

**WAC 246-933-601 Intent.** It is the intent of the

legislature that the veterinary board of governors seek ways to identify and support the rehabilitation of veterinarians who have a health condition that may impair their~~where~~ practice or competency ~~may be impaired due to the abuse of drugs or alcohol~~.

The legislature intends that these veterinarians be treated so that they can return to or continue to practice veterinary medicine in a way which safeguards the public. The legislature specifically intends that the veterinary board of governors establish an alternate program to the traditional administrative proceedings against such veterinarians.

In lieu of disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 and if the veterinary board of governors determines that the unprofessional conduct may be the result of an impairing health condition, ~~substance abuse~~ the veterinary board of governors may refer the license holder to a voluntary physician health program or voluntary substance use disorder monitoring program ~~substance abuse monitoring program~~ approved by the veterinary board of governors.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030. WSR 91-02-060 (Order 108B), recodified as § 246-933-601, filed 12/28/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.130.175. WSR 90-21-029 (Order 93), § 308-158-010, filed 10/9/90, effective 11/10/90.]

**WAC 246-933-610 Definitions.**

The definitions in this section apply in WAC 246-933-601 through 246-933-630 unless the context clearly requires otherwise ~~As used in this chapter:~~

(1) "Aftercare" means a period of time after intensive treatment that provides the veterinarian or the veterinarian's family with group or individual counseling sessions, discussions with other families, ongoing contact and participation in self-help groups, and ongoing continued support of treatment or monitoring program staff.

(2) ~~"Approved substance abuse monitoring program" or "Approved monitoring program" means is a physician health program or substance use disorder monitoring program,~~ complying with applicable state law and approved by the board, which oversees a veterinarian's compliance with a contractually prescribed substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ recovery program.

Substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ monitoring programs may provide evaluation ~~and~~/or treatment to participating veterinarians.

(3) "Approved treatment facility" means is a facility recognized as such according to RCW 18.130.175(1).

(42) "Contract" means is a comprehensive, structured agreement between the recovering veterinarian and the approved monitoring program wherein the veterinarian consents to comply with the monitoring program and the required components for the veterinarian's recovery activity.

~~(3) "Approved treatment facility" is a facility recognized as such according to RCW 18.130.175(1).~~

(5) "Impaired" or "impairment" means an inability to practice veterinary medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of a health condition.

(6) "Random drug screens" means the observed collection of specified bodily fluids together with laboratory tests to detect the presence of drugs related to a substance use disorder in bodily fluids. Collection must occur at irregular intervals not known in advance by the person to be tested.

(74) "Substance use disorder~~abuse~~" means the impairment, as determined by the board, of a veterinarian's professional services by an addiction to, a dependency on, or the use of alcohol, legend drugs, controlled substances, or other addictive drugs.

~~(5) "Aftercare" is that period of time after intensive treatment that provides the veterinarian or the veterinarian's family with group or individual counseling sessions, discussions with other families, ongoing contact and participation in self-help groups, and ongoing continued support of treatment and/or monitoring program staff.~~

(87) "Twelve-steps groups" means a ~~are~~ group such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and related organizations based on a philosophy of anonymity, peer group association, and self-help.

(9) "Veterinarian" means an impaired practitioner.

(106) "Veterinarian support group" means ~~is~~ a group of veterinarians ~~and~~ or other health professionals meeting regularly to support the recovery of its members. The group provides a confidential setting with a trained and experienced

facilitator in which participants may safely discuss drug diversion, licensure issues, return to work, and other professional issues related to recovery.

~~(7) "Twelve steps groups" are groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and related organizations based on a philosophy of anonymity, peer group association, and self-help.~~

~~(8) "Random drug screens" are the observed collection of specified bodily fluids together with laboratory tests to detect the presence of drugs of abuse in bodily fluids. Collection must occur at irregular intervals not known in advance by the person to be tested.~~

~~(9) "Veterinarian" means an impaired practitioner.~~

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030. WSR 91-02-060 (Order 108B), recodified as § 246-933-610, file 12/28/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.130.175. WSR 90-21-029 (Order 93), § 308-158-020, filed 10/9/90, effective 11/10/90.]

**WAC 246-933-620 Approval of monitoring programs substance ~~abuse monitoring programs~~.** The board shall approve the monitoring program~~monitoring program(s)~~ which shall participate

in the recovery of veterinarians. The board shall enter into a contract with the approved ~~substance abuse~~ monitoring program~~(s)~~ on an annual basis.

