

**47-848. Same; board agreement with committee; responsibilities; evaluations; restricted license; immunity from civil liability for report or investigation; diagnostic examination.** (a) The board may refer reports under K.S.A. 47-847, and amendments thereto, and other reports or complaints filed with such board which relate to impaired veterinarians to an impaired veterinarian committee of the appropriate state professional society or organization.

(b) The board shall have the authority to enter into an agreement with the impaired veterinarian committee of the appropriate state professional society or organization to undertake those functions and responsibilities specified in the agreement and to provide for payment therefor from moneys appropriated to the agency for that purpose. Such functions and responsibilities may include any or all of the following:

- (1) Contracting with providers of treatment programs;
- (2) receiving and evaluating reports of suspected impairment from any source;
- (3) intervening in cases of verified impairment;
- (4) referring impaired veterinarians to treatment programs;
- (5) monitoring the treatment and rehabilitation of impaired veterinarians;
- (6) providing posttreatment monitoring and support of rehabilitated impaired veterinarians; and
- (7) performing such other activities as agreed upon by the board and the impaired veterinarian committee.

(c) The impaired veterinarian committee shall develop procedures in consultation with the board for:

- (1) Periodic reporting of statistical information regarding impaired veterinarian program activity;
- (2) periodic disclosure and joint review of such information as the board considers appropriate regarding reports received, contacts or investigations made and the disposition of each report;
- (3) immediate reporting to the board of the name and results of any contact or investigation regarding any impaired veterinarian who is believed to constitute an imminent danger to the public or to self;
- (4) reporting to the board, in a timely fashion, any impaired veterinarian who refuses to cooperate with the impaired veterinarian committee or refuses to submit to treatment, or whose impairment is not substantially alleviated through treatment, and who in the opinion of the committee exhibits professional incompetence; and
- (5) informing each participant of the impaired veterinarian committee of the procedures, the responsibilities of participants and the possible consequences of noncompliance.

(d) If the board has reasonable cause to believe that a veterinarian is impaired, the board may cause an evaluation of such veterinarian to be conducted by the impaired veterinarian committee or its designee for the purpose of determining if there is an impairment. The impaired veterinarian committee or its designee shall report the findings of its evaluation to the board.

(e) An impaired veterinarian may submit a written request to the board for a restriction of such veterinarian's license. The board may grant such request for restriction and shall have authority to attach conditions to the licensure of the veterinarian to practice within specified limitations. Removal of a voluntary restriction on licensure to practice shall be subject to the statutory procedure for reinstatement of license.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a state professional society or organization and the members thereof shall not be liable to any person for any acts, omissions or recommendations made in good faith while acting within the scope of the responsibilities imposed pursuant to this section.

(g) Requiring the licensee to submit to a complete diagnostic examination by one or more physicians appointed by the board. If the board requires a licensee to submit to such an examination, the board shall receive and consider any other report of a complete diagnostic examination given by one or more physicians of the licensee's choice.

**History:** L. 1989, ch. 155, § 3; L. 1993, ch. 129, § 18; July 1.