

**Announcement:
This is the 2013
renewal reminder!
We are trying a
new format!**

Did you know?

If there is more than one veterinarian at a facility using the same cache of controlled drugs, the facility should be registered with the North Carolina Controlled Substances Branch. The number is 919-733-1765.

Also, the DEA requires Veterinarians to keep drug purchase invoices for a period of two years.

It is time to renew your license!

It is that time of year again. License renewal time. This is the third year the Board has provided an online renewal system and the process has not changed.

As a reminder of the online renewal process: begin at the Board "Homepage" at www.ncvmb.org. Select "Login Access." Login with your User ID and password, and then select "Renew Now."

If you are a veterinarian, your user ID is "V" followed by your license number. If you are a technician, your user ID is "T" followed by

your registration number. Finally, to renew a corporation, your user ID is "C" followed by your corporation number.

If you've forgotten your password, click "Forgot your Password?" on the login screen and follow the directions. Your password will be emailed to you, but you may have to check your spam box.

You will navigate through various screens on your way to the Payments screen. Under "Payment Options" choose either credit/debit card or e-

check. Complete the payment information and then select "Authorize Payment." Remember to print out the last page if you need a receipt. In addition, click "View/Print Certificate Now" to print your wallet card and display certificate with the new expiration date.

If you have not done so already, you may want to change your password to one that will be easier to remember before leaving the site. That button is located in the upper right corner of the "My Account" screen.

President's Column

**Richard W. Hawkins, DVM
Board President**

Each June the Board elects officers for a one-year term. Joining me as officers for 2012-2013 are Dante Martin, DVM of Jacksonville, Vice-President and David Marshall, DVM of Raleigh, Secretary-Treasurer.

During my nine years on the Board I have observed changes to the veterinary profession. The Board has discussed the need to update the N.C. Veterinary Practice Act and Administrative Rules. I am continuing the work of my predecessor, J. Linwood Jemigan, DVM, on updating both. In that regard, please review Board Executive Director Thomas Mickey's discussion of upcoming legislative issues on page 3. Also please give me and

the Board your comments on these issues. Your input can help us better fulfill our responsibilities. Please call or write us at the Board office.

The Board regulates veterinary medicine through the Practice Act and Board Rules. Both have served us well, but the Act was last substantially updated in 1993 and the Rules in 1996. It is time to make some revisions to reflect the changes that have taken place in the practice of veterinary medicine. This does not mean that the entire Act needs to be rewritten, but there are sections that need amending and new sections that need to be added. We want to maintain the intent of the Act to appropriately regulate veterinary medicine in the twenty-first century.

Changes to the Act (General Statutes) must be adopted by the N.C. General Assembly. The next legislative session starts in January, 2013. The support of the public and the profession will be needed to secure the necessary changes.

Administrative Rules are adopted by the Board to implement the intent of the Act. They are more specific than statutes and must be approved by the N.C. Rules Review Commission. To be approved, a rule must be grounded in the statutory language.

Typically it takes a minimum of six months for a rule to be approved.

Based upon the most frequently asked questions and concerns expressed to

the Board, the following areas have been identified for discussion: licensing of graduates of non-accredited foreign veterinary colleges; fees; facility registrations and ownership; ownership of medical records; impairment; allowable duties of registered veterinary technicians; supervision of employees; regulation of veterinary consultants.

Please monitor the Board's web site www.ncvmb.org for updates. As always, Board meetings are open to the public and you can attend. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 31 and to continue at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 1.



Board Members:

Richard W. Hawkins, DVM
President
Durham

Dante R. Martin, DVM
Vice President
Jacksonville

David T. Marshall, DVM
Secretary/Treasurer
Raleigh

Dwight E. Cochran, DVM
Apex

William K. Dean, DVM
Hope Mills

Kim D. Gemeinhardt, DVM
Germanton

Jonathan S. Loftis, RVT
Sanford

Katie O. Morgan
Lillington

Board Profile: Dr. William K. Dean

William K. Dean, DVM, of Hope Mills, was appointed to the Board in July, 2012 for a five-year term. He was born and raised in Hope Mills, where he still lives with his wife, Julia Hix Dean, DVM, and their two children.

He graduated from NCSU School of Veterinary Medicine in 1987 and that same year established his first practice, Southern Oaks Animal Hospital, in Hope Mills. He opened a second practice, Cypress Lakes Animal Hospital, in the community in 2010 and is

co-owner of Animal Urgent Care of Fayetteville. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the NC Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Dean's main interests are orthopedics and surgery in small animal medicine. He also practices equine medicine and reproduction. His main hospital is a mixed practice treating a variety of animals, including horses. He breeds Arabian Horses and shows them all over the country with his children. They have had multiple

national champions over the years. He enjoys spending time with the mares and foals at his barn, and with his two boxers, Sasha and Karma.

He prefers to spend his spare time with his family and on the water. His true love away from practice is boating and salt water fishing.



