

Veterinary Practice Statement

The best, most specific definition of the practice of Veterinary Medicine, without a license comes from Texas state law: "The Veterinary Licensing Act defines the practice of veterinary medicine as the diagnosis, treatment, correction, change, manipulation, relief or prevention of animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical condition, including the prescription or administration of a drug, biologic, anesthetic, apparatus, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique; representation of an ability and willingness to perform the acts listed above; or use titles, words, or letters to induce the belief that a person is legally authorized and qualified to perform an act listed above; or the receipt of compensation for performing an act listed above."

Any fish retailer without a DVM who accepts money to identify or diagnose ANY medical condition may be a criminal who can be arrested. Those without a DVM license may not claim to be a "practitioner"

"In Colorado and most other states, a person cannot call themselves a "therapist" "doctor" or "practitioner" or say they do "therapy" on animals unless they are a veterinarian. Otherwise, they can be accused of practicing veterinary medicine without a license."

Practicing Veterinary Medicine

Practicing veterinary medicine without a license is a crime in the USA and a felony in some states. While each statute is different, most all prohibit the diagnosis and treatment of any animal without a valid State license.

There are several issues relating to the dangers of fish dealers performing as veterinary medical advisors:

- **Dealers performing medical acts and losing hobbyists' fish**
- **Your competition reporting your actions to the Board as criminal activities**

In the more odd cases, even recommending doing **nothing** can cause harm, or loss. Inept laymen may recommend withholding medical treatment or recommend having a Koi euthanized, claiming that the Koi is not worth treating with, or would not survive a life-saving procedure or treatment.

Not Charging, Is It Still The Practice of Veterinary Medicine?

According to this Hawaii statute, accepting money to diagnose illness is a crime punishable by up to six months in prison.

North Carolina law

In North Carolina, you must have a license to practice Veterinary Medicine to perform de-worming or vaccinations, even if you do not charge a fee.

New Hampshire law

According to the New Hampshire Veterinary Practices Act, anyone violating the status is liable for \$2,000.00 per violation.

California expands their statute to include any laymen whose activities may cause harm to an animal. According to the California Veterinary Medical Board: "Anyone who witnesses or believes that a licensed veterinarian or unlicensed person's behavior or activities may cause harm (or the potential for harm) to animal patients or may be illegal, can file a complaint."

Doc's Thoughts

(Do not substitute for the paid opinion of a trained, licensed legal counselor)

First: Know your customer and make sure you also totally trust your customer. Still, get a waiver.

Second: Never advertise your "services" or assistance. Perhaps use your capabilities but do not offer, up sell, or aggrandize these skills.

Third: Seriously reconsider ever charging anything **directly** for any assessment or advice regarding fish health.

Fourth: Your opinion may include that you are safe if you merely assess a condition, but never offer a written or formal "diagnosis". Observing the simple "condition" that a dog has fleas on its body is one thing, while diagnosing that ectoparasitism is the root of the problem is another.

Fifth: You should never prescribe nor render a treatment for someone's fish. You may indicate a shelf containing the commonly used medications in your store for a particular condition but I'd avoid actually dosing or doing a treatment.

If their fish die – or if you're being stung by a regulatory agency, how close can anyone come to saying "They represented that they were qualified to diagnose and treat my fish, I paid them, and the outcome was unpalatable." - If anything like that can be said, you will probably pay.



Fast Fish Medicines

PondRx.com

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For bacterial sores:

Warmer water, salt at 0.3%, medicated food like MediKoi and injections would be recommended. Tricide Neo can be sprayed on. PondRx stocks all these remedies, ready for your needs, including heaters, and water test kits to make sure the water is good enough for healing!

For flukes:

Pondrx.com recommends the use of either Supaverm or Prazi - both of which are filter safe and easy to use. Malathion can also be used. We have a book that describes that. Supaverm kills goldfish but Prazi does not. You get explicit instructions on the use of these medicines with your order.

For lethargy, clamped fins:

First, test your water pH and nitrogen numbers. We have test kits that are cheap and easy to use. If your water tests well, salt to 0.3% and send us a fish specimen and we will give you a free diagnosis!

For rapid losses:

Water testing first, then salt to 0.3% and call us! We will accept samples, perform wet mounts, and tell you what's wrong at no cost!

For Costia:

Sometimes Costia is best treated by removing the Koi and treating them with Proform C in a holding tank, then treating the pond with double dose Potassium. We sell both with clear instructions.

Visit PondRx.com for more articles!

When fish are sick, you can't wait for the guy in the garage to get around to shipping your meds. We ship fast and we have what you need for fish, sick or healthy! Economical fish foods, pond supplies, water conditioners, and more! The difference is this: "You name it, but we might not have it!" Because we don't sell stuff that doesn't work! So there's a lot of items you'll never see on Pondrx.com Never have to worry about buying useless junk.

706 374 3037

Volume estimate:
Length x Width x Depth (all in inches) divided by 231 gives US Gallons.
Salt 0.3%: Three pounds of salt per 100 gallons (No trace minerals or YPS, salt should be pure)
When raising temperature, do not raise it more than one degree per hour!
Make sure your pH is always ABOVE 7.0
Water changes at 10% per week are highly, highly recommended! Or change 20% every 2 weeks.

Other Sites Of Service:

Koivet.com

Message board, chat area, and hundreds of articles on fish health for you to read and learn from.

PondCrisis.com

Step by step help for sick fish, this site breaks a pond crisis down into a simple, twenty step diagnostic process.

KoiCrisis.com

Organized in sections about medicines, symptoms, water quality and more, this is a great fish health site.

KoiGallery.com

Show off your fish, simply create an album, and upload your best Koi images!

For Rush Service Call 706 374 3037