

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Agriculture

2-304.

(a) The Board may:

(1) Adopt rules and regulations to effectuate this subtitle;

(2) Engage additional employees for professional, clerical, and special work as necessary and as provided in the State budget;

(3) Subpoena any witness to take his testimony; [and]

(4) Require production of books, papers, records, and other documentary evidence, and examine them in relation to any matter which the Board may investigate or hear; AND

(5) ESTABLISH REASONABLE STANDARDS FOR THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, INCLUDING CONDUCT AND ETHICS.

(b) Members or their designated inspectors may enter veterinary facilities at any reasonable hour to enforce the Board rules and regulations.

(c) The Board shall maintain an office within the State and a telephone number listed for use by the general public.

(d) The Board shall inspect every veterinary hospital facility in the State at least once a year.

(e) (1) The Board may authorize the practice of a health occupation on an animal by a health care practitioner licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under the Health Occupations Article.

(2) If the Board authorizes the practice of a health occupation on an animal under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Board may:

(i) Impose requirements for education, training, and supervision by a veterinary practitioner; and

(ii) Require the registration of each health care practitioner authorized to practice a health occupation on an animal in accordance with this subsection.

(F) (1) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS ~~REQUIRING~~ ENCOURAGING A VETERINARY PRACTITIONER TO REPORT SUSPECTED INSTANCES OF ANIMAL CRUELTY, INCLUDING SUSPECTED ANIMAL FIGHTING, TO A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE CONTROL AGENCY.