

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board Newsletter

2021 Spring Edition

Current Board Members

**Nancy O'Connor, DVM
President**
Akron, OH
Term: 2/19/16-12/31/21

**Kim Riker-Brown, DVM
Vice-President**
Toledo, OH
Term: 7/13/15-12/31/22

**Dianne "Annie" Jones,
RVT**
Secretary
Ostrander, OH
Term: 3/12/15-12/31/21

Craig Miesse, DVM
Celina, OH
Term: 4/24/17-12/31/22

Matthew Verbsky, DVM
West Liberty, OH
Term: 1/8/19-12/31/2021

Public Member
Susan Pohler, Esq
Columbus, OH
Term: 6/2020-12/31/2021

Vacant DVM position

Board meetings are open to the public to listen to discussion on Agenda items.

Board Staff:
Theresa Stir, Executive Director
Joseph McClain, Licensure Coordinator
Andrea Jones, Clerk

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The Board office is closed on state holidays. The staff are continuing to work remotely, but will respond as quickly as able.

New Laws Impacting Veterinary Medicine

HB 24—Dog Warden and Chemical Capture (effective March 31, 2021)

Expands the current law governing the seizures and impoundment of companion animals and applies to any animal related to a violation of animal cruelty law.

- Authorizes the Board of Pharmacy to issue a license to county dog wardens for the purpose of obtaining and administering drugs for euthanasia and pre-euthanasia drugs used for sedation prior to euthanasia
- The dog warden must complete a euthanasia technician course approved by the OVMLB
- The OVMLB and Board of Pharmacy are to approve the substances to be used for lethal injection of an animal as well as the pre-euthanasia drugs
- The Board of Pharmacy is authorized to grant a chemical capture designation to an animal shelter or county dog warden once specified conditions are met.

HB 33 (effective April 12, 2021)

Requires veterinarians (but not RVTs) to report to an officer (law enforcement, humane society agent or animal control-type professional) orally or in writing if they have knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect a violation involving animal abuse. Provides immunity for reporting.

Licensed Veterinarians

1. For a first violation of the reporting requirement, requires the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board to issue a confidential warning and explanation of the bill's reporting requirements.
2. For a second violation of the reporting requirement or for knowingly making a false report, requires the Board to impose a civil penalty as follows: a. \$100 for a second violation of the reporting requirement or a first violation of the bill's prohibition against knowingly making a false report; and b. \$500 for any subsequent violation.
3. Authorizes the Board to assess costs for the hearing if civil penalties are imposed, in accordance with current law.

HB 67 (effective April 12, 2021)

Creates the Veterinarian Student Debt Assistance Program selected by a lottery. The Board's first award will be after June 1, 2023, Information for the application, eligibility and contract terms will be available on the board web site as well as through alerts and publications.

Eligibility:

- Prior to applying, the veterinarian must have performed charitable veterinary services in an amount determined by the Board in rules, but at a minimum, 12 hours. (Charitable veterinary services include free spay and neutering services and any other services specified by rule with a nonprofit organization, a humane society, law enforcement agency or a state, local, or federal government entity).

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- The veterinarian must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. National, or permanent resident of the United States;
- The veterinarian is licensed and has been engaged in the practice or instruction of veterinary medicine in Ohio for more than six months prior to application’
- The veterinarian has taken out an educational loan that was used for educational expenses incurred while the veterinarian was enrolled in a veterinary college;
- The veterinarian is not a member of the Board at the time application is submitted;
- The veterinarian is not an active program participant under contract with the Board; and
- The veterinarian has not been under contract as a program participant with the Board within a year prior to submitting an application.

The selected candidate(s) will be required to sign a Letter of Intent and then enter into a contract with the Board agreeing to perform charitable veterinary services for a two year period in exchange for repayment of all or part of an educational loan. The amount of hours and other terms will be spelled out in Rules implemented by the Board as required in the enacted law.

