

North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

Spring 2025

*Regulatory
Bulletin*

Volume 10 Issue 1

Veterinary Facility Permits/Boarding Kennel Permits

Effective January 1, 2025 - Any person who owns a business that operates a facility providing services that constitute the “practice of veterinary medicine” on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis shall have a veterinary facility permit issued by the Board prior to offering or delivering any veterinary medical services to the public. Veterinary or Veterinary Technician teaching programs offering services to the public shall also have a veterinary facility permit. In addition, all Veterinary Facility Permittees that offer boarding services, will also be required to apply for, and obtain, a Boarding Kennel Permit.

All facilities must complete the Facility Permit application. Facilities offering boarding as a service to the public must complete the Boarding Kennel Permit section of the application. This includes all veterinary facilities currently registered with this office, and any new veterinary facilities.

Veterinary Facility Permit Information Requirements

- The owner’s name, physical address, mailing address, email address, and telephone number;
- Proposed or existing name of the facility, as set forth in G.S. 90-181.1, physical address, mailing address, email address, and telephone number; and
- Designation of a supervising veterinarian of the facility subject to the provisions of Rules .0903 of this section.
- Each veterinary facility permit shall be renewed yearly. Renewal fee \$150.
- Signature pages are required to be uploaded to the application. The Veterinary Facility Permit signature page is signed by the owner of the practice facility; the Supervising Veterinarian signature page is signed by both the owner of the practice facility and each supervising veterinarian; and the Boarding Kennel signature page is signed by the owner of the practice facility.

Ownership of a veterinary facility will no longer be limited to veterinarians. To view the rules in their entirety please visit our website www.ncvmb.org.

Supervising Veterinarians

- Each facility must designate a supervising veterinarian.
- Supervising veterinarians shall be responsible for informing veterinary facility owners regarding instances of non-compliance with 21 NCAC 66 .0207 and 21 NCAC 66 .0208 at the veterinary facility.
- Supervising veterinarians shall be currently licensed by and in good standing with the Board.
- A veterinarian may be a supervising veterinarian at more than one veterinary facility. At each veterinary facility that is open for 159 hours or less per month, the supervising veterinarian shall be physically onsite for a minimum of 25 percent of the total time a veterinary facility is open. At each veterinary facility that is open for 160 hours or more per month, the supervising veterinarian shall be physically onsite at each veterinary facility for a minimum of 40 hours per month. Electronic or handwritten documentation stating the dates and times that the supervising veterinarian was present at the veterinary facility shall be maintained by the supervising veterinarian at each individual facility and made available by the owner, supervising veterinarian, or the staff at each facility at the time of inspection or investigation by the Board.
- Owners may designate more than one supervising veterinarian.

- The new rules do not authorize the Board to discipline a supervising veterinarian for an owner's non-compliance with any Board Rules, including 21 NCAC 66.0207 and 21 NCAC 66.0208.

Boarding Kennels

A Boarding Kennel Permit will be required for a facility operating under a Veterinary Facility Permit and which regularly offers to the public the service of boarding dogs, cats or both for a fee. Such a facility or establishment may, in addition to providing shelter, food, and water, offer grooming or other services for dogs and/or cats. Inspections will be as stringent as boarding kennel inspections conducted by the Animal Welfare Section (AWS) of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS).

Veterinary Facility Permits that include a Boarding Kennel Permit will have an application fee and renewal fee of \$225.

Boarding incidental to the practice of veterinary medicine does not require a Boarding Kennel Permit.

Inspections

Owners of facilities will be responsible to ensure any violations cited are corrected and plans are in place to prevent the violation from occurring again.

Types of inspections and their schedules

- **Routine** inspections occur every two years.
- **New** facilities are inspected prior to seeing clients and then a 1-year follow-up inspection is conducted before being placed on a routine inspection schedule.
- **Transfer of ownership** inspections are conducted within 90 days after the change of ownership with a 1-year follow-up inspection before being placed on a routine schedule.
- **Renovations** must be reported to the Board prior to the renovations being started to determine if an inspection is needed prior to utilization of the renovated area.
- **Moving**, the Board must be notified prior to the move and an inspection must be conducted at new location prior to seeing clients. There would be a 1-year follow-up inspection before being placed on a routine inspection schedule.
- **Serious Violation** inspections are conducted when serious violations are cited during a scheduled inspection. If serious violations are cited, then a follow up inspection will be conducted within 4 weeks to ensure the serious violations have been corrected. There would be a 1-year follow up inspection before being placed on a routine inspection schedule.

Applications

All applications must be submitted electronically via <https://portal.ncvmb.org>.

- Veterinary Facility Permit - \$150.00
- Veterinary Facility Permit w/ Boarding Kennel Permit - \$225.00

All permits will need to renewed yearly beginning 12/31/2025. The renewal window for permits will open October 1, 2025.

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact our office at 919-854-5601 or via email at prodenburg@ncvmb.org.

NCVMB Position Statement Regarding Heartworm Testing

The North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board's ("NCVMB") position statements are interpretive statements that attempt to define or explain the meaning of laws or rules that govern the practice of Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians in North Carolina. They also are intended to set forth criteria or guidelines used by the Board's staff in investigations and in the prosecution or settlement of cases. When considering the Board's position statements, the following four points should be kept in mind. 1. In the position statements, the NCVMB attempts to articulate some of the standards it believes applicable to the veterinary medical profession it regulates. However, a position statement should not be seen as the promulgation of a new standard as of the date of issuance or amendment. 2. The position statements are not intended to be comprehensive or to set out exhaustively every standard that might apply in every circumstance. Therefore, the absence of a position statement or a position statement's silence on certain matters should not be construed as the lack of an enforceable standard. 3. The existence of a position statement should not necessarily be taken as an indication of the NCVMB's enforcement priorities. 4. A lack of disciplinary actions to enforce a particular standard mentioned in a position statement should not be taken as an abandonment of the principles set forth therein. The NCVMB will continue to decide each case before it on all the facts and circumstances presented during a disciplinary hearing whether or not the issues have been the subject of a position statement. The NCVMB intends that the position statements will reflect the NCVMB's philosophy on certain subjects and give licensees some guidance for avoiding NCVMB scrutiny. The principles of professionalism and performance expressed in the position statements apply to all persons licensed and/or registered by the NCVMB to render veterinary medical care at any level.

Recently, questions have arisen regarding whether heartworm testing is required, even when animals are on heartworm prevention year-round. The Board's position is that a heartworm test should be performed annually at a minimum, in accordance with the American Heartworm Society Guidelines. Annual testing is recommended, even when animals are on heartworm prevention year-round, to ensure that the prevention program is working. Heartworm medications are highly effective, but animals can still become infected. If they miss just one dose of a monthly medication, or it is given late, it can leave the animal unprotected. Even if the medication is given as recommended, the animal may spit out or vomit a heartworm pill or rub off a topical medication. Further, any testing refusal should be documented, and veterinarians should communicate with the owner regarding any decision to decline testing, and the potential negative consequences of the decision. An owners' declination of testing and the communications related to the refusal are pertinent to the medical record and should be documented accordingly. In the event that a recommended heartworm test is declined, the veterinarian may choose not to prescribe or refill the medication, in accordance with their medical judgment.