Board Profile: Jonathan S. Loftis, RVT

Jonathan S. Loftis, RVT, of Sanford, was appointed to the Board in July, 2012 for a five-year term. He is a 2001 graduate of the Veterinary Medical Technology program at Central Carolina Community College and a 2010 graduate of the Bachelor's degree VMT program at St. Petersburg College in Florida.

Prior to attending CCCC, he worked in the veterinary field off and on for over 10 years. After graduating from CCCC, he worked at

NC State University in the Large Animal Hospital. He joined the faculty at CCCC in 2003 as the Animal Facilities Manager and Instructor.

Mr. Loftis has been an active member of the North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians since 2004 and has held numerous Association Board positions over the years. He is also a member of several other professional organizations including NAVTA and

AALAS. His wife, Kelley, is the Assistant Director for Technical Services at the Southern Pines Public Library. They have a multitude of "kids," including 2 dogs, 5 cats, 11 fish, and 1 rabbit.



"A reverse distributor collects controlled drugs and incinerates them."

How to Dispose of Expired Controlled Drugs

Controlled drugs must be disposed of in a way that provides a record for the DEA.

A reverse distributor collects controlled drugs and incinerates them. Upon request, it will provide a certificate of destruction for

your records. Only one business in North Carolina provides this unique service: Pharmaceutical Dimensions in Greensboro. Registration is available on its website, www.phdreturns.com or by phone at 336-297-4851. You can send your first ten bottles for \$60, and

additional bottles for a charge of \$1.24/bottle after that.

Legislative Issues - 2013

Thomas Mickey Executive Director

There are two issues at the top of the legislative priorities of the Board for 2013.

The first is an amendment to the Practice Act to provide an additional program by which graduates of veterinary colleges not accredited by the AVMA can qualify for licensure. Currently, the Act only permits such graduates to utilize the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) to

demonstrate proficiency. The Board believes it is necessary to add the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education (PAVE) developed by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

Currently 38 jurisdictions recognize PAVE. The Board has met with a representative of PAVE and has studied the PAVE requirements to satisfy itself that this program is appropriate.

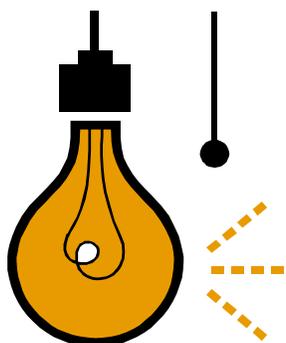
The second priority is to obtain authorization to

increase fees assessed by the Board. The Board will seek to raise the "cap" on its fee authorizations. The actual amounts of the fees will be established by rule.

The Board fees have been relatively modest over the years. Increases are needed to support the Board's regulatory mission. The Board does not receive appropriations from the General Assembly as do most state agencies. Fees are its only source of revenue. The Board always strives to operate as efficiently as possible.

Given the length of time it takes to get both the Act and Rules amended, it is anticipated that it will be two years before the veterinary or corporation fees could be increased.

To comment on either of these two issues, please send an email to: comments@ncvmb.org.



Investigations

castrations, ear crops and tail docks.

The investigator has also spoken to other regulatory organizations about how the Board pursues the criminal prosecution of the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine.

Our investigator works closely with local, state, and federal agencies on many cases, including the diversion or embezzlement of controlled drugs. The Board maintains a close relationship with many county animal control officers, shelter managers and private humane rescue groups.

The Investigator also offers and conducts training to explain what activities are the practice of veterinary medicine to shelter groups, humane groups, and veterinary organizations.

One issue that causes a great deal of confusion is the exemption that allows owners to administer to their own animals. This is not the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine. A breeder can vaccinate the animals they own prior to their being sold. Once the sale takes place the new owner cannot return to the breeder for additional vaccinations. The Board

office frequently receives telephone calls regarding this.

If you or any of your staff have any information regarding the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine, please contact the investigator at investigator@ncvmb.org.

In 2001, the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board was among the first veterinary licensing boards to actively investigate and criminally prosecute cases of the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine. That year the Board employed a full-time investigator.

Over 300 cases have been successfully prosecuted in the District Courts of the State. Those cases have included: spays, neuters, vaccines, equine dentistry,

Sales Tax

Owners of veterinary practices should be knowledgeable of what products sold by veterinarians are or are not exempt from sales taxes collected by the N.C. Department of Revenue (NCDR). The NCDR published on 4/01/2008 a technical bulletin that answers most questions about taxes on sales by veterinarians.

Access the NCDR Sales & Use Tax Technical Bulletin (Sec. 16, 4/01/08, pp. 1-4) using this link:

www.dor.state.nc.us/practitioner/sales.bulletins.section16.pdf

Privilege License Taxes

State privilege license taxes are imposed for the privilege of carrying on the business, exercising the privilege or doing the act named in Article 2, Schedule B of the Revenue Laws of North Carolina. These privilege license taxes are in addition to any regulatory or qualification requirements to engage in the practice of a profession, business or trade.

