

Position Statement: Veterinary Professional License Portability

(Updated June 2022)

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians supports the interstate recognition of veterinary professional licensure, provided such individuals are in good standing in the state(s) in which they hold an active license.

In times of animal welfare crises, out-of-state veterinarians and veterinary technicians may be needed as part of a coordinated, official response by a lead agency. Examples of such crises include natural or human-made disasters, outbreaks and disease events, or other animal welfare emergencies. Disaster response plans that include a mechanism for granting temporary licensure to out-of-state professionals greatly aid response efforts.¹ The ASV also supports the provision of liability insurance and workers compensation, when applicable, for professionals who provide veterinary services during these events.

Licensure compacts between states could also provide expedited pathways for veterinarians to provide needed services, especially in underserved communities.² Animal welfare agencies or clinics suffering staffing shortages may also be aided by these compacts.³

References:

¹AVMA Model Practice Act Section 6, Subsection 15.

²Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Human Medicine)

<https://www.imlcc.org/>

³Veterinary Leaders See Potential to Knock Down Licensing Barriers, AVMA News, Nov 2022

[Veterinary leaders see potential to knock down licensing barriers | American Veterinary Medical Association \(avma.org\)](#)