

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

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**PREMISE PERMIT EXEMPTIONS**

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The Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners hereby adopts following position statement in regard to facilities that are exempt from obtaining a premises permit. In a Declaratory Order issued by the Board in April 2001, the Board found that a humane society/animal shelter was exempt from obtaining a premises permit (and undergoing the accompanying inspection). As the humane society/animal shelter was a quasi-governmental entity that treated animals whose ownership had been forfeited to it, the humane society/animal shelter was exempt pursuant to:

**Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-12-139(i) and Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1730-2-.02(12)**, which exempts from the premises permit requirement:

1. Veterinary facilities owned by a person, corporation or other similar organization, public or private, for-profit or not-for-profit, to treat such employer's animal(s);
2. Veterinary facilities operated by an official agency of the federal or state government; and
3. Licensed research facilities.

It is the position of the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners that the exemption from obtaining a premises permit does not exempt such facilities from meeting the minimum standards established by the Board nor does it exempt licensees employed at the facilities from the general rules governing the practice of veterinary medicine (Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-12-101 *et seq.* and Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1730-1 thru 1730-5). The Board has the authority to discipline any practitioner or facility which, after investigation and proper hearing, has been found guilty by the Board of a violation of the Tennessee Veterinary Practice Act or Board rules.

**Adopted by the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2005. Reviewed by the Board on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010.**

For further information, please contact the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners by telephone at (615)532-5090 or toll-free 1-800-778-4123 ext. 25090 or in writing:

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