



The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

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



July 12, 2017

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

Re: Annual Report FY2016

Dear Governor Kasich:

On behalf of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, we are pleased to provide you with the Annual Report for state fiscal year 2017 as required by Section 149.01 of the Ohio Revised Code. 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,

Dr. Kimberly Riker-Brown, DVM

Dr. Kimberly Riker-Brown, DVM
President

Theresa Stir

Theresa Stir, Esq.
Executive Director

CC: State Library

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Annual Report FY 2017

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 in FY17.

Board Members:

Dr. Kim Riker Brown, President	Toledo – term ends 12/31/2019
Nancy O'Connor, DVM, Vice-President	Akron – term ends 12/31/2018
Dianne "Annie" Jones, RVT, Secretary	Ostrander – term ends 12/31/18
Roger Redman, DVM	Wooster-term ended 12/31/2016
Tim Kolb, DVM	Delaware - term ends 12/31/2018
Dr. Cynthia Kidd, DVM, Past President	Jackson – term ends 12/31/2017
Craig Miesse, DVM	Celina – term ends 12/31/2019
Richard Heston, public member	Westerville – term ends 12/31/2018

Board Staff:

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

Fiscal

The Board is self-sustained fiscally through licensure fees, late fees, and fines. The Board was allotted \$ 396,369 for FY 2017. To date, the Board has paid \$93,115.00 in operating expenses and \$250,519.27 in payroll expenses for FY17. The Board generated \$290,583.00 in Revenue for FY17 for a biennial total of: \$ 1, 071,438.00. Of the total revenue in FY17, \$5,310.00 has been transferred to the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program in accordance with ORC 4741.17(A)(7). The Board received acknowledgement from the Governor's office for meeting the statutory requirements for expenditures with MBE and EDGE vendors in FY16 and again, has surpassed the requirements for FY17.

Policies, Law & Rules

The Board performed its five year review of designated rules in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). Rule 4741-1-11 OAC addressing continuing education was modified to eliminate the requirement for continuing education courses to be in "real-time", but modifies the number of CE hours that can be taken on-line to six hours. The Board also revised the recordkeeping rule (4741-1-21 OAC) to clearly identify what information needs to be documented in the veterinary medical record and maintenance of the medical records.

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. Pursuant to Section 4741.17(A)(7) ORC, the Board transferred \$ to the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment fund (ALI 888-602) in FY 17 to reflect \$10.00 from each veterinary license renewal from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

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, 2017.

Three eligible candidates submitted applications for consideration by the Board at their May 2017 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 public health setting. The Board awarded two \$10,000 grants for a service commitment of one year to Dr. Charles Robison, DVM of Dresden and to Dr. Austin Clark, DVM of Ashland. Dr. Alissa Wilhelm, DVM of Milton Center received an award of \$6,000 for a second year service commitment.

Licensure

The Board utilized on-line renewal through the state E-licensing system for the registered veterinary technician and limited veterinary licenses in 2017. The Board will begin transitioning into the new DAS E-Licensing System in FY18. In May, 2016, the Board staff participated in an eLicensing LEAN Ohio event to evaluate processes prior to the implementation of the new licensing system.

The Board is currently responsible for the licensure requirements of 4397 veterinarians, 3838 registered veterinary technicians, 80 limited licensed veterinarians (whose practice is limited to an academic institution, governmental laboratory, or performing a residency in veterinary medicine), 108 Specialty licenses and 86 business facility licenses. The number of practitioner licensees varies slightly from year to year as indicated here:

RVTs:

FY13 New:	399	Total:	3036
FY14 New:	331	Total:	3420
FY15 New:	316	Total:	3384
FY16 New:	358	Total:	3782
FY17 New:	361	Total:	3838

Veterinarians:

FY13 New:	236	Total:	4255
FY14 New:	237	Total:	4035
FY15 New:	245	Total:	4494
FY16 New:	233	Total:	4135
FY17 New:	244	Total:	4397

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. Once an application is complete, the Board staff issues the license within 24-48 hours.

Complaint & Disciplinary Process

During FY 17, the Board received 111 complaints. The Board collected \$ 4,000.00 in Fines as a result of discipline.

