

**POSITION STATEMENT  
TENNESSEE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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**THE SUPERVISION OF VETERINARY PERSONNEL, AND THE SUPERVISION OF  
VETERINARY TECHNICIANS UNDER RULE 1730-03-.10**

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**The Supervision of Veterinary Personnel Generally**

Rule 1730-01-.10(2) provides that “no veterinary technician, veterinary student intern, or employee shall provide any professional services as covered by these rules without the responsible supervision of a licensed veterinarian [...]” Under T.C.A. § 63-12-103(12), “‘Responsible supervision’ or words of similar purport mean the control, direction and regulation by a licensed veterinarian of the duties involving veterinary services that such veterinarian delegates to such veterinarian’s personnel.”

It is the position of the Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (“Board”) that “Responsible supervision”—specifically the language “the control, direction and regulation by a licensed veterinarian”—requires that persons being supervised be employees of the supervising veterinarian. “Responsible supervision” does not, however, require a supervising veterinarian to physically be on the same premises as the person being supervised while veterinary services are being provided.

**The Supervision of Veterinary Technicians**

Under Rule 1730-03-.10(1), a “Tennessee-licensed veterinarian must supervise a veterinary technician. This supervision must be in the same veterinary hospital, clinic, or outpatient office.”

It is the position of the Board that “supervision” under Rule 1730-03-.10(1) means “Responsible supervision,” and that, as such, a supervising veterinarian is not required to physically be on the same premises as the veterinary technician being supervised while veterinary services are being provided.

**Adopted by the Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners on July 29, 2014.**