

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board Newsletter

2021-22 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

Scott Myers, DVM

Sharon Center, OH
Term: 2/19/21-12/31/23

Matthew Verbsky, DVM

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

**Vacant Veterinary
Position**

Public Member

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

Board meetings are open to the public to listen to discussion on Agenda items. Agendas are posted on the Board website under Board Information.

Board Staff:

Theresa Stir, Executive Director
Joseph McClain, Licensure Coordinator

Email:
info@ovmlb.state.oh.us

Website:
www.ovmlb.ohio.gov

**Phone (614) 644-5281
Fax: (614) 644-9038**

The Board office is closed on state holidays.

President's Report

by Dr. Nancy O'Connor, DVM

The OVMLB has had an interesting time during Covid —like everyone, right? We met virtually, for the first time ever due to an emergency, temporary state directive and legislation. The Board utilized Microsoft Teams, from April 2020 until June 2021. Despite the occasional technical glitch, it was efficient, and allowed for any public person interested in attending, to do so -just like in person meetings. Despite not having to travel to downtown Columbus every month, it was heartening to be back in person in July— to shake hands and see people in person! Most of us had never met our public representative, Sue Pohler, since she was appointed to the board in June, 2020 and Dr. Scott Myers, DVM who joined the Board in February, 2021, in person.

Each Board member provides a thoughtful approach to the issues and the complaint cases before them. The disciplinary review takes up the majority of a Board meeting. We may not always agree on everything, but there is a healthy respect for each and every opinion. The Board received 219 complaints. The Board collected \$ 9842.40 in Disciplinary Fines.

Summary of Board Disciplinary Actions FY 2021

Surrendered license in lieu of discipline	0
Adjudication Orders issued	5
Settlement Agreements Entered	18
Notices issued	30
Referrals to Prosecutor and/or other state agencies	2
Advisory Letters	48
On site investigations	10
Compliance Inspections	17
30 day follow up letters to compliance inspections	0
No Jurisdiction of the subject matter	29

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 actual on-site investigation. The Board members will direct the investigator what information they need that is germane to the complaint filed. The Board has found this arrangement very satisfactory.

The vast majority of disciplinary action continues to be related to poor medical recordkeeping. The fine may vary, based on whether or not there are additional infractions, but usually starts at \$250-500, and the discipline imparted is a course on medical records and quarterly submission of 10 medical records, until a total of 40 acceptable medical records are achieved. PLEASE read/review [4741-1-21 OAC](#) that pertains to medical records. Consider attending a board meeting. You will learn something, we guarantee it.

As we reflect on the year 2021, we continue to mourn the loss of fellow Board member, Dr. Craig Miesse, DVM from Celina, Ohio. Dr. Miesse was a mixed practice veterinarian who provided valuable insight on many of our disciplinary cases and issues. His outlook on life was appreciated and is surely missed.

And as we look forward to the year 2022, I wish you a safe, healthy, and happy year.



KNOW THE RULES

Proposed Rule Amendments: Rules under the Ohio Administrative Code are required to be reviewed every five years. The rules currently being reviewed are listed on the Board's web site under [Law and Rules](#). The following are a few minor changes being proposed at this time.

Rule 4741-1-11 OAC Continuing Education: The rule is being amended to increase the number of online hours for continuing education for veterinarians from 6 to 15 CE hours. The 6 hours of online continuing education remain the same for RVTs.

Rule 4741-1-21 OAC Recordkeeping: The rule is being amended to include the documentation of route of administration of a drug.

New Rules:

As a result of recent enactment of legislation that created the Veterinarian Student Debt Assistance Program selected by a lottery, new rules were required to be drafted. 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).
- 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.

The rules are currently being reviewed through the governmental agencies (CSI and JCARR). Once the rules are approved more information will be disseminated regarding the new charitable student loan program. Applications will be found on the Board web site once the rules are effective.

OVMLB accepts AAVSB PAVE for RVTs

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Board, at their September 2021 board meeting, approved the AAVSB PAVE program for RVTs. The program assesses the education equivalence of international veterinary technician/nurse graduates on behalf of AAVSB Member Boards. Thus, an RVT applicant would submit a certificate of successful completion of the program as one of the requirements for licensure in place of graduating from an AVMA accredited program. The PAVE program was approved in Ohio through legislation in 2015 for veterinarians and has been successful in easing the ability to obtain a license in the State of Ohio. Therefore, it is understandable that the PAVE for RVTs would operate in the same way. The acceptance of the PAVE for RVTs can occur through rule and does not require a law change.

Rule 4741-1-01 OAC was modified to accept the PAVE program for the registered veterinary technician and is currently in the process of review through the appropriate state agencies along with the previously mentioned rules. The PAVE program is still in the development stages at AAVSB, but Ohio wants to be ready once the PAVE for RVTs is implemented. This action will assist with the recruitment of registered veterinary technicians to Ohio by eliminating a barrier for foreign practitioners.

Board resolution for Online CE during the COVID Pandemic ends this renewal:

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 renewal cycles of 2021 (RVT & Limited Licenses) and 2022 (Veterinarian) only.

