



## State of Wisconsin

### Veterinary Examining Board

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#### **Guidance Document VEB-GD-008 Regional Anesthesia**

Wis. Stat. § 89.03 (1)  
Wis. Admin. Code § VE 1.44  
1/28/25

#### **Topic**

This guidance document clarifies when a veterinarian may delegate the administration of regional anesthesia.

#### **Relevant Statutes and Administrative Code**

Wisconsin Stat. § 89.02 (6) defines the practice of veterinary medicine as to examine into the fact or cause of animal health, disease or physical condition, or to treat, operate, prescribe or advise for the same, or to undertake, offer, advertise, announce, or hold out in any manner to do any of said acts, for compensation, direct or indirect, or in the expectation thereof.

Wisconsin Stat. § 89.03 (1) authorizes the board to promulgate rules to establish the scope of the practice permitted for veterinarians and veterinary technicians, within the limits of the definition under Wis. Stat. § 89.02 (6).

Wisconsin Admin. Code § VE 1.44 (2) (c). limits performing surgery to those holding a license under Wis. Stat. §§ 89.06 (1), 89.06 (2m) (a), or 89.072, a permit under Wis. Admin. Code §§ VE 1.36, 1.38, or 1.40, or active status as a student at a college of veterinary medicine approved by the board. Under Wis. Admin. Code § VE 1.44(2) (c) 2. the administration of injections, including local and general anesthesia, is excluded from the definition of “performing surgery” because it may be delegated to a certified veterinary technician.

Wisconsin Admin. Code § VE 1.44 (6) (a) allows a veterinarian to delegate the administration of local or general anesthesia, including induction and monitoring, to a certified veterinary technician under the supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is available to communicate via telehealth technologies within 5 minutes or the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided.

#### **Board Position**

For the purposes of Wis. Admin. Code §§ VE 1.44 (2) (c) 2. b. and (6) (a), the Board considers “local or general anesthesia” to include regional anesthesia. Local, regional, and general anesthesia are on a spectrum from local to general, with regional in between.