<http://www.dor.state.nc.us/taxes/license/scope.html>

Poor Communication - A Continuing Problem

Twenty-five years ago, Dr. C. B. Randall of Kinston wrote in an article published in the JAVMA, Vol. 191, No. 9:

"With all of our affluent society and scientific knowledge, we have created a problem we must guard against. We must not become so laboratory, machine, and computer-oriented that we forget the art of veterinary medicine.....we still need to communicate with the client, to use our given skills in examining the animal, and to allow the client a chance for input. This will do more to market veterinary services and preclude lawsuits than any other single thing."

These words are even truer in today's veterinary practices. Communication is critical. Lack of communication is the root of many of the Board's complaints, resulting in most of the Board's investigations and disciplinary actions.

Poor communication caused a

complaint to the Board in 2008. Mr. & Mrs. G. presented their 16 year-old female cat to Dr. M. Surgery to address a rectal prolapse was performed. At 6:00 p.m., Mr. & Mrs. G. were told the cat had been slow to awaken from anesthesia and had actually stopped breathing before she was revived. Dr. M. recommended that the cat stay overnight at the facility.

The next morning, neither Dr. M. nor his staff called Mr. & Mrs. G., who assumed that all was well with their cat. At 10:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. G. called Dr. M.'s facility and left a message asking when their cat could be picked up. No one responded. At 11:00 a.m., they called the facility again. This time, a staff person answered but told Mr. & Mrs. G. someone would return their call.

Not having received a call by 12:15, Mr. G. drove to the facility, where he learned that their cat had died overnight. Four days later the Board received Mr. & Mrs. G.'s complaint against Dr. M.,

alleging "unprofessional conduct, lack of character and compassion."

It continues to surprise the Board how poorly some veterinarians communicate with clients about their pets' care. A prominent recurring example is incomplete, inaccurate, and misleading information conveyed to the clients by facility employees – particularly the "front desk." This appears to be caused by lack of training, lack of supervision, and lack of communication protocols.

Clients today want to be involved in the decisions about their animals' treatment. Veterinarians who realize this fact and who provide clear, timely and factual information to clients rarely are the subject of a complaint to this Board.

Please make effective communication a top priority.

NCVMB
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Raleigh, NC 27627

Phone
(919) 854-5601

Fax
(919) 854-5606

Webpage
www.ncvmb.org

E-mail
comments@ncvmb.org

NC Stats

Active Vets: 4144

Active RVTs: 1177

Practice Facilities: 1117

Corporations: 844

@NCVetBoard
for an instant
update next year
when renewal
opens and
about legislative
updates



Questions to the Board Office

The Board office staff receives many telephone calls per day. Below are answers to some of those most frequently asked questions.

Licenses/Registrations [Receipt Card]: If you want to print out your Receipt Card, it is available to you online. To login on the "Home Page", you will need your ID and Password. If you have forgotten your password, select "Forgot your Password?" on the login screen and follow the directions. Your password will be emailed to you immediately but you may have to check your spam folder. If you've forgotten your ID, you will need to call the Board office.

Contact Information: Board Rule 21 NCAC 66.0106 requires each licensee to keep the Board current as to their proper and current mailing address. This may be accomplished online by logging into your personal file. All changes of professional association, or dissolution of a professional relationship, shall be reported within 60 days to the Executive Director together with the new status and addresses of the individuals or firm. These changes also can be made online.

Individual Name Change: To change your name in the Board system, submit a copy of a legal document (e.g., marriage certificate/divorce papers) and a copy of your Social Security card reflecting your new name. In addition, be sure to notify us of any address change.

Continuing Education: We have added six (6) CE links to our web site and five (5) require membership. Go to the "Cont. Ed" page at www.ncvmb.org. Three (3) CE hours are permitted for online, audio or video training per renewal cycle.

License/Registration Verifications: The fee is \$12 per State. Requests should contain: the State(s) where the verification is to be sent, your current address and phone number. Once the request has been processed, you will be mailed a copy of the license/registration verification. This serves as notification of when the official verification was mailed.

Non-Renewal of License/Registration: Please consider your options if you're planning not to renew. In order to reinstate, you will be required to pay for each year you did not renew a late fee and a one-time reinstatement fee of \$25. Proof of CE hours for each year of non-renewal is also a requirement.

Inactive Status: Board Rule 21 NCAC 66.0309(a) states any licensed veterinarian who is in good standing with the Board and has ceased the practice of veterinary medicine anywhere, may apply for inactive status. To become reinstated, the veterinarian will be required to pay the current renewal fee and earn the required CE credits in the year preceding reinstatement.

State Exam: Veterinarians are given the opportunity to sit for the State exam ten (10) times a year; veterinary technicians, six (6) times. Go to the "Forms & Apps" page at www.ncvmb.org for test dates.

Temporary Permits: This permit to practice veterinary medicine is available to qualified applicants waiting to sit for the State Exam. The temporary permit expires the day the applicant receives the test results.

Rabies Vaccinations: NC General Statute 130A-185 states that only veterinarians or registered veterinary technicians under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, or a certified rabies vaccinator are allowed to administer the rabies vaccine.