[See the earlier article on Page 2 regarding the increase of online hours for veterinary continuing education being considered.

Veterinarian Renewal

Veterinary licenses expire on March 1, 2022. 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 immediately after the expiration date of March 1st and a stiffer penalty is applied after April 1st. Remember that there is a \$3.50 transaction fee that the State of Ohio charges for security of the system.

Instructions for the ELicensing system are on the Board's web site under Online Renewal. **ALL** License renewal communications will be sent via email notification only. It is important to update your email changes in the ELicense system. Instructions for the ELicensing system are on the Board's web site. **No paper applications or checks will be accepted.**

A few pointers for the ELicensing system:

- A computer with use of Google Chrome, Safari or Firefox are recommended. The system does not function well on a phone or tablet. Computers are available at local libraries, Senior Citizen Centers, and Community Centers. Veterinarians can request another wall certificate through the Options link of the new system. A Letter of Good Standing can be requested through the Options link of the E-Licensing system.
- All documents will need to be readily available (i.e. CE, court documents, military active duty forms) to upload onto a computer so that they can be submitted into the system.
- Renewing licensees do not need to complete the License verification or education section of the renewal application.
- If you begin to enter data, and need to leave the system, you can save the data and return to complete.
- The application will not be submitted to the Board office until payment is made via VISA or MasterCard only. If a personal charge card is not an option, a pre-paid payment card can be obtained. Please make sure that the \$3.50 transaction fee has been added to the pre-paid card.
- Licensees will have three options to submit continuing education: write it out, upload a document, or email to the Board.
- Licensees can change an address in the system at any time.
- Passwords can be reset in the system if a licensee has forgotten their password or it is expired.
- Please note that the system will lock the for 30 minutes if there are three unsuccessful attempts to log in.

License Verification Reminder (reprinted due to the number of requests received by the Board)

Licensees no longer receive a small certificate upon initial licensure or upon renewal of licensure. Licensees receive an email validating the license/renewal which should be maintained for recordkeeping purposes. It is not necessary to display the email. It is no longer a requirement to display a license per Rule 4741-1-03 OAC

Employers and Pharmaceutical companies can validate a license through the [Licensure Verification](#) port on the Board's web site or the ELicense site. (elicense.ohio.gov) The Licensure 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.

More Topics of Interest



Veterinary Supervision ([4741.01 ORC](#))

(D) "Veterinary supervision" means instruction and directions by a licensed veterinarian on the premises or by a licensed veterinarian who is readily available to communicate with a person requiring supervision.

(K) "Direct veterinary supervision" means a licensed veterinarian is in the immediate area and within audible range, visual range, or both, of a patient and the person administering to the patient.

re-

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. \$20,000 was awarded to Dr. Wyatt Krom, DVM in May of 2021 for a service commitment of two years. Applications for 2022 can be found on the Board's web site and are due by May 1st.

Reporting Discipline

Did you know that the Veterinary Medical Practice Act ([R.C. 4741.22\(A\)\(9\)](#)) requires a licensee to report to the Board **within sixty days** of the individual's conviction of, plea of guilty to, or treatment in lieu of conviction involving a felony, misdemeanor of the first degree, or offense involving illegal or prescription drugs?

It would also be advantageous to a licensee to report any action taken by another licensing or regulatory agency either in Ohio or in another jurisdiction **prior** to renewal so as not to hold up the licensee's ability to practice as a "hold" may be placed on the renewal activity until the Board members have reviewed the disciplinary action. Please submit any documents that state the violations and disposition of the case to Theresa.stir@ovmlb.state.oh.us along with a narrative explaining any mitigating or aggravating factors.

From the Board of Pharmacy

The Board of Pharmacy, as well as other health licensing Boards, have noticed a recent uptick in extortion scams targeting their licensee population. Generally, the intended victim will receive a call or fax, on agency letterhead, indicting there is an ongoing investigation initiated by the Board of Pharmacy in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Drug Enforcement Administration naming licensee as a suspect. The scammers then advise the licensee that their arrest is imminent. In response, the caller offers the licensee the ability to wire funds overseas to avoid arrest during which the criminals indicate the money will be returned to the licensee once the case is adjudicated. Of course, upon wiring the money, the licensee received no funds in return.

The Board of Pharmacy is urging affected licensees to contact local law enforcement and to notify the Board of Pharmacy as well.

Additional Resources:

American Animal Hospital Association: <http://www.AAHA.org>
American Association of Veterinary State Boards: www.aavsb.org
Animal Poison Control Center 888-426-4435 www.aspcapro.org
International Council for Veterinary Assessment (NAVLE): www.icva.net
Not One More Vet: <https://www.nomv.org>
Occupational Safety and Health Administration: <http://www.osha.gov>
Ohio Department of Health: www.odh.ohio.gov
Ohio Pharmacy Board: pharmacy.ohio.gov
Ohio Physician's Health Program: www.ophp.org
Ohio Veterinary Medical Association: www.ohiovma.org
US Department of Agriculture: www.usda.gov