

# *Corona Virus Update from the NCVMB*

## **Continuing Education Requirements**

The rules and regulations of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act currently remain in effect. You are able to receive up to 50% of your total CE requirement online (see details below).

If a meeting that you registered for has cancelled the program due to Corona Virus concerns and changed it to an online format, then the NCVMB will honor that CE as “in person”. It is important that you maintain proof/certification of all CE courses you plan to utilize in the case that you are audited at the next renewal cycle.

***If circumstances in the future necessitate a change in our requirements, then all licensees and registrants will be informed immediately by email (make sure your listed email address with the Board is correct).***

For individuals concerned about obtaining their required continuing education please refer to the following information...

For DVMs: **CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Proof of twenty (20) hours required each year - Ten (10) **on-line** hours of training will be accepted during each renewal, however, five (5) of those hours will need to be 'interactive' (e.g. live webinar).

For Registered Veterinary Technicians: **CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Proof of twelve (12) hours required every two (2) years - Six (6) **on-line** hours of training will be accepted during each renewal, however, three (3) of those hours will need to be 'interactive' (e.g. live webinar).

## **The Practice of Veterinary Medicine**

The practice of Veterinary Medicine in the State of North Carolina requires the establishment of a Veterinary-Client-Patient relationship. This can only take place with the physical examination of the animal in question. It cannot be established over the phone, Skype, or other online source.

If you are worried about the health status of your clients you can consider having them wait in the car/lobby when the animal is taken to a room for a physical examination.

Consider placing a sign in your lobby requesting that clients, who are ill, respect the health of the others in the hospital and cover when they cough etc.

When appointments are made on the phone have your receptionist request that clients who are ill have someone else bring in the pet for the examination.

# Information from the AVMA

## COVID-19: WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOU AND YOUR STAFF?

As there is currently no vaccine for novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus and to follow strict handwashing and other hygiene protocols, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) says.

The organization recommends the following:

- Designate your practice/workplace as a temporary "no handshake zone"
- Practice good hygiene-remind your staff to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (especially after using the restroom; before eating; after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; and between client/patient visits). If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60 to 95 percent alcohol
- Place hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, and tissues in all exam rooms, meeting rooms, restrooms, break rooms, and other common areas
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth
- Ensure staff members have received the annual influenza vaccine
- Impose home isolation for any team members with symptoms of respiratory disease (e.g. fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, etc.). Additionally, CDC recommends individuals remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100 F [37.8 C]) or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- Take steps to prevent the spread of disease among veterinary personnel and to/from clients by following guidelines and procedures laid out in the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel (found online [here](#)).