



The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board



77 South High Street, 16th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

July 30, 2008

The Honorable Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio
77 South High St., 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Strickland:

On behalf of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, we are pleased to provide you with the Annual Report for state fiscal year 2008. The Board's mission of insuring that the citizens of Ohio are served by professional, trustworthy and competent veterinarians and veterinary technicians has been met. The Board accomplished this mission by timely issuing licenses, approving candidates for examination for license, approving continuing education courses required for the license, investigating complaints involving licensed veterinarians or registered veterinary technicians or violations of the practice act, providing compliance inspections of veterinary facilities and establishing a working relationship with all Federal, State and local regulatory agencies relating to veterinary medicine.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Board office with any questions or concerns related to this Annual Report or issues involving veterinary medicine.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koncal, DVM
President

Theresa Stir, Esq.
Executive Director

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Annual Report FY 2008

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board's mission is to insure that the citizens of Ohio are served by professional, trustworthy and competent veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Overview

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board (Board) meets the second Wednesday of every month and held 12 meetings for FY08.

Current Board Members:

David Koncal, DVM, President	Sagamore Hills
Roger Redman, DVM, Vice President	Wooster
Renee Jessen, RVT, Secretary	Berkey
Darrell Gitz, DVM	Columbus
James Hearst, DVM	Cincinnati
Janet Small, DVM	Amherst
Geoffrey Smith, Public Member	Columbus

Board Staff:

Theresa Stir, Esq.	Executive Director
Angela Mann	Licensure Coordinator
Alisan Riemenschneider	Clerk

Fiscal

The Board is self-sustaining fiscally through licensure fees, late fines and miscellaneous sources. The Board was allotted \$322,740 for FY 2008. The Board had \$103,018.99 in operating expenses and \$212,264.00 in payroll expenses for FY08. The Board's payroll expense was slightly less this year due to the vacancy of the Licensure Coordinator position for a six week period. The Board generated \$687,011.68 in Revenue for FY08. \$33,920 has been transferred to the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program for the 3rd Quarter and \$1390 for the 4th Quarter in accordance with ORC 4741.17(A)(7).

Law & Rules

The Board completed the five-year administrative rule review as required by Revised Code section 119.032. The Board also amended rules to comply with recently enacted legislation. As a result of passage of HB 458 of the 126th General Assembly, rules were promulgated to institute a Limited License, a Business Facility License, and the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program. Rules were amended to change the supervision status of certain duties from direct to indirect supervision and to permit animal aides to perform venipuncture for the purpose of collecting blood samples under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Additionally, rules were implemented as a result of enactment of HB 104 of the 127th General Assembly which requires criminal background checks for new licensees.

Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program

HB 458 of the 126th General Assembly created a veterinary loan program to address current and future shortages of veterinarians in large animal and regulatory public health situations in Ohio. Loan repayment grants can be up to \$20,000 for a two year commitment of service. HB 119 of the 127th General Assembly provided a line item of \$60,000 for the veterinary student loan repayment program. Pursuant to Section 4741.17(A)(7) ORC, the Board transferred \$33,920.00 to the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment fund (ALI 888-602) in April to reflect \$10.00 from each veterinary license renewal from January 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008. A transfer of \$1390 from fourth quarter FY 08 veterinary licensure renewals into the fund is anticipated.

In accordance with Section 4741.47 ORC, an annual progress report regarding the implementation and progress of the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program was provided to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President prior to March 1, 2008.

The Board has worked with the Ohio Board of Regents to develop an application and Agreement for dispersing of funds. The first group of applicants submitted their application by May 1st. The Board received and considered nine applications based on their willingness to provide large animal veterinary services in a resource shortage area. After requesting additional information regarding the counties of service and percentage of large animal service, the Board awarded two \$15,000 “grants” for a committed service period of two years and two \$10,000 “grants” for a committed service period of one year.

Licensure

Effective November 15, 2008, applicants desiring to be registered as a veterinary technician must have passed the Veterinary Technician National Exam with a score of 75.

The Board has issued the following new licenses or registrations for FY 08:

Veterinarian	143	Limited Licenses	33
RVT	203	Business Facility	19

The Board currently has a total of 3492 licensed veterinarians, 33 limited licensed veterinarians (whose practice is limited to an academic institution or government laboratory), 2017 registered veterinary technicians, and 38 business facility licenses.

Complaint & Disciplinary Process

During FY 08, the Board received 168 complaints. The Board issued 6 Adjudication Orders as a result of disciplinary hearings and entered into 27 Settlement Agreements. Many of the complaints for the Board’s consideration revolved around fees for veterinary services for which the Board does not have jurisdiction. Medical record issues such as lack of documentation or refusal to release records were the majority of veterinarian disciplinary actions.

The Board contracts with the Ohio Department of Agriculture for investigations of complaints. Once the Board reviews a complaint and medical records, they will determine if the complaint warrants an investigation which is then sent to ODA with the case file. The Board has found this

arrangement very satisfactory. The Director of Enforcement has attended several of the Board meetings to discuss and clarify issues.

The "Complaint Process" brochure has been added to the web site with the complaint form. Complainants are appreciative of having something to explain the process.

Once a discipline is issued, it is entered into a national databank for other state regulatory agencies of veterinary medicine, flagged in the state e-licensing system, and entered onto the Board's web site.

Communication

The Board works diligently to return calls and address all correspondence within one business day. The Board issued an informative newsletter with the veterinary license renewal mailing and posted the newsletter on the website. Additionally, the Board has updated the website to include recent Board decisions, approved continuing education, criminal background check information, Board disciplines of licensees, etc. Board minutes are also posted on the website. The Board has approved and posted the Public Records Policy in the Board office and on the website.

The Executive Director and Renee Jessen, RVT Board member, presented on recent Board rule changes and compliance issues to attendees at the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association Midwest Conference in February, 2008. Dr. Koncal and Dr. Gitz were presenters at the Ohio State University to veterinary medical students on Board disciplinary cases and compliance in April, 2008. Board staff have also provided presentations to graduating veterinary technicians.

IT

The Board contracts with a DAS employee for computer services. Per executive order, the Board has had the laptop encrypted. The encryption for the desktop computers is in process.

Continuing Education

The Board currently reviews all requests for continuing education hours in Ohio. The veterinarian must have 30 hours of continuing education (CE) to renew. The registered veterinary technician must have 10 hours of CE to renew. The Board has recently taken the position to provide deemed status to continuing education programs that have received national accreditation approval, academic university or state association approval. Rule 4741-1-11 OAC amending the CE approver requirement has been filed with JCARR.

National Membership

The Board maintains membership with the American Association of State Veterinary Boards (AAVSB). Dr. David Koncal, DVM, Board president, attended the AAVSB national conference in Charleston, South Carolina, in September, 2007. Dr. Koncal provided the Board with an update on issues impacting regulatory agencies of veterinary medicine such as unlicensed practice, equine dentistry, wording for renewal applications regarding convictions, shelter veterinarians, and security issues with the national examination.