(1) An approved monitoring program may provide referrals for evaluations ~~and/or~~ treatment to the participating veterinarians.

(2) An approved monitoring program staff shall have the qualifications and knowledge of both substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ as defined in this chapter and the practice of veterinary medicine to be able to evaluate:

- (a) Drug screening laboratories;
- (b) Laboratory results;
- (c) Providers of substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ treatment, both individual and facilities;
- (d) Veterinarians' support groups;
- (e) The veterinarians' work environment; and
- (f) The ability of the veterinarian to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

(3) An approved monitoring program shall enter into a contract with the veterinarian and the board to oversee the veterinarian's compliance with the requirements of the program.

(4) An approved monitoring program staff shall evaluate and recommend to the board, on an individual basis, whether a veterinarian will be prohibited from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine for a period of time and restrictions, if any, on the veterinarian's access to controlled substances in the work place.

(5) An approved monitoring program shall maintain records on participants.

(6) An approved monitoring program shall be responsible for providing feedback to the veterinarian as to whether treatment progress is acceptable.

(7) An approved monitoring program shall report to the board any veterinarian who fails to comply with the requirements of the monitoring program.

(8) An approved monitoring program shall provide the board with a statistical report on the program, including progress of participants, at least annually, or more frequently as requested

by the board. Progress reports shall not include names or any identifying information regarding voluntary participants.

(9) The board shall approve and provide the monitoring program guidelines on treatment, monitoring, ~~and/or~~ limitations on the practice of veterinary medicine for those participating in the program.

(10) An approved monitoring program shall provide for the board a complete financial breakdown of cost for each individual veterinary participant by usage at an interval determined by the board in the annual contract.

(11) An approved monitoring program shall provide for the board a complete annual audited financial statement.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030 and 18.130.050. WSR 91-24-098 (Order 221B), § 246-933-620, filed 12/4/91, effective 1/4/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030. WSR 91-02-060 (Order 108B), recodified as § 246-933-620, filed 12/28/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.130.175. WSR 90-21-029 (Order 93), § 308-158-030, filed 10/9/90, effective 11/10/90.]



**WAC 246-933-630 Participation in approved ~~substance~~  
~~abuse~~ monitoring program.**

(1) In lieu of disciplinary action, the veterinarian may accept board referral into an approved ~~substance~~ monitoring program or voluntary substance use disorder monitoring program.

(a) The veterinarian shall undergo a complete physical and psychosocial evaluation before entering the approved monitoring program. This evaluation will be performed by health care professionals with expertise in chemical dependency.

(b) The veterinarian shall enter into a contract with the approved ~~substance abuse~~ monitoring program to comply with the requirements of the program which shall include, but not be limited to the following:

(i) The veterinarian shall agree to remain free of all mind-altering substances, including alcohol, except for medications prescribed by an authorized prescriber, as defined in RCW 69.41.030 and 69.50.101.

(ii) The veterinarian shall submit to random drug screening as specified by the approved monitoring program.

(iii) The veterinarian shall sign a waiver allowing the approved monitoring program to release information to the board if the veterinarian does not comply with the requirements of this contract.

(iv) The veterinarian shall undergo approved substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ treatment in an approved treatment facility.

(v) The veterinarian shall complete the prescribed aftercare program of the approved treatment facility, which may include individual ~~and/or~~ group psychotherapy.

(vi) The veterinarian shall cause the treatment counselor~~(s)~~ to provide reports to the approved monitoring program at specified intervals. Reports shall include treatment prognosis and goals.

(vii) The veterinarian shall attend veterinarians' support groups ~~and/or~~ twelve-step group meetings as specified by the contract.

(viii) The veterinarian shall comply with specified practice conditions and restrictions as defined by the contract.

(ix) Except for (b) (i) through (iii) of this subsection, an approved monitoring program may make an exception to the foregoing requirements on individual contracts.

(c) The veterinarian is responsible for paying the costs of the physical and psychosocial evaluation, substance use disorder ~~abus~~ treatment, random drug screens, and therapeutic group sessions.

(d) The veterinarian may be subject to disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 and 18.130.180 if the veterinarian does not consent to be referred to the approved monitoring program, does not comply with specified practice restrictions, or does not successfully complete the program.

