

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

Vol. 1, No. 2

Summer, 1994

**PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING LEGEND DRUGS  
"ON THE ORDER OF"**

The Quarterly Question in our last bulletin caused quite an uproar. The numerous phone calls received in the Board office made it clear that there was much confusion and misunderstanding about the regulations for prescribing and dispensing legend drugs, especially when heartworm preventative was involved. We also heard over and over a tremendous concern that the regulations of the Pharmacy Board were not practical for the every day reality of a veterinary practice.

To address these issues and attempt to find a workable solution, the Board's executive director and a board member met with the executive director and chief investigator at the Pharmacy Board. We are extremely pleased to announce that this meeting was a success. New language has been developed which can be added to the Board's rules and satisfy the requirements of the Pharmacy Board rules. The new rules will allow the dispensing of certain drugs on the order of another veterinarian. A copy of the rule changes for Rules 700, 701, 703 and 705 are enclosed with this bulletin.

The questions most often raised by the persons who called the office are answered here. Please call the Board office if you are unclear about this or you want a copy of the written policy on heartworm testing.

**Q: Can heartworm preventative be dispensed "on the order of" another veterinarian?**

**A:** The new versions of Rules 700 to 705 will allow the drug to be dispensed after proper consultation and record keeping (see the enclosed rules for details.) Until the rules go into effect, (probably January 1) this is an illegal action since heartworm preventative is a legend (by prescription only) drug.

**Q: Can heartworm preventative be dispensed without an annual test?**

**A:** Yes. There is NO law or rule which REQUIRES annual heartworm testing. The Board has a policy of strongly recommending annual testing but this is an issue of medical judgment left up to the individual practitioner. (Caution: Other states DO have different laws on this subject!)

**Q: What about mail order drugs; is a veterinarian required to write a prescription when the client asks for one?**

**A:** No. The Board has no rule requiring you to write a prescription on request. There is a Board policy which recommends that prescriptions be provided if requested. When asked, it is acceptable to let your clients know that mail order houses must be registered with the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy. If they are not, they are operating illegally. (Registration can be confirmed by calling 504/925-6496.) You may also want to talk to your clients about the possible problems of quality control. Some DVMs find it helps to offer to match the mail order house prices even though it is less than what you might normally charge.

**ANIMAL SHELTERS NEED DRUGS  
TOO**

In response to the needs expressed by the animal shelters around the state, the Board has promulgated a rule which makes it legal to provide legend drugs to animal control officers (ACOs) under certain controlled conditions. **Providing any drug to any unlicensed person is an illegal activity except as provided in this rule. As a licensed practitioner you may only prescribe for and dispense to your patients.**

If you are interested in or need more information about this new ACO rule, please contact the Board office for a copy.

**DEA ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN  
DRUG DESTRUCTION  
PROCEDURES**

The method of disposing of outdated or unwanted controlled substances will be changed effective 9/1/94. DEA will no longer accept drugs for destruction. You may obtain permission to destroy the drugs yourself or to deliver them to an authorized disposal firm. The procedures and forms are on file in the

Board office or you may contact DEA  
at (504) 840-1060 for further  
information.

*Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine*  
200 Lafayette Street, Suite 604, Baton Rouge, LA 70801-1203  
Phone: (504) 342-2176 Fax: (504) 342-2142

**DR. TURNER'S TERM ENDS WITH EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE.**

Dr. Dale Turner attended his final meeting of the Board on July 26, 1994. That evening, at a farewell dinner hosted by his fellow Board members, Dr. Mike Cummings, President of the Board, thanked Dr. Turner for his long hours and dedication to Board activities. Dr. Turner was the driving force behind the state examination development process and was a primary proponent for the upgrading and enhancement of the preceptorship program during his tenure.

**NEW BOARD MEMBER IS APPOINTED - HISTORY IS MADE**

Dr. Anne Guedry was appointed by the Governor to serve as the newest member of the Board. Her term, which begins August 1, 1994 and runs through July 31, 1999, is history making since she holds the distinction of being the first-ever female member of the Board. We want to extend our congratulations and best wishes to her as she begins her term.

**BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS AND ASSIGNS RESPONSIBILITY AREAS FOR 1994/95.**

The officers for the new fiscal year are:

Areas of responsibility selected were:

President	Dr. Mike Cummings	Complaint Committee	Dr. Hammatt
Vice-President	Dr. Robert Hammatt	Continuing Education	Dr. Burk
Secretary/Treasurer	Dr. Sonny Corley	Drug reviews	Dr. Guedry
Senior member	Dr. James Burk	Exam development	Dr. Corley
Junior member	Dr. Anne Guedry	Preceptorship	Dr. Burk
		Regulations	Dr. Cummings

FDA HAS A TOLL-FREE HOT LINE TO ANSWER POLICY QUESTIONS.  
Call 1-(800) 238-7332.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

**Case No: 94-0405** DVM reported as having no record keeping system. Investigation showed that the allegations were true. The DVM agreed and signed letter of judgment which required him to accept a public letter of reprimand, pay a \$1,000 fine, pay costs of \$475 and a three-year suspension of his license to practice veterinary medicine. The suspension of his license is suspended so long as he complies with the conditions of his judgment, allows inspections by the Board, and corrects the record keeping deficiencies.

Four cases have been closed with no disciplinary action taken and eight cases are currently pending.

**THANK YOU DUE**

**REMINDER -**

A big thank you is in order for DR. ROBIN PADDOCK from the board office for the best pre-approval system of CE programs by a local association officer. We really do appreciate your efforts.

**Renewal forms need to be postmarked by midnight SEPTEMBER 30 TO AVOID THE LATE FEE OF \$100.**

Anyone responsible for planning CE for a group who wants to know how to do this painlessly just needs to call and let us know. We will be glad to help.

And don't forget that all newly licensed graduates must begin taking CE for their first license renewal. There is no longer a grace period for persons getting a first-time or new license.

200 LAFAYETTE STREET, SUITE 604  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70801-1203