

Mission Statement

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of Alaskans by ensuring that veterinarian practitioners possess and maintain a level of skill and knowledge necessary to provide safe, competent professional veterinary services to consumers and to protect the public from veterinary practitioners who pose a risk to the public's health, safety, and welfare.

April 8, 2026 Licensing Examiner Report (as of 3/25/2026)

License Issued:	FY2025	FYTD	In Process
Veterinarians	32	20	13
Veterinary Technicians	27	9	8
Courtesy	56	48	4
Student Permits	15	3	2
Temporary Permits	13	9	1
Temporary Licenses	0	0	0

457 Active Veterinarian Licenses (402 active at the end of 2024 and 450 active at the end of 2025)

261 Active Veterinary Technician Licenses (235 active at the end of 2024 and 250 at the end of 2025)

Advisory Guidance on Humane Euthanasia Practices in Alaska

Dear Division Leadership,

We are writing to provide advisory guidance from the Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners regarding humane euthanasia practices in the state of Alaska. At present, Alaska Statute A080.02.050 authorizes agencies to obtain permits for the purchase of specified and non-specified drugs for the purpose of euthanasia, however, detailed procedural guidance and licensures is not outlined. The following recommendations are offered to support humane, safe and consistent practices across the state. The recommendations are advisory in nature and do not propose changes to existing statutes or regulations.

The term “euthanasia” is derived from the Greek, meaning “good death” - a death free from pain, suffering and distress. Consistent with the 2020 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals, the duty of personnel performing euthanasia is to provide the most rapid, painless and distress-free death possible. To that end, it is recommended that all permit holders should be required to complete a certified euthanasia training program, while continuously demonstrating proficiency in euthanasia techniques, and maintaining the ability to safely and adequately restrain animals. These skills are essential not only for effective administration of euthanasia agents, but also for minimizing pain, fear and distress.

For the sole act of euthanasia, Barbiturates (e.g. sodium pentobarbital, sodium pentobarbital with lidocaine) are the agents of choice, due to their ability to induce rapid loss of consciousness, followed by cardiac or respiratory arrest and subsequent loss of brain function. This process has been deemed most humane by the AVMA through a number of studies on both animals and humans. Barbiturates, however, can pose some inherent “cons” with their use. In addition to being tightly regulated by the federal government, a key limitation of barbiturates is the requirement for intravenous administration, which necessitates appropriate restraint and handling of the animal, in addition to adequate knowledge and skill by the handler. When IV administration is difficult, restraint is difficult, or the animal is in obvious pain, distress or discomfort, the use of pre-euthanasia pharmaceuticals is recommended.

These may include:

- Injectable agents such as alpha-2 agonists, dissociative anesthetics, and opioids
- Oral medications including analgesics, sedatives and tranquilizers
- Topical agents such as local anesthetics

Combinations of these agents can and should be used to achieve the greatest reduction in pain and stress prior to intravenous administration of a barbiturate. Selection and dosing should be tailored to the individual animal’s level of distress, pain, temperament and degree of domestication, in addition to resources available by the facility or department.

Animals that cannot be safely or humanely restrained should always receive sedation prior to euthanasia. Sedatives may be administered orally or via remote delivery systems (e.g. dart or pole syringe), thereby reducing pain and anxiety for the animal while ensuring handler safety and well-being.

When euthanasia is performed in the presence of an owner, pre-euthanasia sedation or anesthesia should be provided whenever practical, to minimize distress. In a shelter or rescue setting, at least 2 trained individuals should be present when performing intravenous euthanasia using a barbiturate alone. For animals that are fractious, feral, highly stressed or pose a safety risk, sedation via a non-intravenous route is strongly recommended prior to euthanasia.

Euthanasia procedures should be conducted, whenever possible, in an environment designed to minimize stress. This includes reducing exposure to unfamiliar sights, sounds and odors, while ensuring adequate lighting and sufficient space for both the animal and personnel. Basic equipment should be readily available, including clippers, tourniquets, needles and syringes, a stethoscope and appropriate materials for the respectful handling and/or disposing of remains. Euthanasias should not be performed if these basic tools are not readily available.

Alternative methods of euthanasia may be considered only when specific criteria are met and in accordance with established professional guidelines. In such cases, personnel should consult the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals (2020), the supervising veterinarian, or their current training guidelines.

A list of resources for euthanasia training programs include: CAETA (Companion Animal Euthanasia Training Academy), National Animal Care & Control Association, and the University of Florida Euthanasia Training,

These guidelines are intended to promote consistency, humane care, and safety across all permitted euthanasia programs in the state of Alaska. Adoption of such practices will help ensure the animals are treated with dignity and compassion at the end of life, while also supporting the safety and well-being of the personnel involved.

