

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board Newsletter

2016-17

Current Board Members

Cindy Kidd, DVM

President
Jackson, OH
Term: 8/8/12-12/31/17

Kimberly Riker-Brown, DVM

Toledo, OH
Term: 7/13/15-12/31/16

Dianne "Annie" Jones, RVT

Secretary
Ostrander, OH
Term: 3/12/15-12/31/18

Roger Redman, DVM

Wooster, OH
Term: 3/10/06-12/31/16

Tim Kolb, DVM

Delaware, OH
Term: 3/14/10-12/31/18

Nancy O'Connor, DVM

Akron, OH
Term: 2/19/16-12/31/18

Richard Heston

Public Member
Westerville, OH
8/14/15-12/31/18

Board Staff:

Theresa Stir, Executive Director

Joseph McClain, Licensure Coordinator

Darcy Griffin-Kamerer Clerk

Email:
info@ovmlb.state.oh.us

Website:
www.ovmlb.ohio.gov

Phone No. (614) 644-5281

Fax: (614) 644-9038

President's Message

I have had the pleasure of serving as your president this past year. As Daniel Greenfield puts it so eloquently: "America is a nation of impossibilities. We exist because our forefathers did not take no for an answer. Not from kings or tyrants. Not from the elites who told them that it couldn't be done. The day when we stop being able to pull off the impossible is the day that America will cease to exist." Now we move forward and look to the future to improve business while upholding our oath to practice veterinary medicine.

Serving on the board has taught me many things. One of the most revered is that as a board member we must remove our "veterinary hat" and put on our "civil servant hat". We are here to protect and serve the people of the state of Ohio. With that said, when cases are brought before the board each month, one of our goals is to ensure that the veterinarian learn from mistakes and correct them. Believe me, I learn something new each and every month that improves my own practice.

Record keeping is one of the most consistent problems that the board discusses and finds violations with each month. Our record keeping rule ([4741-1-21 OAC](#)) outlines all relevant information that needs to be in each patient record. It is for your protection to document treatment and even conversations with clients. If it is not documented it is assumed that you did not do it!

Documentation of patient care is crucial to ensure that another veterinarian may follow the rationale and/or continue therapy as necessary. Our veterinary record should include the date, all pertinent medical data such as vaccinations, drug types and doses and all relevant medical and surgical procedures performed, including anesthesia monitoring. The records shall identify the owner of the animal(s) and provide an address and telephone number or other means of contact.

The records for companion animals shall include identifying information such as age, sex, species and breed or description and the animal's name, if known. Animals used for economic purposes that are treated on a herd basis may be identified collectively, provided the treatment information is reflective of accepted medical practice for the species and lists doses of all drugs dispensed and administered.

Records, including imagery, diagnostic tests laboratory data, surgery reports, progression of the disease process and all of the pertinent information, shall be maintained by the treating practice for a period of three years. Records shall be released upon request from a treating veterinarian and made available upon request from the owner of an animal at a reasonable cost to the owner.

Veterinary Wellness is another topic the Board has discussed. There are many reasons to speak about mental health and well-being. Mental health and well-being in veterinary professionals

was studied by JAVMA and it was found that almost one in 10 of us were classified as having depression; about three in 20 were in the borderline category and 47% surveyed scored high on emotional exhaustion which is one of three components of burn-out. Unfortunately the study also found that those experiencing serious psychological distress from mental health issues also felt that seeking treatment did not help people lead normal lives and that people are not caring toward persons with mental illness. I seriously hope that if you are reading this that you will stop and reconsider this thought. We as veterinarians are truly a caring bunch! The demands of practice are stressful. If you or a co-worker is in need of help, know that you are not alone and that there are people available who can provide assistance.

We care about each other so please reach out to one of the following links:

Ohio Physician's Health Plan www.ophp.org

National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255

AVMA Wellness & Peer Assistance www.avma.org

In closing, I would like to thank the staff at OVMLB as well as the board members who work tirelessly to educate the public and communicate with veterinary professionals on a daily basis. We have had the opportunity to visit with other state boards at the AAVSB conferences and "compare notes". I am proud of what OVMLB does for our state.

Licensure Information & Public Records

Licensees should be aware that applications for licensure, except for social security number, are public records and subject to the Freedom of Information Act. As a governmental agency, the Board is subject to public records requests from the media, private citizens, pharmaceutical companies, etc. The Board's public records policy is posted in the Board office as well as on the Board web site under "Policies". If a request is made for licensee's information, the Board staff typically provide the veterinary business address IF one is provided to the Board. If not, the residential address is provided upon request. This is a good reason to comply with the statutory requirement of notifying the Board of a change in employment within ninety days.

Changes in the Veterinary Practice Act

A new law became effective in September 2016 that requires the Board to collaborate in the development of resources and education materials to enhance the ability of veterinarians to identify current or potential clients who may abuse opioids and may use animals in their care to improperly secure them. (ORC 4741.05)

The Board is currently in the development stages of preparing an educational opportunity for the OVMA conference in February which will be presented with representatives of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy. The Ohio Board of Pharmacy already has a video on its home page of their web site that identifies the “Red Flags of Drug Diversion”. The BOP web site is www.pharmacy.ohio.gov It is highly recommended that veterinary practitioners view the video to determine if a client may be presenting their pet in order to divert the medication prescribed.

