



michigan veterinary medical association

*Professional excellence.
Compassionate care.*

May 10, 2012

Theresa Perriens
Perriens Pomeranians
168 Fargo St E
Ionia, MI 48846

Dear Ms. Perriens:

It has come to the attention of the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association that you and Perriens Pomeranians may be practicing veterinary medicine without a license. We recently received notice from an individual in your area that you are selling Pomeranians and asking owners to return to you for continued re-vaccination. Once the animal has been purchased, any additional vaccinations should be given by a licensed veterinarian or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

Please see the enclosed letter from State Veterinarian, Dr. Steven L. Halstead, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). The MDARD letter verifies that vaccination is the practice of veterinary medicine and that it must be done by a licensed veterinarian or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Individuals violating state law are committing a felony and others can file a complaint against you by completing a form on the LARA website.

To avoid getting your organization into trouble with the state, MVMA recommends that you stop this practice immediately. If you have questions, please contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karlene Belyea'.

Karlene Belyea, MBA
Chief Executive Officer



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

April 25, 2012

Michigan DVMs:

In recent months, it has been brought to my attention that persons in our state may be violating State Law by practicing veterinary medicine without a license. This letter is meant to outline the practice of veterinary medicine and to inform you of the law that restricts the practice of medicine to licensed professionals.

The practice of veterinary medicine is, by law, restricted to those individuals who are licensed to practice by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), as stated in the Public Health Code, Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978, MCL 3331101 *et seq.* The Code defines the practice of veterinary medicine to include: "prescribing or administering a drug, medicine, treatment, or method or procedure; performing an operation or manipulation; applying an apparatus or appliance; or giving an instruction or demonstration designed to alter an animal from its normal condition."

In addition, The Animal Industry Act, Act No. 466 of the Public Acts of 1988, MCL 287.701 *et seq.* provides that: "Veterinary biologicals shall be administered only by a licensed veterinarian or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian." Biologicals are defined to mean: "all viruses, serums, toxins, and analogous products of natural or synthetic origin, or products prepared by any type of genetic engineering, such as diagnostics, antitoxins, vaccines, live microorganisms, killed microorganisms, and the antigenic or immunizing components of microorganisms intended for use in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of diseases in animals." Non-veterinarians engaged in practices reserved for licensees are violating State Law and are opening themselves to investigation by LARA enforcement agents. In addition to the harm they could be causing to animals, individuals practicing veterinary medicine without a license are committing a felony and could be subject to substantial fines.

Please take opportunities to inform potential offenders of this law, and professional colleagues for further distribution of this information, that the practice of veterinary medicine is reserved for licensed veterinary professionals. Our focus is on the individuals who may be representing themselves as domestic animal care professionals; persons acting under a valid practitioner-client-patient relationship are not violating these laws.

Complaints about persons practicing without a license ("allegations" in the language of LARA) can be filed by completing the form at the LARA website (www.michigan.gov/lara , then Licensing and Regulation, Health Professions, Complaints).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Halstead".

Steven L. Halstead, D.V.M., M.S.
State Veterinarian