Thank you for the consideration of this advisory guidance. Please reach out to us for further discussion or clarification.

Respectfully,
Board of Veterinary Examiners
Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:37 AM
To: Mell, Keri M (CED) <keri.mell@alaska.gov>
Subject: CE question

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Keri,

I hope this finds you doing well.

I have a question about CE hours.

If we set up 75 minute CE blocks at our symposium, is that adequate for 1.5 hours CE? I derived that from 50 minutes of instruction = 1 hour CE but want to double check.

Thank you.

Pat Anderson

Mell, Keri M (CED)

From: Board of Veterinary Examiners (CED sponsored)
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 7:10 AM
To: Board of Veterinary Examiners (CED sponsored)
Subject: FW: Clarification of Roles and Responsibilities

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 3:02 PM
To: Board of Veterinary Examiners (CED sponsored) <boardofveterinaryexaminers@alaska.gov>
Subject: Re: Clarification of Roles and Responsibilities

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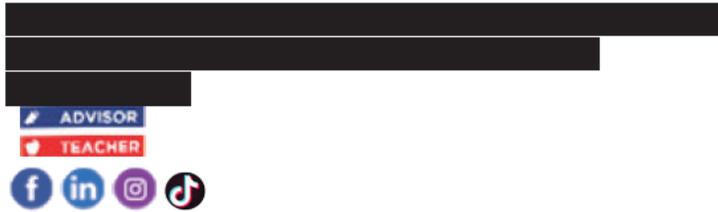
Yes, I would appreciate bringing this to the board. I think it would be good to have the support of the AK board on R&R of licensed vet techs vs vet assistants. Dental prophylaxis is an almost daily occurrence, and we know vet techs are difficult to find. By allowing vet assistants to legally perform these, it greatly improves efficiency and flow in the hospital by freeing up the veterinarian.

Thank you and I look forward to a follow-up in April!



[REDACTED]
Regional Medical Director, West

AmeriVet Veterinary Partners



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 1:58 PM
To: Board of Veterinary Examiners (CED sponsored) <boardofveterinaryexaminers@alaska.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Clarification of Roles and Responsibilities

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Hello,

Would you be able to provide a breakdown of roles and responsibilities for vet techs vs vet assistants working in veterinary hospitals in Alaska? I referenced the practice act but it seems vague. Specifically, I am interested in knowing if dental prophylaxis can be legally performed by vet assistants.

Thank you!

[Redacted]

Regional Medical Director, West

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

EXTERNAL

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From: Boards and Commissions (GOV sponsored) <boards@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 11:10 AM
To: Shilling, Jordan K (GOV) <jordan.shilling@alaska.gov>
Cc: Wolfe, Forrest M (GOV) <forrest.wolfe@alaska.gov>; Marasigan, Alan R (GOV) <alan.marasigan@alaska.gov>; Chambers, Sara C (CED) <sara.chambers@alaska.gov>
Subject: Legislative Communications Guidance for Professional Licensing Boards

Dear Members of Alaska's Professional Licensing Boards:

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to the people of Alaska. The work you perform as volunteer regulators is essential to protecting the public and supporting strong, well-functioning professions. We deeply value your time, expertise, and commitment.

To support consistency across the Executive Branch, the Governor's Legislative Office (GLO) is working to ensure communications and processes related to legislative engagement are clear and aligned. We appreciate your collaboration in this effort.

The Administration's positions on legislation are set through the Governor's policy direction. Professional licensing boards and commissions under AS 08 are components of the executive branch and do not independently initiate, pursue, or advocate statutory changes.

Boards are expected to remain neutral on pending legislation unless expressly authorized through department leadership and GLO. Boards do not adopt or communicate support/oppose positions on pending legislation. Boards are regulators, not professional associations, and board members do not serve to promote a profession or organize support for policy outcomes.

When a board is asked to provide input on a bill, comments must be limited to technical matters within the board's statutory scope (including matters raised through a legislative audit) and must be provided in writing to division staff, who will route them through division and department leadership for coordination with GLO.

All verbal or written testimony or correspondence offered on behalf of a professional licensing board must be coordinated through division and department leadership and approved by GLO in advance. If a legislative committee requests testimony regarding a bill reauthorizing your board under AS 08.03, the board chair or another designated representative should coordinate with division staff to secure GLO approval before participating in the hearing.

If you have questions about how to proceed with current or upcoming legislative matters, please continue to work closely with division and department leadership.

Sincerely,

Jordan Shilling

Director | Governor's Legislative Office

Director | Boards & Commissions

Office of the Governor

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