Summary of Board Disciplinary Actions FY 2017

Surrendered license in lieu of discipline	2
Adjudication Orders issued	2
Settlement Agreements Entered	16
Notices issued	22
Referrals to Prosecutor and/or other state agencies	4
Advisory Letters	31
On site investigations	8
Compliance Inspections	214
30 day follow up letters to compliance inspections	14
No Jurisdiction of the subject matter	12

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. The majority of complaints were for allegations of substandard medical/surgical veterinary care, which requires an investigation. The costs for sending responses, investigative costs and disciplinary/hearing costs have remained steady. There appears to be an increased expectation by pet owners that veterinary medicine operate in the same fashion as human medicine, especially regarding medical records and prescriptions. Additionally, the Board receives a significant number of complaints for which the Board does not have statutory authority such as veterinary fees charged to the consumer, boarding issues or grooming issues.

In settling the complaints, the Board saved approximately \$54,000 in Adjudication hearing costs. This is an area that is variable in the Board budget and therefore, the Board tends to be more conservative with expenditures in the event that an Adjudication is warranted.

Investigations are performed as a result of a written complaint to the Board and the need by Board members for more information not gleaned from the medical records, radiographs or narratives submitted. An investigation will focus on the complaint. For instance, if the

complaint is that the veterinarian is allowing unlicensed individuals to administer intravenous medications, the investigator will check medical records, the controlled substance logs and interview the staff. Compliance inspections are performed as a physical inspection of a veterinary hospital/clinic after a letter has been sent to the owner of the veterinary facility giving them five-day' notice as required by Section 4741.26 ORC. The investigator will also look at the drug stock to determine if there are expired drugs comingled with the current drugs and the review of the controlled substance logs.

The Board determined that they would like to increase the number of compliance inspections performed as permitted within the allotted budget. There are approximately 900 veterinary facilities in Ohio. It is unknown the exact number because the Board does not license veterinary facilities owned by veterinarians. In FY15, there were 50 compliance inspections performed. In FY16, there were 257 random compliance inspection performed. In FY17, there were 211 compliance inspections performed. There were 14 correction letters issued and 3 re-inspections performed as a result of deficiencies discovered during the inspection.

At the March 11, 2015 Board meeting, the Board passed a motion to deem AAHA accredited veterinary facilities as appropriately inspected and therefore will not have to undergo another compliance inspection by the Board unless there is a written complaint submitted. There are approximately 116 veterinary facilities that are AAHA accredited in the State of Ohio.

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. The Board also released a "Spring/Summer" edition to notify licensees of new rule changes to the Veterinary Medical Practice Act and Board of Pharmacy rule changes. 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 timely posted on the website. The Board has approved and posted the Public Records Policy in the Board office and on the website.

Dr. Tim Kolb, DVM Board Member, presented on current Board issues and compliance processes to attendees at the Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians conference in October, 2016. Dr. Cindy Kidd, DVM Past Board President and Dr. Kim Riker Brown, DVM, current Board President, presented on current board issues and RVT versus animal aide duties of the Veterinary Medical Practice Act at the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association's 2017 Midwest Veterinary Conference. They also held a joint CE opportunity with the Ohio Board of Pharmacy educating on the opioid epidemic and how it impacts the practice of veterinary medicine. Dr. Tim Kolb, DVM, Board Member, and 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, 2017.

IT

The Board contracts with DAS OIT for computer services. The Board approved the migration to 365 software as suggested by DAS OIT in an assessment performed in November, 2015 and was implemented in March, 2016.

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 Members and staff 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. Redman is currently serving a term as an AAVSB board member. Dr. Cindy Kidd, DVM and Dr. Nancy O'Connor currently serve on the AAVSB RACE Committee. Dr. Tim Kolb, DVM serves on the AAVSB Leadership Development Task Force. Dr. Riker-Brown, DVM serves on the AAVSB Nominating Committee. Ms. Stir, the Executive Director, serves on the AAVSB Regulation Policy Task Force.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by:

Theresa Stir, Executive Director
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