if –

(a) the person –

(i) has successfully completed a course which entitles that person to carry out that activity under the law of the United Kingdom (or any part of the United Kingdom), or

(ii) is otherwise entitled under the law of the United Kingdom (or any part of the United Kingdom) to carry out that activity; and

(b) the requirements of sub-paragraph (3) are complied with.

(3) Those requirements are that –

(a) the person has made an application for approval to the States Veterinary Officer in such form and accompanied by such information as the States Veterinary Officer may require; and

(b) the application is accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed under Article 10A.

(4) An approval under sub-paragraph (1) or (2) must be in writing and, subject to paragraph (5), may be subject to such conditions as the States Veterinary Officer may determine.

(5) The States Veterinary Officer's approval must be subject to the condition that –

(a) in the case of an activity described in paragraph 1(c), the person carries out the activity under the direct and continuous personal supervision of a recognized veterinary surgeon; or

(b) in the case of an activity described in paragraph 2(1)(c), where the person is a veterinary nurse, the person carries out the activity under the direction of a recognized veterinary surgeon who is available to assist but who may not necessarily be present.

(6) In sub-paragraph (5)(b), "veterinary nurse" means a nurse whose name is entered in the register of veterinary nurses maintained by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

4 Suspension or revocation of approval

(1) If the States Veterinary Officer reasonably considers that a person approved under paragraph 3 –

(a) no longer meets the criteria described in paragraph 3(1)(a) or (2)(a), as the case may be;

(b) otherwise is no longer fit to carry out the activity to which the person's approval relates; or

(c) has breached a condition of approval,

the States Veterinary Officer may take the action described in sub-paragraph (2).

(2) That action is either or both of the following –

(a) suspension of the States Veterinary Officer's approval with immediate effect; and

(b) revocation of the States Veterinary Officer's approval after giving 21 days' notice to the person.

(3) A person's approval shall not be revoked under this paragraph unless the person concerned has been given the opportunity to make representations to the States Veterinary Officer and the States Veterinary Officer has taken those representations into account.

(4) A suspension or revocation under this paragraph shall be given in writing and with reasons.

5 Appeal against States Veterinary Officer's decision

(1) A person aggrieved by a decision of the States Veterinary Officer to –

(a) refuse an application for approval under paragraph 3; or

(b) suspend or revoke an approval under paragraph 4,

may, within 28 days of the decision, or within such longer period as the Court may allow, appeal to the Court on the ground that the decision is unreasonable having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

(2) On hearing the appeal the Court may –

(a) confirm, reverse or vary the decision against which the appeal is brought;

(b) make such order as it thinks fit; and

(c) make such order as to the costs of the appeal that it thinks fit, including any order with respect to the payment of costs.

(3) Subject to any interim order the Court may make, an appeal to the Court shall not have the effect of suspending the States Veterinary Officer's decision.

ENDNOTES

Table of Legislation History

Legislation	Year and No	Commencement	*Projet No (where applicable)
Veterinary Surgeons (Jersey) Law 1999	L.6/1999	16 April 1999	P.153/1998
Veterinary Surgeons (Jersey) Order 2003	R&O.45/2003	23 May 2003	
States of Jersey (Amendments and Construction Provisions No. 4) (Jersey) Regulations 2005	R&O.44/2005	9 December 2005	P.58/2005
Veterinary Surgeons (Jersey) Order 2008	R&O.93/2008	4 August 2008	
Veterinary Surgeons (No. 2) (Jersey) Order 2008	R&O.128/2008	13 October 2008	
Veterinary Surgeons (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 2012	L.25/2012	27 August 2012	P.154/2011
Pet Travel Scheme (Amendment) (Jersey) Regulations 2014	R&O.185/2014	29 December 2014	P.150/2014
States of Jersey (Transfer of Functions No. 8) (Miscellaneous Transfers) (Jersey) Regulations 2015	R&O.158/2015	1 January 2016	P.46/2015
Dentistry (Jersey) Law 2015	L.17/2015	24 February 2016 (R&O.22/2016)	P.89/2015
Veterinary Surgeons (Amendment No. 2) (Jersey) Law 2016	L.5/2016	26 February 2016	P.83/2015
Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Jersey) Law 2016	L.1/2016	20 September 2016 (R&O.98/2016)	P.87/2015
Animal Health (Jersey) Law 2016	L.12/2016	1 February 2017 (R&O.2/2017)	P.17/2016
Veterinary Surgeons (Amendment of Law) (Jersey) Order 2020	R&O.71/2020	28 May 2020	
States of Jersey (Transfer of Functions) Order 2026	R&O.102/2026	2 October 2026	

*Projets available at www.statesassembly.gov.je

Table of Renumbered Provisions

Original	Current
12	spent, omitted from this revised edition
13	12
Schedule, Part I	Schedule, Part 1
Part II	Part 2

Table of Endnote References

[1] *This Law has been amended by the States of Jersey (Amendments and Construction Provisions No. 4) (Jersey) Regulations 2005. The amendments replace all references to a Committee of the States of Jersey with a reference to a Minister of the States of Jersey, and remove and add defined terms appropriately, consequentially upon the move from a committee system of government to a ministerial system of government*

[2] *Article 1*	*amended by L.25/2012, R&O.158/2015, L.5/2016, L.12/2016, R&O.102/2026*
[3] *Article 3*	*substituted by L.25/2012*
[4] *Article 4*	*substituted by L.25/2012*
[5] *Article 5(1)*	*amended by L.25/2012*
[6] *Article 6(2)*	*amended by L.25/2012*
[7] *Article 6A*	*inserted by L.25/2012*
[8] *Article 7(1)*	*substituted by L.25/2012*
[9] *Article 7(1A)*	*inserted by L.25/2012*
[10] *Article 8(1)*	*amended by L.25/2012*
[11] *Article 8(2)*	*added by L.25/2012*
[12] *Article 9(1)*	*amended by L.1/2016*
[13] *Article 10(1)*	*amended by L.17/2015*
[14] *Article 10(2)*	*substituted by L.5/2016*
[15] *Article 10(3)*	*added by L.5/2016*
[16] *Article 10A*	*inserted by L.5/2016*
[17] *Article 10A*	*amended by L.12/2016*
[18] *Article 11*	*substituted by L.5/2016*
[19] *Schedule 1*	*amended by R&O.45/2003, R&O.93/2008, R&O.128/2008, R&O.185/2014, L.5/2016*
[20] *Schedule 2*	*inserted by L.5/2016, amended by L.12/2016, R&O.71/2020*