

OHIO VETERINARY MEDICAL LICENSING BOARD NEWS

Winter 2008

Current Board Members

<p>Janet Small, DVM President Amherst, OH Term: 2/5/05-12/31/09</p>	<p>David Koncal, DVM Vice President Sagamore Hills, OH Term: 2/7/05- 12/31/09</p>	<p>Renee Jessen, RVT Secretary Berkey, OH Term: 2/7/05- 12/31/09</p>
<p>James Burt Member New Albany, OH Term: 1/1/02-12/31/07</p>	<p>Roger Redman, DVM Member Wooster, OH Term: 3/10/06- 12/31/10</p>	<p>Darrell Gitz , DVM Member Columbus, OH Term: 4/12/02 - 12/31/09</p>
	<p>Geoffrey Smith Member Columbus, OH Term: 1/05/07 - 12/31/09</p>	

Regulation Update:

Every five years, the law requires the Board to perform a review of the rules governing the practice of veterinary medicine. In addition, recent legislation has resulted in the need to update the rules, Chapter 4741 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The rule changes became effective November 15, 2007. In summary, the recent changes:

- Establish the passing score of 425 or converted score of 75 on the Veterinary Technician national exam;
- Provide that the medical records are the property of the treating practice and can be requested by a treating veterinarian.
- Establish rules for the practice of mobile veterinary practices;
- Require the veterinarian to make a reasonable attempt to communicate with the animal's owner prior to euthanasia;
- Establish that a vaccination clinic must keep a copy of the vaccination record for three years;
- Establish general provisions and disciplinary guidelines for Veterinary Business Facility licenses;
- Establish criteria for a limited license;
- Establish criteria for a temporary permit to practice in Ohio;
- Establish criteria for the veterinary student loan repayment program. (*see separate article*)

The rule (4741-1-14 OAC) that has caused some controversy related to the animal aide being permitted to perform venipuncture under the direct supervision of a

veterinarian after being adequately trained. The anticipated effective date is January 12, 2008.

A copy of the rules can be accessed on the Board's web site at www.ovmlb.ohio.gov.



Board Issues

From the June 13th Board meeting:

Equine Dentistry—It was the general consensus of the board members that an individual certified in equine dentistry may perform teeth floating with or without sedation under direct supervision of a veterinarian.

RVT & Euthanasia in Animal Shelters—Under a standing order from a licensed veterinarian, an RVT can euthanize a cat abandoned at the shelter without waiting the three days if the owner is unknown.

From the August 8th Board meeting:

Animal Massage Therapists—The Board has received multiple inquiries regarding the ability of animal massage therapists and other allied health professionals to perform therapies on animals and not violate the veterinary practice act. Basically, the use of massage therapy to treat a **medical** condition of an animal is the practice of veterinary medicine and should be monitored by a veterinarian. In the event of a medical situation a veterinarian can prescribe such services as a therapist can provide or the therapist can work under the supervision of the veterinarian as long as the veterinarian maintains the medical supervision for the animal.

Jonathan Rudinger, President of IAAMB provided a half hour presentation to the Board on animal massage therapy. He indicated that the association is pursuing legislation to certify or license the practice of animal massage therapy.

Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program

The student loan program was developed to provide large animal veterinary services in veterinary resource shortage areas. \$10 of each veterinary license renewal fee goes to the loan repayment fund. The Board is currently meeting with the Board of Regents and developing an application process for the interested veterinarian. The Board will have information on the web site soon regarding the application process. Interested individuals may review Section 4741.40 to .47 of the Revised Code and Rule 4741-3-01 through 05 of the Administrative Code.

Ohio Physicians' Health Program

The Ohio Physicians Health Program (OPHP) is a confidential resource for physicians, veterinarians, dentists, residents, medical students, other healthcare entities, and family members or colleagues who have concerns about a physician or other healthcare professional's health and well being. These may include:

- Substance use disorders
- Behavioral and mental health
- Stress, Burnout, or Aging
- Physical Illness

OPHP provides assistance through consultation, identification, intervention, referral, and case management which may include monitoring and recovery documentation. OPHP is not a disciplinary authority. OPHP protects the confidentiality and anonymity of program participants and referral sources.

When a veterinarian enters the OPHP via the Board disciplinary route, the OPHP will provide confidential reports to the Board assuring compliance with the program's treatment plan. The Board will work with OPHP and the impaired practitioner to support his or her successful recovery.

To view OPHP newsletters or for further information, visit www.OPHP.org or call (614) 841-9690.

Specialist—What does it mean?

The term "specialist" refers to a licensed veterinarian who is certified by a veterinary specialty board of a professional veterinary association recognized by rule of the state veterinary medical licensing board. This is the official definition of a specialist as listed in Ohio Revised Code 4741 (Veterinary Practice Act). It is illegal and unethical for veterinarians to identify themselves as members of an American Board of Veterinary Specialties recognized specialty organization if such certification has not been awarded. These specialties are listed in the AVMA directory.

In order for a "specialist" to use that designation and practice a specialty in the state of Ohio, a specialist certificate is required [ORC 4741.19(D) and 4741.17(A)(11)]. For the procedures to procure a certificate of registration, refer to Rule 4741-1-02.

Veterinarians are permitted to use the designation "practice limited to..." when referring to a specific area of practice in which the individual has shown a high degree of interest and/or is spending a greater amount of energy or time. It does not imply or certify that this individual has met the requirements of a specialty board or college in a specific discipline of practice. Referred clients should be aware of the qualifications and degree of expertise implied by this designation.

Individuals who have completed a residency training program in a specialty area often consider themselves to be "board-qualified" when waiting to be examined for certification. They may not use the designation of

"specialist" or "board-certified" until certification has been awarded.

The foregoing terminology is intended to clarify the qualifications of individuals to whom a veterinarian may refer patients for additional diagnosis and/or treatment. Owners of such patients should be informed of these qualifications.

Continuing Education

By Janet Small, DVM, President

The biennial license renewal form requires each licensee to attest to the fact that he or she has satisfactorily completed the required number of relevant CE hours in compliance with Rule 4741-1-11 of the Administrative Code. Any applicant making a false statement is guilty of a first-degree misdemeanor under ORC 2921.13.

As stated on the renewal form, licenses will not be renewed without proof of CE completion. CE documentation is subject to audit and verification by the OVMLB. Please note that lax recordkeeping and vague reporting will greatly increase your chances of being audited! The CE form should clearly state the title, sponsor, hour(s), and date(s) of each specific CE topic; for example:

Title: GI Case Studies: Chronic Diarrhea in Dogs of All Ages (Tams)

Sponsor: Midwest Veterinary Conference (sessions 300, 301)

Hour(s): 2

Date(s): 2/25/2006

Title: Pain Management: A Plan for Success in General Practice (Tams)

Sponsor: Midwest Veterinary Conference (session 302)

Hour(s): 1

Date(s): 2/25/2006

In the past, the OVMLB has often approved CE requests in the following form:

Title: Midwest Veterinary Conference

Sponsor: OVMA

Hour(s): 20

Date(s): February 23-26, 2006

In so doing, we assumed that licensees were familiar with the requirements of ORC 4741.16, had distinguished accurately between those topics directly related and indirectly related to the practice of veterinary medicine, and had reported the same with the utmost veracity. It appears that this has not always been the case; thus, in the interest of fairness to all, we are now asking for more detailed documentation. Please do not hesitate to call the Board office for clarification.

Board Staff

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