

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board Newsletter

December 2010

Current Board Members

James L. Hearst, DVM
President
Cincinnati, OH
Term: 2/13/02-12/31/10

Lisa Mach, DVM, JD
Vice-President
Cleveland, OH
Term: 4/1/09-12/31/11

Roger Redman, DVM
Wooster, OH
Term: 3/10/06-12/31/10

Paul Stull, DVM
Dayton, OH
Term: 3/14/10-12/31/12

Tim Kolb, DVM
Delaware, OH
Term: 3/14/10-12/31/12

Renee Jessen, RVT
Secretary
Berkey, OH
Term: 2/7/05-12/31/12

Public Member (Vacant)

Board Staff:

Theresa Stir, Executive Director

Joseph McClain, Licensure Coordinator

Clerk position (Vacant)

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Message from the President:

The same people who give us their trust every day as we perform our professional duties in practice need the Board to be their advocate and make sure our profession is providing the services they need and request.

The duties of a Board member are varied and require study and growth but are interesting and rewarding. Some of the duties are to help update and modify the practice act to make it more effective, to select worthy recipients for the large animal practitioners support awards, to monitor the NAVLE and the technician testing nationally to help promote the quality of veterinary care in Ohio, and to respond to complaints about practitioners by the public in a manner that makes sure the public receives the quality of care to which they are entitled.

We all know one of the joys of this profession is helping animals and their owners. Being on the Board is just another way to act on the desire to help. The effort involved in being a Board member is substantial but allows Board members to know they have contributed. During my term as a Board member, I have been honored to be included with tremendous contributors to veterinary medicine in our state. I am grateful for the opportunity.

Livestock Management Rule

In a joint effort with the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, a rule for livestock management has been developed in accordance with Section 4741.20(D) ORC. Rule 4741-1-13 OAC, became effective October, 2010. The animal owner is already exempt from the Veterinary Practice Act regulations. Per the new rule, the owner's agent (usually a full time employee) may perform the following accepted livestock production activities with the advice and consent of a licensed veterinarian who has provided training and oversight consistent with standard herd management practices: castration, tail-docking, non-surgical dehorning, intravenous fluid administration, pregnancy detection other than by rectal technique, medication and biological administration, except for those prohibited by law, and phlebotomy.

Veterinary Student Loan Program

The student loan program was developed to provide large animal veterinary services in veterinary resource shortage areas. \$10.00 of each veterinary license renewal fee is deposited in the loan repayment fund. In June, 2010, the Board awarded Dr. Christen Daniel, DVM \$20,000 for a two-year service commitment and Dr. Logan Strohm, DVM \$10,000 for a one-year service commitment. Applications for 2011 can be found on the Board's web site.

Getting Appointed to the Board

If you are interested in being considered for appointment by the Governor to the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, please consider completing an application and sending to the Governor's office. You can access the application at www.governor.ohio.gov then enter the "Governor" section, click on the "Appointments" heading at the top of the page, then "Boards and Commissions".

Qualified individuals will need to access the application for appointment and will need to complete the application in its entirety. Additionally, the individual may want to seek their professional association's support, as well as obtain letters of support from other veterinarians or RVTs, legislators, etc.

The board consists of 7 members who have been legal residents of Ohio for at least 5 years and appointed by the Governor. Board members are compensated for their travel and receive a fixed amount for the day of the board meeting. Board members serve a term of 3 years and meet the second Wednesday of every month.

Duties of the board by law can be reviewed in Section 4741.03 ORC on the board's web site under Ohio Revised Code.

Pharmacy Issues:

New Rule A recent revision in a Pharmacy Rule requires the "full" name of the animal's owner and identification of the animal on the label of the prescription drug dispensed. Rule 4729-5-16 OAC can be found on the Pharmacy Board's web site at pharmacy.ohio.gov under Law & Rules or "What's New".

Proper Disposal of Prescription Drugs

According to the FDA, some prescription drugs should be flushed down the toilet or drain as they would be harmful if used by someone other than the person the medicine was prescribed for. A list of "flushable" drugs can be found on the FDA website (www.fda.gov) and include such drugs as Morphine, Dilaudid, Percocet, and Oxycontin. (There is also a link on the Board's web site under Important News).

To dispose of prescription drugs not labeled to be flushed, the FDA recommends that most medicines be disposed of in the trash after mixing them with some unpalatable substance (e.g. coffee grounds or cat litter) and sealing them in a container or plastic bag.



Due to the budget outlook for 2012, it will be necessary to discontinue the printing and mailing of the OVMLB newsletter. The newsletter will, however, be available on the Board web site and via an email listserv. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please email the OVMLB office staff at info@ovmlb.state.oh.us and indicate "newsletter" in the subject heading. Thank you for your continued interest in being informed about the regulation of your profession.

We all want to do what's best for our patients and clients. Unfortunately, this compassion and empathy can sometimes cause extreme grief to the very people we're trying to help. It's important to realize that when a patient presents to us, and the story relayed about what did or did not happen at a previous hospital is contrary to what you would have done, based on your current assessment, that your words can leave a lasting impression.

Although not great in number, the Board has received client complaints based upon a subsequent veterinarian's unilateral comments, critical of the initial doctor's decisions. This has caused the clients extreme grief, and when the evidence does not support a violation, that same client then harbors resentment toward the Board and to the profession in general.

By all means, contact us if you truly believe a violation has occurred—we critically assess all complaints. But, please, base your comments upon all of the facts, not just one version. It's heartbreaking to have to tell a bereaved owner that the facts revealed no violation, when they relied on professional's comments based upon incomplete facts.



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Licenses

Q: How does a licensee obtain a Letter of Good Standing from the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board (OVMLB)?

A: The licensee needs to send a written request to the OVMLB stating his/her name and current address and advise exactly where the letter is to be sent. The request can be sent via fax, email or via U.S. postal mail. If the licensee has been provided a certification of license form from the state where he/she is seeking a license, the form may be sent to the OVMLB for completion and forwarding. The OVMLB also has a form on their web site (found under "Forms") for obtaining verification of a license in good standing from Ohio or for Ohio.

The processing time for the request is approximately five (5) business days. There is no charge to obtain a Letter of Good Standing from the OVMLB.

Q: How do I replace my misplaced or stolen license?

A: The veterinarian or registered veterinary technician needs to send a letter to the OVMLB requesting a duplicate license renewal certificate and/or a new wall certificate and explaining the loss of the original or complete the form that can be found on the Board's web site. There is no charge for the duplicate license renewal certificate. However, there is a fee of \$35.00 for a new wall certificate (suitable for framing). Checks are to be made payable to the "Treasurer, State of Ohio".

Q: If I get married or divorced and change my name, do I need to purchase a new wall license and request a new renewal certificate?

A: You do not need to purchase a duplicate wall certificate unless you want your current name to appear. Your current license though must reflect the name you use professionally. When you advise the OVMLB, in writing, of your name change, you need to request a duplicate license to be issued with the correct information and sent to you for display in accordance with Rule 4741-1-03 (B) of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Q: How do I keep track of the status of my license or application?

A: Once an application is received, it is entered into the State database system. Anyone (including the public) can check the status of a license by going to the OVMLB web site and then License Verification. Enter the last name or other identifying information and the status of the license will appear as pending, active, or expired. The system will also indicate if the licensee has discipline against their license. An applicant whose license has been pending for several weeks may want to contact the Licensure Coordinator to determine what document is missing in order to have a "complete" application for licensure. Ohio law does not permit an applicant to practice veterinary medicine while their application is pending.