(2) A veterinarian who is not being investigated or monitored by the board for substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ and who is not currently the subject of current disciplinary action, may voluntarily participate in the approved monitoring program without being referred by the board. Such voluntary participants shall not be subject to disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 and 18.130.180 for their substance use disorder ~~abuse~~, and shall

not have their participation made known to the board if they meet the requirements of the approved monitoring program:

(a) The veterinarian shall undergo a complete physical and psychosocial evaluation before entering the approved monitoring program. This evaluation shall be performed by a health care professional~~(s)~~ with expertise in chemical dependency.

(b) The veterinarian shall enter into a contract with the approved ~~substance abuse~~ monitoring program to comply with the requirements of the program which may include, but not be limited to the following:

(i) The veterinarian shall undergo approved substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ treatment in an approved treatment facility.

(ii) The veterinarian shall agree to remain free of all mind-altering substances, including alcohol, except for medications prescribed by an authorized prescriber as defined in RCW 69.41.030 and 69.50.101.

(iii) The veterinarian shall complete the prescribed aftercare program of the approved treatment facility, which may include individual ~~and/or~~ group psychotherapy.

(iv) The veterinarian shall cause the treatment counselor~~s~~ to provide reports to the approved monitoring program at specified intervals. Reports shall include treatment prognosis and goals.

(v) The veterinarian shall submit to random observed drug screening as specified by the approved monitoring program.

(vi) The veterinarian shall attend veterinarians' support groups ~~and/or~~ twelve-step group meetings as specified by the contract.

(vii) The veterinarian shall comply with practice conditions and restrictions as defined by the contract.

(viii) The veterinarian shall sign a waiver allowing the approved monitoring program to release information to the board if the veterinarian does not comply with the requirements of this contract.

(ix) Except for (b) (ii) through (iii) of this subsection, an approved monitoring program may make an exception to the foregoing requirements on individual contracts.

(c) The veterinarian is responsible for paying the costs of the physical and psychosocial evaluation, substance use disorder

~~abuse~~ treatment, random drug screens, and therapeutic group sessions.

(3) Treatment and pretreatment records shall be confidential as provided by law.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030 and 18.130.050. WSR 91-24-098 (Order 221B), § 246-933-630, filed 12/4/91, effective 1/4/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030. WSR 91-02-060 (Order 108B), recodified as § 246-933-630, filed 12/28/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.130.175. WSR 90-21-029 (Order 93), § 308-158-040, filed 10/9/90, effective 11/10/90.]

**WAC 246-933-990 Veterinarian fees and renewal cycle. (1)**

Licenses must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(2) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

<b>Title of Fee</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b>Initial state license</b>	
State jurisprudence examination (initial or retake)	\$210.00
Application	145.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
<b>Initial specialty license</b>	
Application	140.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
<b>Temporary permit</b>	215.00
<b>State or specialty license renewal</b>	
Renewal	160.00
<a href="#">Substance use disorder monitoring program</a> <del>Impaired veterinarian assessment</del>	25.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Late renewal penalty	80.00
Expired license reissuance	90.00
<b>Retired active license and renewal</b>	
Renewal	70.00
<a href="#">Substance use disorder monitoring program</a> <del>Impaired veterinarian assessment</del>	25.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Late renewal penalty	50.00
<b>Duplicate license</b>	10.00
<b>Verification of license</b>	25.00

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.112, 43.70.250, 43.70.280, and 2019 c 140. WSR 20-08-066, § 246-933-990, filed 3/26/20,

effective 7/1/20. Statutory Authority: 2016 c 42 and RCW 18.130.175, and 43.10.250. WSR 16-21-062, § 246-933-990, filed 10/14/16, effective 2/1/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.110, 43.70.250, and 2011 1st sp.s. c 50. WSR 11-20-092, § 246-933-990, filed 10/4/11, effective 12/1/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.250, [43.70.]280 and 43.70.110. WSR 05-12-012, § 246-933-990, filed 5/20/05, effective 7/1/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.250, 2001 2nd sp.s. c 7 and RCW 18.92.120. WSR 01-23-101, § 246-933-990, filed 11/21/01, effective 1/21/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. WSR 98-05-060, § 246-933-990, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.250. WSR 93-14-011, § 246-933-990, filed 6/24/93, effective 7/25/93; WSR 93-08-028 (Order 351), § 246-933-990, filed 3/30/93, effective 4/30/93; WSR 92-07-036 (Order 252), § 246-933-990, filed 3/10/92, effective 4/10/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-050 (Order 122), § 246-933-990, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91.]