

# The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

## Annual Report FY 2009

*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 every month and held 12 meetings for FY09.

### Current Board Members:

Roger Redman, DVM, President	Wooster
James Hearst, DVM Vice President	Cincinnati
Darrell Gitz, DVM	Columbus
Janet Small, DVM	Amherst
Lisa Mach, DVM	Cleveland
Renee Jessen, RVT	Berkey
Geoffrey Smith, Public Member/Secretary	Columbus

### Board Staff:

Theresa Stir, Esq.	Executive Director
Angela Mann	Licensure Coordinator
Joseph McClain	Clerk

### Fiscal

The Board is self-sustaining fiscally through licensure fees, late fines and miscellaneous sources. The Board was allotted \$327, 312 for FY 2009. The Board had \$ 86,263.50 in operating expenses and \$220,116.31 in payroll expenses for FY09. The Board's payroll expense was slightly less this year due to the vacancy of the Clerk position for a six week period. The Board generated \$ 213,843 in Revenue for FY09. Of the total revenue, \$590 has been transferred to the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program in accordance with ORC 4741.17(A)(7).

### Policies, Law & Rules

All Board policies were reviewed, updated, and implemented. In compliance with the Governor's Management Directive and HB 648, the Board has implemented a policy regarding the regulation of access to confidential personal information. The development of a rule regarding CPI is in process. Other changes to the rules implemented this year are:

- Deletion of the requirement for notarization of renewal certificates;
- Reinstatement of minimum standard language that was accidentally omitted during a recent 5-year review; and
- Deemed acceptance of scientific continuing education hours approved by national or state associations or accredited veterinary medical institutions.

## **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. HB 119 of the 127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly provided a line item of \$60,000 for the veterinary student loan repayment program. Pursuant to Section 4741.17(A)(7) ORC, the Board transferred to the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment fund (ALI 888-602) in FY 09 to reflect \$10.00 from each veterinary license renewal from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

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, 2009.

The Board had worked with the Ohio Board of Regents to develop an application and Agreement for dispersing of funds. Implementation of the program required a trip to the Controlling Board for authority of the BOR to access the student loan fund, but once the authorization was obtained, the process went smoothly. Ten applicants submitted applications for consideration by the Board at their June 2009 meeting. The Board received and considered the applications based on their willingness to provide large animal veterinary services in a resource shortage area. The Board awarded Drs. Stephanie Bown, Andrew Mack, and Ellen Hartz \$7500 each for a one year service commitment. The Board awarded Dr. Mary Mowrer a \$5000 grant for another one year service commitment.

Sub HB 1 of the 128<sup>th</sup> General Assembly has language that removes the Ohio Board of Regents from the loan program process and would require the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board to disperse the funds and administer the program, including issuing tax forms, etc. Section 4741.41 ORC states that if the repayment of the loan results in an increase in the veterinarian's tax liability, the board may reimburse the veterinarian for the increased tax liability regardless of the amount of the repayment made to the veterinarian. In FY09, the Board of Regents reimbursed two grantees \$5393 in tax liability. At the June, 2009 board meeting, the Board determined that due to financial constraints, the Board would not be able to reimburse for tax liability in FY10.

## **Licensure**

The Board instituted on-line renewal beginning January 1, 2009 through the state E-licensing system for the RVT registration. Approximately 900 RVTs utilized the on-line renewal. The on-line renewal was well-received by the RVTs; and as predicted, was time efficient for the Board staff. The Board staff reduced costs of implementing the system by developing the renewal documents on the E-licensing test site .

The Board is currently responsible for the licensure requirements of 3861 veterinarians, 2168 registered veterinary technicians, 74 limited licensed veterinarians (whose practice is limited to an academic institution or government laboratory), and 55 business facility licenses. The number of licensees varies slightly from year to year as indicated here:

### RVTs:

FY06 New: 167      Total: 1887  
FY07 New: 258      Total: 1825

### Veterinarians:

FY06 New: 165      Total: 3569  
FY07 New: 194      Total: 3775

FY08 New: 206 Total: 2017  
FY09 New: 243 Total: 2168

FY08 New: 144 Total: 3492  
FY09 New: 158 Total: 3861

Additionally, 51 initial limited licenses and 25 business facility licenses were issued for FY09.

### **Complaint & Disciplinary Process**

During FY 09, the Board received 145 complaints. The Board issued 1 Adjudication Order as a result of a disciplinary hearing and entered into 6 Settlement Agreements. The Board referred 4 cases to the Prosecutor for a charge of practicing veterinary medicine without a license.

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 investigation which is then sent to ODA with the case file. The Board has found this arrangement very satisfactory.

The "Complaint Process" brochure has been added to the web site with the complaint form. For cost efficiency, results of a complaint are no longer mailed to the complainant, but can be found in the Board minutes on the web site. Once a discipline is issued, 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 in the Fall and posted the newsletter on the website. Additionally, the Board has updated the website to include recent Board decisions, approved continuing education, criminal background check information, Board disciplines of licensees, etc. Board 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.

The Executive Director and Renee Jessen, RVT Board member, presented on recent Board rule changes and compliance issues to attendees at the Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians in October, 2008. Dr. Redman and Dr. Gitz were presenters at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine Symposium for graduating veterinary medical students on Board disciplinary cases and compliance in April, 2009.

### **IT**

The Board contracts with DAS IT for computer services. Per executive order, the Board has had the laptop encrypted. The encryption for the desktop computers is in process. The Board was able to replace in FY 09 two desktops that were purchased in FY04.

### **Continuing Education**

The veterinarian must have 30 hours of continuing education (CE) to renew. The registered veterinary technician must have 10 hours of CE to renew. The Board implemented amended

Rule 4741-1-11 OAC to provide deemed status to scientific continuing education programs that have received national accreditation approval, academic university or state association approval. The Board continues to review all other CE applications.

### **National Membership**

The Board maintains membership with the American Association of State Veterinary Boards (AAVSB). At his own expense, Dr. David Koncal, DVM, while Board president and member of the Board, attended the AAVSB national conference in California in September, 2008. Dr. Koncal provided the Board with an update on issues of veterinary medicine impacting regulatory agencies.