

Overview of the Veterinary Nurses for Companion Animals (VNCA) Act

(Provisional Translation)

Background of the enactment of the Act

- Greater sophistication and diversity of veterinary medicine treatment
→ Expectations for the role of team-based treatment system in the veterinary medical practice
- The number of dogs and cats, approx. 19 millions, exceeds the population under 15-year-olds
→ Growing importance of pets' health care and discipline by owners
- Expectations for various activities such as well-being and education involving pet animals.

For pet animals,

- Spread and improvement of veterinary medical treatment
- Proper care

Certified veterinary nurses (private-sector unified qualification) : approx. 27 thousands (As of October 1, 2021)

Outline of the VNCA Act

To improve the quality and appropriateness of the work of those engaged in the nursing etc. of companion animals*, the accreditation for veterinary nurses for companion animals has been established

*Companion animals: among breeding animals stipulated in Article 17 of the Veterinarians Act, dogs, cats, pet birds

Duties of VNCA

- Assist/support in the medical treatment of companion animals under the direction of a veterinarian (can be performed regardless of the provisions of Article 17 of the Veterinarians Act)
- Care and other nursing of companion animals
- Advice and other support regarding the welfare and proper care of companion animals.

- The use of the name "Veterinary Nurse for Companion Animals" or any other misleadingly similar title shall be restricted.

Licensure as a VNCA

- Pass the national examination for VNCA
- License granted by the competent Ministers*
* the competent Ministers : Minister of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Minister of Ministry of the Environment
- The competent Ministers may designate a registration body and an examination body.
- Qualifications to sit for the national VNCA examination such as required course of studies