

RENEWAL PROBLEMS RESULT IN LATE FEES AND FINES

Over 100 people paid late fees and/or disciplinary fines this year; most because they did not comply with the Board's policy on continuing education hours. For many people, the combined late fee and fines amounted to \$125 in addition to the regular renewal fees. Most people who paid a late fee or fine did one of these things wrong:

1. Sent the form in during the last week without having all the items required. The late arrival meant we couldn't send it back and get it returned before the deadline.
2. Sent in less than 16 approved continuing education hours.
3. Sent in continuing education hours taken at the wrong time.

Renewal forms will be mailed out every year

between June 15 and June 30 and will have a deadline of September 30 each year.

Continuing education must be taken by June 30 each year. We are now halfway through the renewal year. If you haven't planned your CE, it's a good time to think about it! Contact the LVMA or your local association if you need information about pre-approved programs being offered.

1993 and 1994 GRADUATES - PLEASE NOTE:

ALL NEW GRADUATES MUST DO CE FOR THEIR **FIRST** LICENSE RENEWAL - THE "GRACE" PERIOD OF THREE YEARS WAS REMOVED FROM THE REGULATIONS.

| RENEWAL YEAR | RENEWAL PERIOD | C. E. YEAR |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| JULY 1 TO JUNE 30 | FIRST 90 DAYS OF THE RENEWAL YEAR | JULY 1 TO JUNE 30 |



- INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THE CAET COURSE ? - For the past two years, Dr. Brett Berryhill of Baton Rouge has worked closely with the Board's director, Vikki Riggle, to develop a course outline for the annual CAET (Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician) course. At the federal and local levels we have also been fortunate to have the involvement of Donna Dombourian, DEA Diversions Investigator and Hilton Cole, the EBRP Animal Control Director. From what we have heard from the participants, the course has been a tremendous success and - we hope - a benefit to the shelters around the state. Because we don't want anyone to feel left out, we are asking that any veterinarian interested in becoming involved in the course contact the Board office for more information. We don't pay very well but we do get a lot done and feel good about it when it's over. Please call us at (504) 342-2176 if you have an interest.

RULE CHANGES ALLOW MORE FLEXIBILITY IN PROVIDING HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE AND OTHER LEGEND DRUGS

On December 20, 1994, the Rules in Chapter 7 of the Veterinary Practice Act were amended to allow a DVM to provide legend (prescription only) drugs without first performing a patient examination. To do so, the DVM must consult directly with the patient's regular treating doctor under certain, stipulated conditions. A copy of this new regulation as well as the one which allows licensed Louisiana veterinarians to legally provide legend drugs to bona fide animal control officers is enclosed with this bulletin. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE BOARD OFFICE FOR CLARIFICATION.

Return of Radiographs - Is It Legal?

What do you do when a client asks you to provide records and/or x-rays of their pet? It depends. You have some choices about what you are required to provide. Board policy (not LAW) is to encourage you to provide copies of records to clients. You may charge a "reasonable" fee for doing so. Some insurance carriers suggest that you recopy the records rather than providing originals or photocopies. The Board does not have statutes or rules about these choices; only the policy which says that clients should have access to their records when they ask. Radiographs are no different. If a client wants them, they can be provided. However, to protect yourself and to be able to prove (if necessary) that you did not just ignore the Board's requirement to keep records and x-rays for five years, the Board's attorney, Virginia Anthony, suggests the following:

Have the client sign a written acknowledgment which says that s/he understands the x-ray is the property of the DVM, that s/he has requested you to release it, and that s/he absolves you from any responsibility for maintaining the x-ray for the five years required by Board regulation. This policy statement is being issued by the Board to enable you to have something to help resolve disputes with clients and know that you are in compliance with the laws and regulations of the Board. You may want to have an attorney draw up the agreement statement for you as well as check with your insurance carrier for their additional insights



Happy



Holidays



LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS PLANNED changes and has been asked to help support the efforts of the Board. Also included in the legislative package are changes which allow the Board members to be reimbursed for lunch expenses during board meetings and to enhance the methods by which the Board may prevent the illegal practice of veterinary medicine

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

When general legal opinions are needed, the Board staff can obtain that from the Board's attorney. So, if you have a question or someone asks you about the legality of a particular act, please refer them to us. That's our job and we're happy to do it!

At a recent discip
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DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Case No: 94-0322 DVM was found to have violated Rule 1029 of the Veterinary Practice Act by hiring an unlicensed graduate veterinarian and allowing him to perform activities (such as surgeries and making of diagnosis.) which are strictly prohibited even under direct supervision. A fine of \$500 plus costs was levied in addition to a requirement that the DVM retake and pass the Rules and Practice Act Component (RPC) exam.

Case No: 94-0711 DVM was found to be in violation of record keeping requirements by having no system of patient records in the clinic. A fine of \$1,000 was levied along with a license suspension of three years. The suspension is suspended so long as a record keeping system is maintained.

NO ACTION: Seven cases were reviewed and closed with no disciplinary action taken. Two cases are currently pending.

Quarterly Questions:

Question: Is it legal for unlicensed persons to sell vaccines without a prescription? What about feed stores, pharmacies, pet and grocery stores; can they legally sell these drugs?

Answer: Yes. Because vaccines and some heartworm preventatives are not legend (by prescription only) they can be legally sold over the counter. These regulations are under the jurisdiction of the FDA, not the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine. However, the Board would like to know the name and address of any outlet selling prescription-only products or any cases you may encounter where the purchase of over the counter medications has resulted in medical problems. We hope to compile this information to let FDA know of the kinds of problems which occur. In the meantime, this is a federal issue which you should write to your congress members about.

Question: Can the Board accept 32 hours of CE every two years instead of 16 hours per year?

Answer: Not at this time. This question comes up frequently and has been reviewed by the Board and staff a number of times. Because the tracking and bookkeeping requirements for an every-other year system would be much more labor intensive (and expensive) the Board does not feel that this can be changed at this time. However, we will continue to consider this option along with other CE policies in the future.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE PRACTICE ACT?

1. Which of these items falls within the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine?

- a. Chiropractic services on animals
- b. Dentistry on animals
- c. Diagnosis of condition
- d. All of the above
- e. B and C only

2. Which of these activities can be legally handled by a trained person (such as an RVT, unlicensed DVM or trained layperson)?

- a. Taking of histories, weight, etc., under direct supervision
- b. Perform basic examinations and make preliminary diagnosis under direct supervision
- c. Administration of routine vaccines when DVM is not on premises but left specific orders
- d. Minor surgeries under direct supervision of DVM
- e. All of the above

[the correct answers are: 1 "d" and 2 "a"]

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ADDRESS CORRECTION

REQUESTED