

North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

Summer 2025

*Regulatory
Bulletin*

Volume 11 Issue 1

Renewals of Licenses, Registrations, Permits

The renewal window for licenses, registrations and permits will open October 1, 2025. All licenses, registrations and permits that expire 12/31/2025 must be renewed prior to the expiration date.

Continuing Education Requirements

Each person holding a veterinary license, limited license, a faculty certificate, or a zoo veterinary certificate (collectively referred to herein as "veterinarian") or a veterinary technician registration issued by the Board shall comply with the standards in this Rule. The standards shall be a condition precedent to the renewal of a license, certificate, or registration respectively. The standards are as follows:

- (1) A veterinarian shall earn 20 continuing education credit hours for the calendar year license renewal period. Only 10 hours may be obtained pursuant to courses described in Item (3) of this Rule.
- (2) A registered veterinary technician shall earn 12 continuing education credit hours for the two-calendar year registration renewal period. A maximum of six hours may be obtained pursuant to course described in Item (3) of this Rule.
- (3) One continuing education hour may be earned for each hour of independent self-study courses, prerecorded webinars, audio conferences, and non-interactive on-line presentations by approved continuing education credit providers.
- (4) One continuing education credit hour may be earned for each hour of in-person attendance or live interactive attendance at courses presented by approved continuing education credit providers.
- (5) A live interactive presentation shall:
 - (a) include instant or synchronous two-way communication;
 - (b) provide access to both technical personnel and professional faculty, as well as interactivity among participants for the exchange of questions and answers via instant messaging or a moderated teleconference, and
 - (c) document the level of participation by keeping a record of the participant's activity in asking or answering questions during the presentation and the score of any examination administered at the end of the presentation.

Continuing education credits hours may be earned from courses, programs, or materials presented or approved by the following providers:

- (a) the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA);
- (b) the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA);
- (c) the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA);
- (d) the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;
- (e) the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' (AAVSB) Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE); and
- (f) academies, schools, or colleges of veterinary medicine.

CE course approval request should be emailed to: jduck@ncvmb.org

CE extension or hardship request should be emailed to: bjoyner@ncvmb.org

Medical Records

Section 21 NCAC 66.0902(o) of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act (the “Practice Act”) states that, “An owner or supervising veterinarian shall provide a copy of medical records maintained pursuant to Rule .0207 of this Chapter within 10 business days of receipt of a request by a current or former patient’s owner. The veterinary facility may charge the patient’s owner the actual cost of reproducing the records as a reasonable fee.”

A “reasonable fee” can be defined as “a payment for services that is fair, not excessive, and proportionate to the cost of providing such services, considering factors like the nature of the service, the time and effort required.” A “reasonable fee” avoids being overly expensive or exploitative; it should simply reflect the value of the service provided.

A veterinary facility cannot withhold medical records if the current or former client who is requesting them has an outstanding balance for services rendered by the facility. In addition, a veterinary facility cannot withhold medical records if such records are handwritten; you must provide a copy of the records regardless of the recordkeeping format that your facility utilizes.

As a reminder, Section 21 NCAC 66.0207(b)(12)(B) of the Practice Act states that, “Records shall be kept for a period of three years following the last office visit or discharge of such animal from a veterinary facility.” Please ensure that your practice is adhering to the three-year retention schedule.

Practice Facilities

This is a reminder that if your practice facility is planning a transfer of ownership, adding an additional owner, changing its name, adding or removing a supervising veterinarian, moving its location, renovating its space or permanently/temporarily closing, you are required to complete the applicable practice facility form and submit it to our Board’s Practice Facility Coordinator by e-mail (prodenburg@ncvmb.org).

This is necessary to keep our records up-to-date; issue Board approval for a transfer of ownership; schedule an inspection of a facility that has either moved or been renovated; and provide information in response to inquiries from the public when a practice has permanently or temporarily closed.

Please note that a transfer of ownership form should be submitted to our office at least 20 days prior to the planned change.

Forms can be found on our Board’s website; click on the Professionals tab; choose Forms & Applications from the drop-down menu; and then scroll down to the Practice Facilities section.

Facility Standards Self-Evaluation Checklist

The Board’s Facility Standards Self-Evaluation Checklist has been updated and includes a new boarding kennel section, updated territory map for the inspectors, new contact information and informational links that you might find useful. This checklist is designed to help prepare practice owners, administrators, and staff for inspections of their facilities. It is based on the template used by our inspection team during their visits and includes some of the more common violations encountered. The updated Checklist can be found on our Board’s website; see the Quick Links column on the home page to download a copy.

APHIS Veterinary Services Offers New Training to Identify and Respond to New World Screwworm

New World screwworm is a growing threat.

In response to the northern movement and subsequent threat of New World screwworm (NWS, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Accreditation Program has developed a new training module for veterinarians and those in the veterinary, companion animal, and livestock industries.

The training module, *Module 41: New World Screwworm: A 21st Century Perspective*, is available online at www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap/training-modules. The module covers signs of NWS, its life cycle, control measures, and reporting methods. It also covers the potential animal, human, and financial impacts associated with an incursion of NWS.

USDA recommends that every veterinarian and veterinary technician, regardless of practice type, review this module to learn how to recognize and respond to NWS.

After moving north past Panama's Darien Gap, NWS detections in Panama exploded from an average of 25 cases per year to more than 6,500 cases in 2023. Since then, NWS has continued northward and has been detected in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico. Nicaragua's health ministry has confirmed at least 30 cases of NWS in people, two of which required lifesaving hospital treatment.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is partnering with other USDA agencies, the U.S. Department of State, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and affected countries to respond to the outbreak. **Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are tremendously important in recognizing this pest.** Immediately report suspected cases of foreign animal pests and diseases to your state animal health officials and federal animal health officials.