Knowingly causing pain or harm to an animal is now a fifth-degree felony in Ohio. According to the ASPCA, there are five ways to fight animal cruelty in the veterinary field:

1. Befriend the law. At the first signs of cruelty, you’ll feel more comfortable seeking their assistance.
2. Pay attention to your patients. Look for unexplained wounds, for example.
3. Get a second opinion.
4. Document everything.
5. Report the abuse. Don’t discuss your suspicions with the media, but alert law enforcement.

Further educational opportunities will be offered at the OVMA MidWest Veterinary Conference in February, 2017.

Proposed Rule Changes

The Board is in the process of reviewing specific rules for their mandatory five year rule review. The rules under review can be found on the Board’s web site under Law and Rules. One rule that is proposed to change is Rule 4741-1-11 OAC regarding continuing education. The Board is proposing to eliminate the “real time” mandate for online courses in order to be considered as “scientific”. Courses must still be clinically-related in order to be considered “scientific”.

An additional rule that is being revised is Rule 4741-1-21 OAC regarding medical records. The revised rule states what, at a minimum, should be documented concerning veterinary medical care. The rules can be viewed on the Board’s web site with any comments to be submitted to the Board office at info@ovmlb.state.oh.us.

Veterinary Feed Directive

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has implemented rules to regulate the use of VFD drugs (animal drugs intended for use in or on animal feed) that now requires the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) requires veterinarians to issue all VFDs within the context of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). For the State of Ohio, the elements of a VCPR are defined in ORC 4741.04.

The FDA believes that veterinarians play an important role in animal and human health and their oversight, and thus will ensure that medically important antimicrobial drugs will be used in feed according to label directions and only when appropriate to meet specific animal health needs. (See [FDA fact sheet](#))

It will be illegal to use medically important antibiotics for production purposes. Animal producers will need to obtain authorization from a licensed veterinarian to use them for prevention, control or treatment of a specifically identified disease. (See FDA’s Guidance #213). The FDA continues to collect data on antibiotic resistance and is working with the USDA and CDC in developing a plan of action to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria. (National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria https://whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/national_action_plan_for_combating_antibiotic-resistant_bacteria.pdf)

A handy resource can be found at:

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/An...valProcess/UCM455480.pdf>

Client Communication

The Board has seen a trend of complaints centering on the fact that an animal “hospital” is not fully staffed 24 hours a day. Many clients tend to define animal hospitals within the same parameters as human hospitals. An animal hospital, clinic, or service is not defined in the Veterinary Medical Practice Act. Therefore, it is recommended that you communicate your overnight staffing to your patient’s owner when the owner is considering leaving their pet overnight at your facility for medical treatment.

Veterinary CE Tracking

The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) has implemented a free online service for recording continuing education for veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians. Veterinary Continuing Education Tracking (VCET) is a centralized repository for veterinary CE information. VCET is a free service and will offer online access for individual licensees to submit their CE course and transmit reports to Member Boards in a uniform format once a profile has been created by the licensee. Further information can be obtained on the AAVSB web site at www.aavsb.org/vcet

Renewals

All registered veterinary technician licenses expire on March 1, 2017. Veterinary Limited Licenses expire July 1, 2017. Which means that any licensee, according to the Veterinary Practice Act, who is practicing on an expired license is in violation of the law. Late fees are assessed one month after the expiration date and a stiffer penalty is applied after two months of expiration.

Please provide any changes of address in writing to the Board office by email, fax or via mail ASAP to make sure that you receive your renewal information in a timely manner. Renewal information with username and password will be mailed out the first week of January, 2017 for RVTs and May, 2017 for Limited Licenses. If you have misplaced the renewal notice, you may email the Board at info@ovmlb.state.oh.us to obtain your username and password. Please include your full name and license number in your correspondence.

All renewals will be online except in limited circumstances. The licensee must request a paper application if they have disciplinary or criminal action. As a reminder, the name of the licensee must be on the check submitted if renewing by mail. This reminder is especially important for those veterinary entities that submit a “group” check for their employees. Unfortunately, the current Continuing Education reporting section remains difficult until the new E-licensing system is in place which is anticipated prior to the 2018 veterinarian renewal. If you utilize VCET for your CE, just insert that information in the CE section and the Board will obtain your CE from AAVSB. Please update any changes in your contact information, including your email address.

When renewing online, remember to only hit the submit button once and DO NOT hit the “back” button. Every time that you hit the back button, your credit card is charged. If you accidentally get charged more than once, the Board tries to catch it and credit your account within 24-48 hours. However, if a double billing appears on your statement, let the Board staff know promptly.

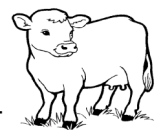
Please note: The Board staff do not provide receipts for renewal fees paid. Your cancelled check or credit card invoice is your receipt, though an email should be received upon payment online via credit card.

