



The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

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



July 20, 2010

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

Dear Governor Strickland:

On behalf of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, we are pleased to provide you with the Annual Report for state fiscal year 2010 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. James L. Hearst, DVM
President

Theresa Stir, Esq.
Executive Director

CC: State Library

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Annual Report FY 2010

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 10 meetings for FY10.

Board Members:

James Hearst, DVM, President
Lisa Mach, DVM, Vice President
Darrell Gitz, DVM
Janet Small, DVM
Paul Stull, DVM
Tim Kolb, DVM
Renee Jessen, RVT
Roger Redman, DVM
Geoffrey Smith, Public Member/Secretary

Cincinnati-terms ends 12/31/2010
Cleveland- term ends 12/31/2011
Columbus - term ended 12/31/09
Amherst - term ended 12/31/09
Dayton - term began 3/2010
Delaware - term began 3/2010
Berkey - reappointed 3/2010
Wooster-term ends 12/31/2010
Columbus - term ended 12/31/09

Board Staff:

Theresa Stir, Esq.
Angela Mann
Joseph McClain

Executive Director
Licensure Coordinator
Clerk

Fiscal

The Board is self-sustaining fiscally through licensure fees, late fines and miscellaneous sources. The Board was allotted \$319, 407 for FY 2010. The Board had \$ 82,145.07 in operating expenses and \$214,001.41 in payroll expenses for FY10 of which \$9194.63 was taken by OBM as a result of Cost Savings Days and pay freezes. The Board generated \$721,174.95 in Revenue for FY10. Of the total revenue, \$36,800 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. The Board submitted its Pandemic Influenza Plan to DAS to address the Board's operational needs in the event of an influenza outbreak. The Board did not need to activate the plan for FY10.

In compliance with the Governor's Management Directive and HB 648 of the 127th General Assembly, the Board has filed rules with JCARR regarding maintaining and accessing confidential personal information. Other changes to the rules implemented this year are:

- Filed rules regarding Livestock Management in accordance with ORC 4741.20(D);

- Permit a veterinarian applicant to take the national examination an unlimited number of times, but the applicant must apply with the Board each time for a subsequent examination;
- Rescinded the rule requiring twelve (12) board meetings per year (due to fiscal considerations);
- Deleted the requirement for euthanasia technician courses given in Ohio to be the only courses acceptable for certification; and
- Eliminated references to the Ohio Board of Regents administering the student loan repayment program in accordance with changes made in the Budget Bill (HB 1, 128th General Assembly). The administration of the loan was transferred to the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board.

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. HB 119 of the 127th 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 \$36,770 to the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment fund (ALI 888-602) in FY 10 to reflect \$10.00 from each veterinary license renewal from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

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, 2010. The transition of administration of the Fund to the Board from the Ohio Board of Regents has been smooth.

Four applicants submitted applications for consideration by the Board at their May 2010 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 Dr. Christen Daniel \$20,000 for a two-year service commitment and Dr. Logan Strohm \$10,000 for a one-year service commitment.

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. However, the Board received a request for tax liability reimbursement from Dr. David Brennan, who received \$15,000 in 2008 for a 2 year service commitment. The Board, at their June, 2010 meeting, agreed to pay 50% of the tax liability in the amount of \$2391.

Licensure

The Board instituted on-line renewal beginning January 1, 2010 through the state E-licensing system for the veterinarians. Approximately 45% 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 \$270,000 within the office. The Board staff developed the renewal documents on the E-licensing test site prior to implementation which reduced costs paid to DAS.

The Board is currently responsible for the licensure requirements of 3790 veterinarians, 2492 registered veterinary technicians, 128 limited licensed veterinarians (whose practice is limited to an academic institution, governmental laboratory, or performing a residency in veterinary medicine), and 52 business facility licenses. The number of licensees varies slightly from year to year as indicated here:

<u>RVTs:</u>			<u>Veterinarians:</u>		
FY06 New:	167	Total: 1887	FY06 New:	165	Total: 3569
FY07 New:	258	Total: 1825	FY07 New:	194	Total: 3775
FY08 New:	206	Total: 2017	FY08 New:	144	Total: 3492
FY09 New:	243	Total: 2168	FY09 New:	158	Total: 3861
FY10 New:	297	Total: 2492	FY10 New:	186	Total: 3790

Additionally, 54 initial limited licenses and 7 business facility licenses were issued for FY10.

Complaint & Disciplinary Process

During FY 10, the Board received 122 complaints. *(21 cases are open investigations and will receive Board deliberation in FY11.)* The Board issued 1 Adjudication Order as a result of a disciplinary hearing and entered into 6 Settlement Agreements. The Board issued 10 Cease & Desist Letters to individuals allegedly practicing veterinary medicine without a license. The Board referred 1 case to the Prosecutor for a charge of practicing veterinary medicine without a license. The majority of complaints were for allegations of substandard medical/surgical veterinary care. The next largest group of complaints related to fee issues over which the Board does not have jurisdiction. The Board does not have jurisdiction over fees, boarding/grooming facilities, breeders, "bedside manners", refusal to provide a prescription, business practices, or attempts to collect a debt.

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.

Renee Jessen, RVT Board member, presented on Board rule changes and compliance issues to attendees at the Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians in October, 2009.

IT

The Board contracts with DAS IT for computer services. The Board was able to replace in FY 10 one desktop that was 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.

National Membership

The Board maintains membership with the American Association of State Veterinary Boards (AAVSB). The American Association of Veterinary State Boards provided Dr. Redman, 2009 Board President, the ability to represent the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board at the AAVSB conference in September, 2009. Dr. Redman then provided the Board with an update on issues of veterinary medicine impacting regulatory agencies.