

# The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

## Annual Report FY 2014

*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) met the second Wednesday of the month and held 11 meetings for FY14.

### Board Members:

Dr. Cynthia Kidd, DVM, President	Jackson – term ends 12/31/2014
Tim Kolb, DVM, Vice-President	Delaware - term ends 12/31/2015
Renee Jessen, RVT, Secretary	Berkey – term ends 12/31/2015
Roger Redman, DVM	Wooster-term ends 12/31/2016
Rebecca Salinger, DVM	Ashtabula – term ends 12/13/2015
John Brandt, public member	Westerville – term ends 12/31/2015
Vacant Veterinarian position	

### Board Staff:

Theresa Stir, Esq.	Executive Director
Joseph McClain	Licensure Coordinator
Darcy Griffin-Kamerer	Clerk

### Fiscal

The Board is self-sustaining fiscally through licensure fees, late fees, and fines. The Board was allotted \$ 337,432 for FY 2014. The Board had \$ 112,185 in operating expenses and \$ 225,242 in payroll expenses for FY14. The Board generated \$791,500 in Revenue for FY14. Of the total revenue in FY14, \$ 39,360 has been transferred to the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program in accordance with ORC 4741.17(A)(7).

### Policies, Law & Rules

During the mandatory five year review, the Board revised several rules. The following rules were amended:

OAC Rules 4741-1-01 and 4741-1-04 set out the requirements for licensure of the Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) and the Veterinarian. The change in the rule mirrors the requirements set out in ORC 4741.09 and ORC 4741.12 by inserting the language “of good moral character”.

OAC Rule 4741-1-03 OAC provides guidance for minimum standards for a stationary veterinary practice. The change in this rule allows for the veterinary practice to utilize electronic means for having an up-to-date library on the premises.

OAC Rule 4741-1-21 provides guidelines for the documentation and keeping of medical records. The rule was amended to add that the performance of anesthesia monitoring needs to be documented in the medical/surgical record.

OAC Rule 4741-3-03 to 05 deals with the Veterinary Medical Student Loan program which was created in legislation enacted in 2006. The change in these set of rules places more of an emphasis on the public health aspect of veterinary shortage resource areas.

The Board also implemented 3 new rules to address Vaccination Clinics, Home Visits and Livestock Ambulatory visits. The rules were developed in response to the multiple inquiries to the Board regarding the unregulated vaccination clinics and off-site visits and the practitioner's ability to comply with existing rules for stationary hospitals and mobile clinics. The Board worked with interested parties for over a one-year period to draft the new rules. The new rules became effective July 15, 2014.

The Board worked with the Governor's office regarding licensees in military service. Through ORC 4741.16 and OAC Rule 4741-1-18, the Board already waives renewal fees and continuing education requirements for licensees in military service and issues licenses within 24 hours of a completed application. The Board is currently revising the military exemption rule to include the definition of "Military" and "Veteran" and waive continuing education mandates as required in recently-enacted HB 98.

### **Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program**

HB 458 of the 126<sup>th</sup> 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. Pursuant to Section 4741.17(A)(7) ORC, the Board transferred \$39,360.00 to the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment fund (ALI 888-602) in FY 14 to reflect \$10.00 from each veterinary license renewal from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

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, 2014.

Three (3) eligible candidates submitted applications for consideration by the Board at their May 2014 meeting for the Veterinary Student Loan. The Board considered the applications based on their willingness to provide large animal veterinary services in a resource shortage area and/or perform veterinary services in a public health setting. The Board awarded Dr. Amanda Wagner, DVM of Sidney, Dr. Mary J Orban, DVM of Woodsfield, and Dr. Ashley Misner, DVM of Berlin \$8,300 grants for a service commitment of one year. The recipients will submit progress reports biannually.

### **Licensure**

The Board continued on-line renewal through the state E-licensing system for the veterinarian biennial renewal in 2014. Approximately 56% of the veterinarians utilized the on-line renewal. As predicted, the on-line renewal process was time efficient for the Board staff and eliminated the need for the Board staff to handle over \$334,375 in individual checks within the office.

Additionally, the licensee updates their contact and/or business addresses at the time of renewal within the system. However, most of the on-line users complain about the lack of adequate space and compatibility while entering their continuing education in the current system. The Board is the second phase of the implementation of the new DAS E-Licensing System which should resolve that issue within the next fiscal year.