Active Military personnel cannot renew online at this time. Since the renewal fee is waived, active military personnel can renew by submitting a renewal form and CE via email, fax, or US postal mail. Email joseph.mcclain@ovmlb.state.oh.us for a renewal form if you are on active duty in the US Armed Forces, the Ohio National Guard or Military Reserve. The renewal form will also be available on the Board web site under “Forms”.

Veterinary Business Facility Licenses expire June 1, 2017. The renewal information will be sent to the address of record. Veterinary Business Facility renewals can only be performed by paper application at this time. Once the new E-Licensing system is in place, all applications and renewals will be retrieved and performed on –line.

Veterinary Student Loan Program

The student loan program was developed to provide large animal veterinary services in veterinary resource shortage areas. \$10.00 of each veterinary license renewal fee is deposited in the loan repayment fund. In May, 2016, the Board awarded \$10,000 each to Dr. Sabrina Featheringill, DVM of Tiffin, and Dr. Luke Morrow, DVM of Sugarcreek. for a service commitment of one year. Applications for 2017 can be found on the Board’s web site and are due by May 1st to the Board office.





News you will find on the Ohio Board of Pharmacy web site:

The Board of Pharmacy has updated their “Selected Points Regarding the Legal Practice of Pharmacy in Ohio: [http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Special/Legal%20Practice%20of%20Pharmacy%20Selected%20Points%20-%20\(March%202016\).pdf](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Special/Legal%20Practice%20of%20Pharmacy%20Selected%20Points%20-%20(March%202016).pdf)

At the July board meeting, the Board of Pharmacy extended the date for the requirement to obtain a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs license to all prescribers that are performing drug compounding (including re-constitution) or ordering compounded drugs . The extension date is April 1, 2017.

Please review the following revised BOP Rules:

Rule 4729-9-11 OAC regarding Security and control of Dangerous Drugs. The changes include all dangerous drugs, blank prescription pads, records related to dangerous drugs, and hypodermics must be maintained in a manner to restrict unauthorized access. For veterinary facilities, hypodermics shall be stored in an area secured by a physical barrier with suitable locks during non-business hours. During normal business hours, hypodermics shall not be maintained in an area where the public is not supervised by a veterinary practitioner authorized to administer injections.

Rule 4729-5-17 OAC regarding Personally Furnishing Dangerous Drugs. The new rule allows for the prescriber to be off the premises when non-controlled drugs are being dispensed, provided the prescriber is available by electronic means. There are also revised labeling requirements.

Rule 4729-9-17 OAC requires adulterated and expired drugs to be stored separately from inventory and disposed of within one year. Adulterated drugs shall be stored in a manner that prohibits access by unauthorized persons. Controlled substances shall be disposed in accordance with Rule 4729-9-06 OAC.

Governor’s Initiative Against Prescription Drug Abuse

Governor Kasich, in conjunction with other agencies, has been working on reforms to tackle opiate addiction by strengthening prescription drug oversight, encouraging responsible treatment and preventing overdoses. A bill was introduced in April, 2016 (SB 319) to propose these reforms. Those reforms include:

- ◇ Ensuring Responsible Opiate Addiction Treatment through licensure of treatment facilities
- ◇ Expanding Access to Naloxone, an effective overdose antidote
- ◇ Holding Pharmacy Technicians to stronger accountability through registration and continuing education
- ◇ Establishing new oversight for purchasing and distributing controlled substances by requiring Terminal Distributor of Dangerous Drugs licenses with no exemption for sole practitioners or single shareholder businesses.
- ◇ Limiting high-volume prescriptions to prevent misuse by placing a 90 day cap on the total days supply for any opiate prescription
- ◇ Common sense regulation for methadone clinics

The bill also permits the Pharmacy Board to conduct background interviews and prevent unfettered access to controlled substances by individuals with drug convictions, individuals currently under investigation, and individuals who have been sanctioned by their licensing Board. The legislative summary states that inspections will provide an opportunity to educate prescribers on how to safely store and dispose of dangerous drugs.

There is a link on the Board’s home page that will direct you to valuable information and resources for the prescriber. The Governor’s Cabinet Opiate Action Team has released a brief video to help prescribers understand the new acute prescribing guidelines. This video is not mandatory for veterinarians. However, it is very educational. For those who did not receive the email link, you may access the training video by visiting: <http://ohiorxguidelines.com>

OARRS and the Veterinarian

The Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) is a tool to track the dispensing and personal furnishing of controlled prescription drugs to patients. OARRS is designed to monitor this information for suspected abuse or diversion (i.e., channeling drugs into illegal use), and can give a prescriber or pharmacist critical information regarding a patient’s (or owner’s) controlled substance prescription history. This information can help prescribers and pharmacists identify high-risk patient owners who would benefit from early interventions. Participation in OARRS is voluntary for veterinarians, but highly recommended. More information can be found at: <https://www.ohiopmp.gov/Portal/Default.aspx>