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**Law No. (17) of 2014 approving the Practice of Medical and Veterinary Professions Law (System) of the Gulf Cooperation Council;**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Penal Code promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (15) of 1976, as amended;

Legislative Decree No. (7) of 1989 Regarding the Practice of the Human Medicine and Dentistry;

Legislative Decree No. (18) of 1997 Regarding the Regulation of the Pharmacy Profession and Pharmaceutical Centres;

Law No. (8) of 2003 Approving the System of Veterinary Quarantine in the Gulf Cooperation Council States;

And the Practice of Medical and Veterinary Professions Law (System) of the Gulf Cooperation Council, promulgated with mandatory adoption by a Decision from the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council in its thirty-second session held in Riyadh - the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Monday and Tuesday 24, 25 Muharram 1433 A.H., corresponding to 19, 20 December 2011;

The Council of Representatives and the Shura Council have approved the following Law, which we have ratified and enacted:

**Article One**

The Practice of Medical and Veterinary Professions Law (System) of the Gulf Cooperation Council, promulgated with mandatory adoption by a Decision from the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council in its thirty-second session held in Riyadh - the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Monday and Tuesday 24, 25 Muharram 1433 A.H., corresponding to 19, 20 December 2011, and attached to this Law, was approved.

**Article Two**

In applying the provisions of the attached Law (System), the term (competent authority) shall mean the concerned directorate with Animal Wealth and Veterinary Pharmaceuticals Affairs in the Ministry concerned with Animal Wealth Affairs, and the term (Minister) shall mean the Minister concerned with Animal Wealth Affairs.

**Article Three**

The categories of fees due for services and licences provided in accordance with the provisions of the attached Law (System) and its Implementing Regulation, shall be determined by virtue of a Decision issued by the Minister concerned with Animal Wealth Affairs after the approval of the Council of Ministers.

**Article Four**

The concerned party shall have the right to file a grievance against the decisions issued in implementation of the provisions of this Law (System) and its Implementing Regulation to the concerned Minister within thirty days from the date of their announcement or publication. The grievance shall be ruled upon within thirty days from the date of its submission. If the grievance is rejected, the rejection shall be reasoned. The lapse of thirty days from the date of its submission without a response shall be considered an implicit rejection. The concerned party shall have the right to appeal the Decision issued in rejection of the grievance, within thirty days from the date of being notified of the rejection or deeming it rejected.

Appeal against any of the aforementioned decisions shall not be accepted directly before the competent court, except after filing a grievance against it.

**Article Five**

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty stipulated for in the Penal Code or any other law, whoever deliberately commits any of the following acts, shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not less than one year and not more than five years, and with a fine of not less than one-thousand Dinars and not exceeding three-thousand Dinars, or with either one of these two penalties:

Practises the Veterinary Profession or one of the Allied Veterinary Professions, without obtaining a licence from the concerned directorate with Animal Wealth and Veterinary Pharmaceuticals Affairs.

Provides incorrect data or resorted to illegal methods that resulted in granting him a licence to practise the Veterinary Profession, one of the Allied Veterinary Professions, or any of the professions that the attached Law (System) requires a licence for them to be practised.

Acts as a veterinarian or one of the Allied Veterinary Professions without being qualified.

Uses flyers, signs, plates, or any other means that would unlawfully lead others to believe that he has the right to practise the Veterinary Profession or one of the Allied Veterinary Professions.

The penalty shall be a fine of no less than one-thousand Dinars and no more than five-thousand Dinars in case the Veterinarian conducts experiments or research on animals or sends laboratory samples relating to Animal Wealth to outside the State without the approval of the concerned directorate with Animal Wealth and Veterinary Pharmaceuticals Affairs.

In case of a conviction, the court shall have the right to rule the cancellation or suspension of the licence, the closure of any establishment established or managed without or contrary to the licence, and the confiscation of machines and plates. It shall only be permissible for the violator to continue working after removing the causes of the violation, at his own expense, within a period not exceeding three months from the date of the pronouncement of the ruling. Otherwise, the concerned directorate with Animal Wealth and Veterinary Pharmaceuticals Affairs shall have the right to cancel the licence.

**Article Six**

Without prejudice to the criminal liability prescribed under the provisions of this Law, any establishment or business subject to licensing under this attached Law (System) and its Implementing Regulations, shall be carried out without a licence or contrary to the licence, the concerned directorate of Animal Wealth and Veterinary Pharmaceuticals Affairs shall have the right to suspend the licence or close the establishment down administratively, until the violation is adjudicated or the reasons for the violation are removed.

