

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Annual Report FY 2012

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 FY12.

Board Members:

Tim Kolb, DVM, President	Delaware - term ends 12/31/2012
Gurdas Dass, DVM, Vice-President	Beachwood – term ends 12/31/2013
Renee Jessen, RVT, Secretary	Berkey – term ends 12/31/2012
Roger Redman, DVM (<i>reappointed July, 2011</i>)	Wooster-term ends 12/31/2013
<i>Kurandi Morris, consumer member</i>	<i>Westerville – resigned 08/10/2011</i>
<i>Lisa Mach, DVM, JD</i>	<i>Cleveland – term ended 12/31/2011</i>
<i>Paul Stull, DVM</i>	<i>Dayton – resigned 11/23/2011</i>

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 fines and miscellaneous sources. The Board was allotted \$319,407 for FY 2012. The Board had \$85,110.30 in operating expenses and \$210,715.37 in payroll expenses for FY12. The Board generated \$756,656.10 in Revenue for FY12. Of the total revenue, \$18,230 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 consideration of Executive Order 2011-01K entitled “Establishing the Common Sense Initiative.” The Board is in the process of reviewing the Board rules to meet the 5 year review deadline and filing with JCARR. The Board worked with the Lt. Governor’s Common Sense Initiative Commission before filing the proposed rules. The Board incorporated the mandatory Auditor of Ohio fraud hotline notification for all employees into its Employee Manual which was approved by the board members at their May board meeting. The acknowledgement of receipt forms were signed by staff and board members and maintained in the Board files. The Record Retention Schedule was reviewed and updated to include the CPI and Public Records Request Logs.

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 \$18,230 to the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment fund (ALI 888-602) in FY 11 to reflect \$10.00 from each veterinary license renewal from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

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, 2012.

Two applicants submitted applications for consideration by the Board at their June 2012 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. The Board awarded one \$15,000 grant for a service commitment of two years and one \$9000 grant for the remainder of the student loan owed with 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 2012. Approximately 50% 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 \$326,000 in individual checks within the office. The Board staff continues to prepare the board renewal mailings in-house and send out the license certificates in efforts to reduce costs.

The Board is currently responsible for the licensure requirements of 4041 veterinarians, 2876 registered veterinary technicians, 134 limited licensed veterinarians (whose practice is limited to an academic institution, governmental laboratory, or performing a residency in veterinary medicine), and 58 business facility licenses. The number of licensees varies slightly from year to year as indicated here:

<u>RVTs:</u>			<u>Veterinarians:</u>		
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
FY11	New: 234	Total: 2476	FY11	New: 209	Total: 4022
FY12	New: 245	Total: 2876	FY12	New: 127	Total: 4041

Additionally, 55 initial limited licenses and 7 new business facility licenses were issued for FY12.

The Board collaborated with The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine to revise the national examination accommodation process and application with the Board to mirror recent changes under the Americans with Disability Act.

Complaint & Disciplinary Process

During FY 12, the Board received 144 complaints. Each year the Board staff will track an area of the Board processes that may have been of concern or the Board would like to see improvement. The Board staff tracked the number and efficiency of investigations and compliance inspections performed during the fiscal year. Investigations are performed as a result of a written complaint to the Board and the need by Board members for information not gleaned from the medical records, radiographs or narratives submitted. Compliance inspections are performed as a facility inspection after a letter has been sent to the owner of the veterinary facility, as required by Section 4741.26 ORC. This fiscal year there were at least 17 investigations performed and 7 Compliance Inspections. On the average, the investigations and inspections were performed and completed within 2 months of the request being sent to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The Board entered into 16 Settlement Agreements and denied one Veterinary Business Facility License after adjudication. The Board collected approximately \$15,000 in Fines.

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.

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 in December and posted the newsletter on the website. The newsletter was sent via USPS in the veterinary renewals and via email to the RVTs whose email has been voluntarily submitted. Additionally, the Board has updated the website to include recent Board decisions regarding veterinary issues, approved continuing education, and Board disciplines of licensees. 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 Secretary, and Dr. Timothy Kolb, DVM, Board President, presented on current Board issues and compliance processes to attendees at the Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians conference in October, 2011. Dr. Timothy Kolb, DVM, and Renee Jessen, RVT presented on current board issues and on the disciplinary and compliance process of the Board at the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association's 2012 Midwest Veterinary Conference. Additionally, Dr. Kolb presented on Ethics and Jurisprudence to the 1st year veterinary students at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in February 2012. Dr. Kolb 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 March, 2012.

IT

The Board contracts with DAS IT for computer services. There has not been a need for replacement of computers or printers this fiscal year.

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.

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. Dr. Roger Redman, DVM served on the Finance Committee in 2011 for AAVSB. Dr. Redman was appointed to the AAVSB Bylaws & Resolution Committee after his reappointment to the Board in 2011. Dr. Redman has been nominated by the Board members to serve on the AAVSB Board of Directors.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by: Theresa Stir, Executive Director