

the  
**LOUISIANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**Quarterly Report**

Vol. 1, No. 1

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**LBVM TO PUBLISH QUARTERLY REPORT**

After receiving many requests for a "newsletter" and finding that many licensed veterinarians are not sure what the laws and rules in the veterinary practice act contain, the members of the Board have determined to begin publishing a quarterly report which will be mailed to all licensees of the Board.

Issues which we hope to cover on a regular basis will include: reports of disciplinary actions taken, CE policy and requirements, and short reviews of the statutes and rules affecting the practice of veterinary medicine. Special interest items will also be covered.

A special feature of this report will be answers to questions submitted to the Board for this column or those questions the Board staff and members are frequently asked. Your feedback and participation are welcome and invited! **Please let us know what you want to hear about.**

**MINIMUM STANDARDS PUBLISHED**

Many states have adopted minimum standards for the practice of veterinary medicine. Using other states' practice acts and the AVMA models, the LBVM has promulgated its first set of such standards for Louisiana.

The Board has also reviewed the entire practice act and updated many of its provisions. The new versions are at the printer and should be available in May. The Board intends to send a revised practice act with each renewal form.

**RENEWAL PERIOD CHANGED**

At the recommendation of staff and accounting personnel, the Board requested a legislative change to move the renewal period into the fiscal year for which the renewal fees are to be spent. The new renewal period will begin on the first day of the fiscal year and will continue for 90 days as always.

**The new RENEWAL PERIOD is July 1 through September 30. CE did not change. CE hours are taken in the prior fiscal year of July 1 to June 30.**

*Congratulations from the Board members and staff to Board vice-president, Dr. Dale O. Turner for receiving the LVMA award as veterinarian of the year!*

**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE  
RECORD KEEPING FORMS**

Two years ago, the Board developed several sample record keeping forms which are available free of charge.

Some persons who requested copies of these forms from us previously did not receive them. If you are one of those people, please let us know!

The forms should meet DEA standards and may be copied.

**NEW RULES PUBLISHED**

The process of publishing rules to allow licensed veterinarians to legally provide legend drugs to animal control officers is started. The new rules will be official on June 20, 1994 and will be available at that time.

Copies of Zoo Rules which enable zoo veterinarians to instruct employees in the use and storage of dangerous drugs in the event of an emergency will be included in the revised practice acts.

**SURVEY ON PRESCRIPTIONS**

No rules exist which require licensed veterinarians to provide written prescriptions to clients. Some complaints have been received from consumers. Do you provide written prescriptions? If not, how do you handle those requests?

We would like to compile these statistics to respond to future complaints. Replies may be anonymous if you wish.

**PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAM CHANGES**

Board members have voted to begin an educational process about the goals of the preceptorship program in Louisiana. Informational programs are planned at local association meetings in the future. The goals of the program and methods for ensuring that the experience is beneficial to students will be discussed. The role of the practitioner and the regulations which govern the program will also be reviewed.

**ANGOFF SESSIONS UNDERWAY**

Under the direction of Dr. Dale Turner, practitioners and faculty members are working on the development of new items for the equine medicine and legal components of the state board examination. Dr. Turner is also compiling a

history of the state board exam development process which will outline the problems faced by the Board prior to the use of the Angoff method of test validation. Anyone interested in becoming involved in the item writing or Angoff sessions may contact the Board office, Dr. Turner, or Dr. Corley.

**WATCH FOR RENEWAL FORMS BEING MAILED IN MIDDLE OF JUNE -  
C.E. MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN JULY 1 AND JUNE 30 EACH YEAR**

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE PRACTICE ACT?** The question featured for this month has been raised in Angoff sessions and led to a recent complaint case. (Correct answer is found at the end of the page.)

What are the differences (if any) in what preceptees are allowed to do compared to what unlicensed (graduate) veterinarians are allowed to do?

- a. Only preceptees may perform surgery, diagnose, and prescribe under direct supervision.
- b. Preceptees may work without direct supervision.
- c. Unlicensed, graduate veterinarians may perform any service a preceptee can provide as long as direct supervision is available.
- d. There is no difference.

#### **QUARTERLY QUESTIONS - PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING**

**QUESTION:** Can a licensed DVM legally dispense drugs on the order of another licensed DVM?

**ANSWER:** No. DVMs may only dispense to animals with whom a valid patient/client relationship has been established. Dispensing drugs on the order of another licensed person is a violation of the veterinary practice act as well as the regulations of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.

**QUESTION:** Can a licensed DVM order drugs for himself or for members of his immediate family?

**ANSWER:** No. A DVM may only dispense drugs to animals. Providing drugs to any human being is prohibited by the veterinary practice act, the Pharmacy Board regulations, FDA and DEA.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN RECENTLY** Since January 1, 1993, the Board has received twenty-one new complaints, six of which involved persons practicing without a license. A total of twenty cases involving DVMs have been closed with ten of these having a finding of no grounds for the complaint. The six most recent cases where a finding of fault was made are listed below:

**Case No: 92-1223** DVM performed improper procedure (standing C-section on a horse) resulting in necessity of death for the animal. DVM found to have violated statute 37:1526, and Rules 1023, 1037, and 1039. DVM agreed to psychiatric evaluation, to return to veterinary school for one block, to take 16 extra CE hours in client relations over next five years, to pay a fine of \$300, to reimburse Board expenses of \$3,047.89, and to reimburse owners for cost of treatment rendered.

**Case No: 93-0818** DVM euthanized an animal when owner suggested it be "put to sleep" prior to a procedure. Owner meant anesthetize; not euthanize. DVM issued a reprimand and a recommendation to obtain written consent prior to any euthanasia.

**Case No: 93-0910** DVM's staff sent wrong animal to shelter to be euthanized. DVM advised that he is responsible for the actions of his staff and issued letter of reprimand and a recommendation to obtain written consent prior to any euthanasia.

**Case No: 93-0728** A lab sample, critical to the diagnosis and client's decision to treat or euthanize, was not picked up by the lab as scheduled. DVM asked staff to call lab again but took no other action to have the sample delivered. Sample was received at lab five working days later. DVM agreed to pay a fine of \$250 as well as accept a letter of reprimand.

**Case No: 93-0525** A former employee filed complaints about conditions and procedures at practice. During the investigation, the Board determined that technicians were performing routine medical care without direct supervision. DVM found in violation of Rules 1023, 1049, and 1031 as well as statute 37:1526. DVM ordered to pay fine of \$500, accept a letter of reprimand, and take and pass the regulatory portion of the state board examination.

**Case No: 93-1208** Unlicensed, graduate veterinarian accepted employment at practice where he performed regular services both with and without direct supervision. DVM found to have violated statutes 37:1526 and 37:1531. DVM fined \$500, given letter of reprimand, and a suspension of his license (when issued) for 30 days.

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**ANSWER TO QUIZ:** The correct answer is "a" Preceptees may perform diagnosis, surgery, prognosis and prescription of medicines and appliances while under direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian while in a Board-approved preceptorship program. Unlicensed, graduate veterinarians are the same as any unlicensed person and may not perform any of these services even if direct supervision is provided.

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