HB 263 (effective April 12, 2021)

- Requires, within 180 days after the bill’s effective date, the OVMLB to adopt a list of specific criminal offenses for which a conviction, judicial finding of guilt, or plea of guilty may disqualify an individual from obtaining an initial license.
- Allows the Board to consider a listed offense when deciding whether an individual is disqualified from receiving an initial license, provided the state licensing authority considers the offense in light of specific factors supported by a preponderance of the evidence.
- Prohibits the Board from considering a listed disqualifying offense when the offense occurred outside of time periods specified in the bill (five years for most offenses).
- Prohibits the Board from refusing to issue an initial license to an individual based solely on being charged with or convicted of a criminal offense or a nonspecific qualification such as “moral turpitude” or lack of “moral character.”
- Requires the Board, if refuses to issue an initial license because of a specific disqualifying offense, to notify the applicant of the reason for the refusal, the applicant’s right to an administrative hearing, the earliest date the applicant may reapply, and the individual’s ability to offer evidence of rehabilitation upon reapplication.
- Places the burden of proving the relationship between a disqualifying offense and the licensed occupation on the Board in any proceeding reviewing the authority’s denial of an initial license based on a disqualifying offense.
- Allows the Board authorized by law to limit or otherwise place restrictions on a license to limit or restrict a license to comply with a community control sanction, post-release control sanction, or a court established intervention plan.

The Board already has a list of disqualifying criminal offenses on the Board web site that would prohibit an individual from obtaining a Board license. There is also an application on the Board web site for “pre-consideration” by the Board prior to application if an individual is uncertain as to whether a criminal offense would permit them to apply for a veterinary license.

More information will be forthcoming related to initial licenses. This law does not apply to renewal applications

COVID Pandemic Effects on licensure:

Board resolution for Online CE during the COVID Pandemic:

On March 14, 2020, an Executive Order was issued from Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health declaring a state of emergency due to COVID 19. As a result, numerous live continuing education opportunities were cancelled or developed into webinars or online continuing education events. On July 8, 2020, the Ohio Veterinary Licensing Board enacted a Resolution to permit unlimited continuing education hours to be obtained online CE in order to meet the requirements for renewal of a veterinary, limited veterinary, or registered veterinary technician license.

This resolution shall remain in effect for the current renewal cycles of 2021 and 2022.

RVT Renewal Extended

RVT licenses typically expire on March 1, 2021. However, recent COVID legislation extended the expiration date until **July 1, 2021** for this renewal period only. RVTs can renew anytime between January through July 1, 2021 at the regular renewal fee of \$35.00 via credit card (Visa or Mastercard). There is also a \$3.50 processing fee assessed by the State of Ohio. Late fees are assessed immediately after the expiration date of July 1st.

ALL License renewal communications will be sent via email notification only. It is important to notify the Board of any email changes! Instructions for the ELicensing system are on the Board's web site. **No paper applications or checks will be accepted.**

Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program

This student loan program was developed in 2006 to provide large animal veterinary services or protect public health in veterinary resource shortage areas. \$10.00 of each veterinary license renewal fee is deposited in the loan repayment fund. The loan awards up to \$10,000 a year for a service commitment of one year for those who have been out of veterinary school less than 3 years. Applications for 2021 can be found on the Board's web site and are due by May 1st.

License Verification Reminder

Licensees will no longer receive a small certificate upon initial licensure or upon renewal of licensure. Licensees will receive an email validating the license/renewal which should be maintained for recordkeeping purposes. It is not necessary to display the email.

Employers and Pharmaceutical companies can validate a license through the [License Verification](#) port on the Board's web site or the ELicense site. (elicense.ohio.gov) The License Verification will now have the initial licensure date as well as disciplinary action. Please enter VET.## or RVT.## (## = license number) when validating a license by license number rather than name. If you hold a specialty license, it may be necessary to add ".SPEC" to the verification.

It is no longer a requirement to display a license per Rule 4741-1-03 OAC.

OVMLB Military law and rule update

The Board recently amended Rule 4741-1-18 of the Administrative Code to comply with a new law that was enacted to permit active duty military licensees or their spouse serving in Ohio to obtain a free license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Ohio for six (6) years as long as all of the conditions for the military license are maintained. However, the rule continues to be reviewed through the appropriate government channels and has not yet been approved for filing.

The Board will comply with the requirements stated in the law in order to comply with the new licensure type. The military license application is currently available through https://elicense.ohio.gov/OH_HomePage