

Summary of Newly Passed Equine Dentistry Bill- HB 414

HB 414 provides legislative authority to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to adopt rules to ensure that equine dentistry is performed only by a veterinarian OR by a *“licensed equine dental provider”* who is working under the supervision of a veterinarian who has an established veterinary client patient relationship with the owner or caretaker of the animal.

A person may not perform equine dentistry or offer or attempt to act as an equine dental provider unless the person is either a veterinarian or a *“licensed equine dental provider”* who is active and in good standing performing under the supervision of a veterinarian who is active and in good standing.

Individuals are prohibited from representing to the public that they are authorized to perform equine dentistry and may not use the title *“dentist.”* Licensed Equine Dental Providers may use the title “CEDP” upon licensure or “EDP” if they are licensed under the Grandfather clause before September 2013.

Requirements for Licensure

A person is qualified to be licensed as an “equine dental provider” if the person:

- (1) Submits an application and information to allow the board to conduct a background check,
- (2) passes a jurisprudence examination,
- (3) is not disqualified under this chapter or board rule,
- (4) is certified by the International Association of Equine Dentistry OR another board-approved certification entity or organization,
- (5) completes 6 hours of annual continuing education

Scope of Practice and Supervision of Equine Dental Providers

A licensed equine dental provider (EDP) may not perform equine dentistry unless the provider is active and in good standing with the state board and performs equine dentistry under the **general supervision** of a veterinarian who is active and in good standing with state board. When performing dental procedures an EDP is held to the same standard of care as a veterinarian.

HB 414 creates an inclusive definition of equine dentistry and breaks out certain procedures that licensed equine dental practitioners may perform under the general

supervision of a veterinarian. A licensed equine dental provider may perform only the following equine dental procedures:

- (1) removing sharp enamel points;
- (2) removing small dental overgrowths;
- (3) rostral profiling of the first cheek teeth;
- (4) reducing incisors;
- (5) extracting loose, deciduous teeth;
- (6) removing supragingival calculus;
- (7) extracting loose, mobile, or diseased teeth or dental fragments with minimal periodontal attachments by hand and without the use of an elevator; and
- (8) removing erupted, non-displaced wolf teeth.

Unlicensed employees of veterinarians may perform the procedures listed above under the **direct supervision** of a veterinarian.

A copy of the dental chart of an equine animal is to be left with the person who authorizes an equine dental procedure and is to be made available to the supervising veterinarian upon request.

Equine Dental Provider Advisory Committee

HB 414 sets up a 3 member informal equine dental provider advisory committee to advise the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners on rules made in connection with or disciplinary action taken against EDP's. This advisory committee does not have any independent rulemaking authority and the members are appointed by the current President of the state board. Two of the advisory committee members must be licensed equine dental providers who have resided in and engaged in the practice of smoothing or filing teeth by floating in this state for the five years and are of good repute. The other member must be a veterinarian who supervises a licensed equine dental providers. Members of the advisory committee are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement but may hold meetings by conference call.

Grandfather Clause (expires September 1, 2012)

Before September 1, 2012, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners shall issue an equine dental provider license to a person who is not certified by the International Association of Equine Dentistry or another board-approved entity or organization if the person:

- (1) presents proof of graduation from AND completion of 280 hours of course work at a board-approved equine dental school or another board-approved entity or organization; AND
- (2) submits, with the application and with two notarized affidavits in which veterinarians who are licensed to practice in this state and are in good standing

with the board state that they know the person and that the person is competent in the practice of smoothing or filing teeth by floating.

The state board may waive the education requirement in (1) above if an applicant demonstrates proficiency by submitting:

- (1) financial records that show the applicant has earned the majority of the applicant's income for the two years preceding the effective date of this Act by performing equine dental services; or
- (2) sworn affidavits from at least two clients who certify that the applicant has performed satisfactorily in addressing the dental needs of the client's animal.

HB 414 Does Not ...

- Change any of the current laws relating to the use of prescription drugs.
- Require that Equine Dental Providers must work for veterinarians. They may work as employees or independent contractors.
- The bill has no impact on any other procedures that may be performed on animals including chiropractic care, farriery, acupuncture or reproduction.