



## Communication and Online Renewal Changes in Board's Future

Jared B. Granier, LBVM Executive Director

The LBVM administrative staff is making some changes relative to how we communicate with its licensees. With a very small two-person administrative office, we must ensure we are using our time as efficiently as possible. One such step we are taking is to eliminate, to the greatest extent possible, our reliance on the postal service and instead moving much more in the direction of electronic communication. Over the next year, this will involve updates to our website to increase the ease of access to the wealth of information already available related to the LA Veterinary Practice Act and rulemaking matters, license renewals, continuing education, and more.



Additionally, it is our goal to communicate more frequently via email, especially during the time leading up to - and during - the annual renewal cycle, including important dates and deadline reminders as well as any significant changes for the renewal cycle. Of course, we will always welcome phone calls to our office during regular business hours regarding the submission of information or questions for Board consideration; however, please understand that you may be requested to submit your questions to the Board in writing via email. The objective is for the Board to fully understand your questions so a complete response can be provided, especially if it involves further research into the Practice Act. We acknowledge that some questions may be more time-sensitive, and our staff will do its best to respond as thoroughly and as timely as possible.

Along with on-going efforts to improve the flow of information to our licensees, the LBVM is also in the process of moving to a much more effective, user-friendly online renewal system, with our goal being to implement it for the '21-'22 renewal cycle. We recognize there were numerous issues with the current online renewal application and by moving to a new

enterprise-level regulatory platform we will be able to much more effectively and securely manage the application and renewal processes, track continuing education and communicate in real-time with our licensees and the general public.

### '21-'22 Renewal Cycle

**July 1 to September 30**

*100% Online - No More Paper!*

As we get closer to rolling out the new system, we plan to begin mailing out notifications, initially both by postal services and by email. It is important to note that beginning with the '21-'22 renewal cycle, paper renewal applications will not be mailed or accepted. We realize some will disapprove of the Board moving to a completely electronic renewal system; however, in today's

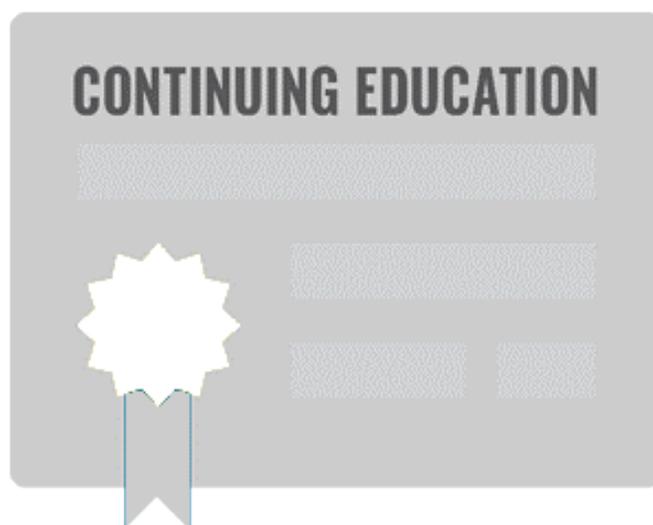
technological age and with the uncertainties and effects of the worldwide pandemic, it is our office's goal to utilize the most effective and efficient means of managing our regulatory responsibilities as a whole, especially given the difficulties with the postal services our office has experienced in the past couple of years. The LBVM office is here to help with the transition into the new online renewal system.

## Continuing Education Requirements

### Emergency Rule due to COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine (LBVM) has exercised the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, specifically La. R.S.49:953(B), and through the authority granted in La. R.S. 37:1518, and in accordance with Executive Department Proclamation Number 33-JBE-2020 to adopt an emergency rule which added language to Chapter 4, section 403, Chapter 8, Section 811, Chapter 12, Section 1227, Chapter 15, Section 1517 and Chapter 11, Section 1105.

The added language in these sections allowed for a temporary extension of the deadline for obtaining approved continuing education units related to the renewal and reinstatement of licenses and certificates during the current fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.



Additionally, all required CE hours can be completed online for the '20-'21 and '21-'22 renewal cycles.

## Emergency Deadline Extension and Increase in Accepted On-line CE Hours

For the application cycles of 2020-2021 (*with the CE period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020*) and 2021-2022 (*with the CE period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021*), all licensees and certificate holders are given until June 30, 2021 to complete the required CE hours for both application cycles. Also, there is no limit for approved online instruction - all CE hours can be completed online for the '20-'21 and '21-'22 renewal cycles.

The Emergency Rule can be viewed in its entirety at [www.lsbvm.org/news](http://www.lsbvm.org/news) under the "Rule-Making" section.

The conditions of this emergency rule expire on June 30, 2021.

## How to Submit CE Hours for '20-'21 and '21-'22 Renewal Cycles?

All DVM licenses and RVT/CAET certificates not renewed by the September 30, 2020 deadline are now expired. The deadline extension from the above emergency rule only affects continuing education hours. Any missing CE hours for the '20-'21 renewal cycle must be completed by June 30, 2021 and proof of completion submitted along with the full CE required hours of the '21-'22 renewal application.

## 2021 Board Meeting & State Board Dates

The LA Board of Veterinary Medicine will meet at 8:30am on the following dates: February 4, April 1, June 3, August 5, October 7, and December 2, 2021.

Location: 5825 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

*The State Board Exam for new DVM applicants will be held on the first Tuesday of every month in 2021.*

## Board Personnel Changes...

- ❑ The members of the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine and staff of the Board office would like to congratulate Dr. Keri Cataldo on being elected President of the Board for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- ❑ The members of the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine and staff of the Board office would also like to welcome its newest Board member, Trisha Marullo, DVM. Dr. Marullo is a 1999 graduate of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and practices in the Lafayette area, focusing largely on small animal and exotic pet medicine and surgery. Dr. Marullo served almost four years in the Army Veterinary Corps and also served in 2016 as President of the Louisiana Veterinary Medicine Association. Her appointment on the Board runs through August 1, 2025.
- ❑ The Board will miss its departing members, William H. Green, DVM and James "Sunny" Corley, DVM. Dr. Green's most recent term with the Board expired August 1, 2020 and Dr. Corley's current term will expire on August 1, 2021. Dr. Green has had three appointments to the Board, and Dr. Corley is completing his second appointed term. The LBVM appreciates their service and we will greatly miss their historical knowledge and dedication to the veterinary medicine profession.
- ❑ The Board office has relocated from its former downtown Baton Rouge location and into the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The Board's new address is **5825 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806**.

The Board office staff is always pleased to assist anyone with questions concerning the Board and its role in regulating veterinary medicine in the State, and we extend continued best wishes for our administrative team Board members, and all of our state's veterinarians.



## License Renewal Statistics 2020-2021 (as of Nov. 9, 2020)

Active DVM – 1612      Inactive DVM – 102      Faculty DVM – 186  
RVT – 282      CAET – 151      RED – 3

## Address Service Requested

Louisiana Board of  
Veterinary Medicine



5825 Florida Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70801  
225-925-6620  
225-925-6622 (fax)  
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www.lsbvm.org

### Board Members 2020-2021

Keri A. Cataldo, DVM,  
*President*  
Joseph B. Bondurant, Jr., DVM,  
*Vice-President*  
Alfred G. Stevens, DVM,  
*Member*  
Trisha C. Marullo, DVM,  
*Member*  
James R. Corley, DVM,  
*Member*