**Article Seven**

Without prejudice to criminal or civil liability, the concerned directorate of Animal Wealth and Veterinary Pharmaceuticals Affairs shall handle the disciplinary accountability of those authorised to practice the Veterinary Profession or one of the Allied Veterinary Professions, regarding the violations they commit of the provisions of this attached Law (System), principles, traditions, ethics, and ethics of the Profession.

**Article Eight**

The competent Minister for Animal Wealth Affairs shall issue the necessary decisions to implement the provisions of this Law. Until these decisions are issued, the regulations and decisions currently in force shall continue to apply, so far as they do not conflict with the provisions of this Law.

**Article Nine**

The Prime Minister and the ministers– each within his jurisdiction- shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

King of Kingdom of Bahrain

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On: 24 Shaaban 1435 A.H.

Corresponding to: 22 June 2014

**Practice of Medical and Veterinary Professions Law (System) of the Gulf Cooperation Council**

**Chapter One**

**Definitions**

**Article 1**

In applying the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them below, unless the context requires otherwise:

**Council States:** States of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

**Supreme Council**: The Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

**The State:** One Member State in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

**Minister:** The Minister or the President of the responsible entity of Animal Wealth or Veterinary Pharmaceuticals.

**The Competent Authority:** The responsible entity for Animal Wealth or Veterinary Pharmaceuticals.

**Veterinary Profession**: Any of the Veterinary practices carried out by the Veterinarian.

**Veterinarian**: Someone who holds a university Bachelor’s Degree in Veterinary Medicine from a recognised university.

**Pharmacist:**Someone who holds a university Bachelor’s Degree in Pharmacy from a recogniseduniversity.

**Veterinary Medical Practices**: Providing veterinary medical advice, practising scientific, research, or guidance activities related to these fields, examinations, dealing with animals, whether by inspection, any treatment or preventive practices, surgeries, births, artificial insemination, prescribing, or dealing with veterinary medicines, vaccines, and pharmaceuticals, examining animal products, waste, or feed, and issuing veterinary health certificates.

**Allied Veterinary Professions**: Professions specialised in providing Allied work to the Veterinary Profession, including assistant, nurse, or veterinary technician, and any other Practices authorised to practise these Professions in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Veterinary Establishment:**The veterinary hospital, clinic, laboratory, pharmacy, pharmaceutical warehouse, scientific advisory office, pharmaceutical companies, production, and handling institutions for veterinary medicines, production farms, or places where animals are kept, reserved, born, bred, slaughtered, or treated.

**Veterinary Hospital**: The place designated and authorised by the competent authority to deal with animals, whether by inspection, any treatment or preventive practices, surgeries, births, or artificial insemination, and it shall contain a place equipped to feed animals for a specified period of time under veterinary observation.

**Veterinary Clinic:**The place designated and authorised by the competent authority to deal with animals, whether by inspection, any treatment or preventive practices, surgeries, births, or artificial insemination, whether fixed or mobile.

**Veterinary Laboratory:**The place designated and authorised by the competent authority to conduct veterinary sample analyses and examinations of all animal species, products, waste of animal origin, and feed.

**Veterinary Pharmacy**: The place designated and prepared for the retail sale or distribution of medicines, vaccines, and veterinary pharmaceuticals, and authorised by the competent authority.

**Reportable Diseases:**Animal diseases that shall be reported to the competent authority, in accordance with the definition contained in the International Constitution of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

**Veterinary Advisory Office**: The authority providing technical veterinary consultations in all fields of Veterinary Professions.

**Chapter Two**

**Regulation of the Veterinary Profession**

**Article (2)**

It shall only be permissible to practise the Veterinary Profession or the Allied Veterinary Professions after obtaining a licence from the competent authority, in accordance with the conditions and controls specified by the Implementing Regulation of this Law (System).

**Article (2)**

Whoever wishes to obtain a licence to practise the Veterinary Profession or the Allied Veterinary Professions, shall submit a request to the competent authority accompanied by the documents specified by the Implementing Regulation.

**Article (4)**

The competent authority shall establish registers to record Veterinarians and Allied Veterinary Professions for the Veterinary Profession for which they are authorised to practise, and the Implementing Regulation shall determine these registers.

**Article (5)**

The Veterinarian authorised to practise the Profession and the entity in which he works, shall notify the competent authority when he changes his place of work.

