

the
LOUISIANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Quarterly Report

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RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

There have been a number of recent complaint cases investigated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine where no violations were found concerning the medical care provided; nevertheless, record keeping violations were found. Particular problems have been found with improperly recording the amounts and routes of drugs administered to patients.

We would like to remind practitioners of the record keeping requirements found in Rule 701 which address these particular issues.

§701.A.1.a.

A. It shall be considered unprofessional conduct within the meaning of R.S. 37:1526(14) for a licensed veterinarian to keep improper records. Records shall be established and maintained as follows:

- 1. Each Louisiana licensed veterinarian shall maintain an individual record on each animal or herd to include, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Name or herd identification, breed, sex, description, permanent identification (if available), tattoos or other identifying marks, name of owner, complaint, diagnosis, therapy, -- including drugs, chemicals and medications, the amount administered and the method of administration -- and surgical procedures.**

To make clear the importance of good record keeping in the practice of veterinary medicine and the reason for the regulation, the Board is currently in the process of amending Rule 701 by adding the following statement:

The purpose of these regulations [concerning record keeping] is to produce a record such that a veterinary peer can, by using said records, gain a full understanding of the findings, diagnostic process, reasons for treatment protocol, and applicability of surgical procedures. Records shall be legible.

We encourage you to pay attention to the details of your record keeping.

COMPLAINT CASES: Final Findings of the Board

Case No: 96-0111V A dog presented with diabetes and the veterinarian failed to recognize the severity of the animal's condition; therefore, the veterinarian failed to aggressively manage the case. The Board found a violation of Rule 1023 (Degree of Treatment) and issued the following disciplinary action: public letter of reprimand; six hours of additional continuing education in the specific area of internal medicine with at least two hours in diabetes management; submit to and pay for inspections conducted by the Board; ineligibility as a preceptor for three years; and reimbursement of Board costs.

Case No: 97-1028V Veterinarian failed to provide direct supervision of lay staff in the treatment of an animal and failed to label the drug which was dispensed for the animal. Board found a violation of Rules 702.A.2 (Direct Supervision), 705.B (Prescribing and Dispensing Drugs), and 706 (Labeling of Medications Dispensed). Disciplinary

action included public letter of reprimand; pass the state Rules of Professional Conduct exam at own expense; submit to and pay for inspections conducted by the Board; ineligibility as preceptor for three years; and reimbursement of Board costs.

Case No: 97-0909V Veterinarian failed to recognize the severity of and the nature of an animal's condition despite physical evidence and radiographs, and the veterinarian either misplaced or lost the medical records of the patient in this case. The Board found a violation of Rules 1023 (Degree of Treatment) and 701.A (Record Keeping). Disciplinary action included: public letter of reprimand; eight hours of continuing education in radiology, specifically in the areas of neoplasia and orthopedics; submit to and pay for inspections conducted by the Board; ineligibility as a preceptor for three years; and reimbursement of Board costs.

animal is still relieved of any liability for the sale, donation, euthanasia, or other disposal of the animal.

The Abandoned Animals Act is not part of the Veterinary Practice Act, but we consider it a complementary law of which we try to keep licensed veterinarians informed. The effective date of the amendment is August 15, 1997.

Abandoned Animals Act

The Louisiana Legislature has amended the Abandoned Animals Act. The amended version of this law removes the requirement for publishing a notice to the owner in the newspaper and shortened the time period from 30 to 10 days before notice can be sent for non-payment of an invoice. If the notice is returned as "refused", "addressee unknown", "not at this address", or other similar designation, the veterinarian in custody of the

Check licenses

Due to a recent report of a person practicing veterinary medicine without a license, we encourage you to always check with the Board office to determine if a potential employee claiming to be a licensed veterinarian is in fact licensed in Louisiana.

Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED