

NORTH CAROLINA VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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FLETCHER

June 12, 1992

To: All North Carolina Licensed Veterinarians  
From: Dr. Benjamin S. Turner, President *Benjamin S. Turner, DVM*  
Subject: Activities of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

Since the National Board Examinations were first given, the method of determining the passing point has been "Norm Referencing". All candidates are compared to the "criterion group" (seniors, or new graduates, taking the test for the first time) and each state sets its own passing point. North Carolina's passing point is 1.5 standard deviations below the mean of the criterion populations.

Beginning in December of this year the "criterion referencing" method will be used. The passing point will be based on the number of questions or problems answered correctly. That number will represent the minimal qualification for entry level practice of veterinary medicine. The passing point will be the same for all states using the National Examinations.

The examination schedule for veterinarians for the remainder of 1992 is as follows:

North Carolina Examination	September 1, 1992
National Board Examination	December 8, 1992
Clinical Competency Test	December 9, 1992

The National Examinations for Technicians and the North Carolina Examination for Technicians was given June 9, 1992. Thirty-six candidates were tested.

The Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, Solid Waste Section regulates the packaging, labeling, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of medical waste in North Carolina. "Medical waste" means any solid waste which is generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals. . . 15A NCAC 13B 130A-290(a)(18). "Sharps" means and includes needles, syringes with attached needles, capillary tubes, slides and cover slips, and scalpel blades. Sharps do not have to be treated, but they must be packaged in a container (not glass) that is rigid,

leak-proof when in an upright position and puncture resistant. The package then may be disposed of with general solid waste. More information may be obtained from The Department of EHNR, Solid Waste Section, 512 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27604-1148.

A memorandum from Don R. Shirley, Director, License and Excise Tax division, Department of Revenue is enclosed for licensees having North Carolina addresses. The penalty for not paying the Veterinary Privilege License Tax can include suspension of your veterinary medical license.

The following deaths have been reported to the Board:

Dr. Joseph Fulford, Siler City, N. C., December 23, 1991  
Dr. C. R. Swearingen, Smithfield, N. C., April 22, 1992

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 25 and 26, 1992 in conjunction with the NCVMA meeting in Asheville.

A recent complaint before the Board involved an after hours emergency call in which Mrs. E, a client of Dr. B, called Dr. A for service after hours because she could not contact Dr. B. Dr. A refused service because Dr. B had been uncooperative in working with him on an after hours rotation of emergency calls, and he had been receiving numerous calls from clients of Dr. B. Mrs. E's complaint was against Dr. A because he would not see her pet.

A veterinarian is not legally accountable to see a non-client's pet for an emergency. Even among his own clients he can refuse service except when he is involved in an ongoing problem under his supervision according to James F. Wilson, Law and Ethics of the Veterinary Profession. The Board decided in favor of Dr. A and suggested to Mrs. E that she consult with Dr. B about his availability for after hour emergencies for his clients. Rule .0208(c) states "If emergency services are not available . . . the veterinarian . . . must have a written agreement with a local clinic . . . for the provision of emergency services. The name and address of the local clinic or hospital offering emergency services under the agreement shall be posted."

When a veterinarian takes on a case for a client, he is legally obligated to provide for emergency care for that patient for that particular problem, either by performing the service himself or by providing for a colleague or emergency clinic to provide the after hours service.

Non-clients can be refused legally, but each veterinarian must consider the moral obligation he feels, the public relations implication for the profession and the humaneness of his action.