**Article (6)**

In a manner that does not conflict with this System (Law) or any other regulations in the State, it shall be permissible to practise the Veterinary Profession in more than one Veterinary Facility whenever necessary, in accordance with the controls and conditions specified by the Implementing Regulation.

**Article (7)**

The Veterinarian shall, while practising the Profession, take into account the Profession’s internationally recognised traditions, principles, and ethics, and he shall practise them with accuracy and honesty.

**Article (8)**

The Veterinarian shall do his best to treat the sick animals and provide them with treatment and care, to help them heal or relieve the pain.

**Article (9)**

The competent authority shall publish information relating to Reportable Diseases, and the Veterinarian shall immediately inform the competent authority or its representative when it is suspected that any animal is infected with one of these Diseases, specifying the name and address of the animal’s owner.

**Article (10)**

It shall only be permissible for the Veterinarian to conduct experiments or research on animals after obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

**Article (11)**

It shall only be permissible to send any laboratory samples related to Animal Wealth to outside the State after the approval of the competent authority.

**Article (12)**

The Veterinary Facility in which any animal is treated, a register shall be maintained in which data on the pathological cases it treats shall be recorded, particularly the name and address of the animal’s owner, the animal specie, all veterinary medical practices, and the final result of each case.

**Article (13)**

The Veterinarian shall not be responsible for the result of any of the veterinary medical practices, if he has already followed the scientific and technical principles, made all his efforts, and used all the means available to him during his work.

**Article (14)**

The Veterinarian shall be responsible for the damage resulting from his work, if he commits a mistake due to his ignorance of the scientific or technical matters that every Veterinarian is supposed to be familiar with, or due to negligence or default, or due to him conducting experiments or research non-approved by the competent authority.

**Article (15)**

The Veterinarian shall explain to the animal’s owner the expected medical results from any of the veterinary medical practices that he will take. The animal’s owner shall have the right to accept or reject this, unless the animal is infected with a contagious or epidemic disease. In the case of surgeries, the treating physician shall obtain a written acknowledgement of the animal owner’s approval to perform the surgery.

**Article (16)**

The Implementing Regulation shall determine the classification of Veterinary and Allied Medical Professions.

**Chapter Three**

**Veterinary Facilities**

**Article (17)**

It shall only be permissible to establish any veterinary establishment after obtaining a licence from the competent authority.

The Implementing Regulation of this Law (System) shall determine the conditions and controls for granting the licence, the requirements that shall be met in the veterinary establishment, and the cases of licence withdrawal and cancellation.

**Article (18)**

It shall only be permissible to change the location of the authorised veterinary establishment to any other location after obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

**Article (19)**

It shall be prohibited to sell or store veterinary medicines, vaccines, and pharmaceuticals in the veterinary clinic or hospital, except within the quantities specified by the competent authority.

**Article (20)**

The owner of any veterinary establishment shall inform the competent authority through an official letter, before the absence of the authorised person for a period exceeding seven days, and he shall close it during the period of his absence unless he secures an alternative person to work in it during that period.

**Article (21)**

It shall not be permissible to house sick animals in a hospital or veterinary clinic, unless they are equipped and authorised to do so, in accordance with the conditions and controls specified by the Implementing Regulation of this Law (System).

**Chapter Four**

**General Provisions**

**Article (22)**

The competent authority shall form veterinary medical licences committee, in order to consider requests for licences for the practice the Veterinary Profession and the Allied Veterinary Professions, opening and renewal of veterinary establishments, and grievances and violations issued by owners or workers of veterinary establishments authorised to practise the Profession.

**Article (23)**

Official employees who have the capacity of Judicial Police shall have the right to enter the places whose activity falls within the scope of the provisions of this Law (System) and its Implementing Regulation, for the purpose of ensuring the implementation of its provisions.

**Article (24)**

The competent authority shall determine the due fees, in accordance with the provisions of this Law (System) and its Implementing Regulation.

**Article (25)**

It shall be left to each State to determine the necessary penalties and fines for those who violate the provisions of this Law (System) or its Implementing Regulation.

**Article (26)**

The Committee of Agricultural Cooperation shall compulsorily adopt the Implementing Regulations of this Law (System).

**Article (27)**

The person aggrieved by the decisions issued in implementation of the provisions of this Law (System) shall have the right to file a grievance to the competent authority, in accordance with the grievance regulations in force in each State.

**Article (28)**

The Committee of Agricultural Cooperation shall have the right to interpret and propose amendments to this Law (System).

**Article (29)**

This Law (System) shall come into force compulsorily 180 days after its approval by the Supreme Council.