The Board is currently responsible for the licensure requirements of 4035 veterinarians, 3420 registered veterinary technicians, 144 limited licensed veterinarians (whose practice is limited to an academic institution, governmental laboratory, or performing a residency in veterinary medicine), 120 Specialty licenses and 58 business facility licenses. The number of licensees varies slightly from year to year as indicated here:

<u>RVTs:</u>			<u>Veterinarians:</u>		
FY10 New:	297	Total: 2492	FY10 New:	186	Total: 3790
FY11 New:	234	Total: 2476	FY11 New:	209	Total: 4022
FY12 New:	245	Total: 2876	FY12 New:	127	Total: 4041
FY13 New:	399	Total: 3036	FY13 New:	236	Total: 4255
FY14 New:	331	Total: 3420	FY14 New:	237	Total: 4035

The Board has modified their initial application process by requiring all necessary documents to be submitted with the application excluding the criminal background check which must be submitted to the Board directly from BCI. Additionally, the Board removed the requirement for a notary to witness the signature of an application. The Board staff has found the new process more efficient and has reduced the number of phone calls from applicants wanting to know the status of their license. With the documents being submitted together, the Board can issue the license quickly as long as the application is complete.

### **Complaint & Disciplinary Process**

During FY 14, the Board received 126 complaints. The Board collected \$32,214 in Fines as a result of discipline.

#### **Summary of Board Disciplinary Actions In FY 2014**

Retired license in lieu of discipline	1
Adjudication Orders issued	1
Settlement Agreements Entered	34
Cease & Desist Letters issued	9
Referrals to Prosecutor and/or other state agencies	7
Advisory Letters	16
On site investigations as a result of a written complaint	16
Compliance Inspections (includes random)	22
No Jurisdiction of the subject matter	13

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.

Upon receipt of a complaint, the complainant is notified in writing of the Board complaint process and the file number issued to the complaint so they can follow the disciplinary process in the Board minutes which are posted on the web site. Once a discipline is issued by the Board, 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 staff consists of two full time members and one part time clerk. The Board works diligently to return calls and address all correspondence within one business day. In an effort to keep veterinarians and RVTs current on regulatory issues impacting their practice, the Board issued an informative newsletter to its listserve in December and posted the newsletter on the website. Additionally, the Board has updated the website to include recent Board decisions regarding veterinary issues, approved continuing education, and Board disciplines of licensees. Board Agendas and 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.

Renee Jessen, RVT Board Secretary, presented on current Board issues and compliance processes to attendees at the Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians conference in October, 2013. Dr. Gurdas Dass, DVM, past Board President presented on current board issues and on the disciplinary and compliance process of the Board at the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association's 2014 Midwest Veterinary Conference. Dr. Tim Kolb, Vice-President presented on the duties and distinction of supervision of Animal Aides and RVTs at the Midwest Veterinary Conference. Theresa Stir, Executive Director, presented on Board licensing and disciplinary issues to the third year veterinary students at The OSU College of Veterinary Medicine in April, 2014.

The Board instituted a prevention of Human Trafficking campaign in keeping with the Governor's initiative. The Board placed prevention and contact information on the web site and asked the OVMA to assist with dissemination of the information which they did in their state-wide publication.

## **IT**

The Board contracts with DAS IT for computer services. The Board replaced the desktop hard drives in order to comply with new software being implemented by the DAS-OIT.

## **Continuing Education**

The veterinarian must have 30 hours of approved continuing education (CE) to renew. The registered veterinary technician must have 10 hours of approved CE to renew. The Board approves those CE courses that do not fall within guidelines as set forth in Rule 4741-1-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The Board does not have a limit on the number of hours that CE can be acquired on-line.

The Board Members participated in an Ethics Training as prepared by the Ohio Ethics Commission in compliance with Executive Order 2011-03K which requires annual ethics training.

### **National Membership**

The Board maintains membership with the American Association of State Veterinary Boards (AAVSB). The membership is not only necessary for staying current on regulatory issues nationwide, it permits access to the national system to report disciplinary actions against veterinarians and RVTs licensed in the State of Ohio. The AAVSB then notifies other states where the disciplined licensee may hold a veterinary license. Dr. Roger Redman was elected to the AAVSB Board of Directors in 2013 and seeking re-election in September, 2014. Dr. Cindy Kidd, DVM serves on the AAVSB Bylaws Committee.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by:

Theresa Stir, Executive Director  
Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board  
77 So. High St., 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
[www.ovmlb.ohio.gov](http://www.ovmlb.ohio.gov)  
614-644-5281