

the
LOUISIANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Quarterly Report

Vol. 7, No. 3

Winter, 1997-98

James H. Burk, DVM, President • Anne B. Guedry, DVM, Vice-President • Dick C. Walther, DVM, Secretary-Treasurer
Adrienne A. Aycock, DVM, Member • George E. Gowan, Member

ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS TO BE MAILED IN JUNE

Forms for annual license renewal will be mailed to all active and inactive license holders during the last week of June 1998. If you have moved since last year's renewal, or if you plan to move in the coming months, you need to notify us of your new address NOW. Please let us know if you do not receive your renewal form by mid-July.

The Board does not accept incomplete submissions. Instructions for returning a complete submission will be included with the renewal mailing. Remember that a \$100 late fee is added when the complete renewal is not postmarked by **September 30**. When incomplete renewals are received and returned to a licensee, it is the licensee's responsibility to re-submit the completed renewal documents by September 30. We make every effort to get incomplete forms back to you in time to meet the deadline, but we urge you to mail them as early as possible to avoid the possibility of a late fee.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH RENEWAL FORMS. If your current license expires on September 30, 1998, you must have CE to renew it. All license holders, active or inactive, must complete 16 hours of CE each year, and proof of attendance for these 16 hours must be attached to the renewal form. These hours must be completed by June 30, 1998, to avoid payment of a fine. If you take your hours after June 30, 1998, you may still submit them, but you will need to include a \$25.00 disciplinary fine in accordance with Rule 403 and 413. Only those persons who have completed an affidavit of retirement or incapacity (or on military duty in a foreign country where CE programs are not available) are eligible for a waiver of CE hours. A consistent problem that the Board has faced with CE hours involves new licensees. If you were issued your initial license on or after May 1, 1997, you **are** required to earn CE hours between July 1, 1997, and June 30, 1998, for renewal of your license for 1998-99, as are all other licensees.

RULES UPDATE

In our continuing effort to keep you informed of rule changes, please be advised of the following amendment relating to a veterinarian's obligation to write a prescription. **Revised Practice Acts, which will include all rule revisions, will be mailed to all active licensees during the license renewal period, beginning at the end of June.**

§705.G Prescribing and Dispensing Drugs

It shall be considered a violation of the rules of professional conduct, within the meaning of R.S. 37:1526(14), for a veterinarian to refuse to write a prescription when a veterinarian-patient-client relationship has been established, and the veterinarian has determined that the patient's life is not endangered without the immediate administration of the prescription medication, provided that, in the veterinarian's medical opinion, the prescribed substance is

medically safe for in-home administration by the client. The veterinarian shall not be required under this rule to write a prescription for controlled substances.

Please note that it is the Board's position that, under this rule, a veterinarian may refuse to write a prescription if it is not **directly** requested by a client. For example, if a pharmacy called to confirm a prescription for which the veterinarian had not communicated with the client, the veterinarian would be under no obligation to validate the prescription order.

COMPLAINT CASES: Final Findings of the Board

Case No: 97-0609N A non-licensed veterinarian was found to have been employed as a relief veterinarian by the St. Tammany Humane Society. The non-licensed veterinarian performed any and all veterinary services which were needed, including but not limited to performing medical examinations, administering vaccinations (including rabies vaccinations), euthanizing animals, and performing laboratory tests. The Board found the unlicensed veterinarian was engaged in at least seven instances of the illegal practice of veterinary medicine, which is a violation of La. R.S. 37:1514. The unlicensed veterinarian was fined \$7,000.00 for his unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine; ordered to return to the St. Tammany Humane Society the full amount of the fees he collected from the Society (approximately \$750.00); and the unlicensed veterinarian was assessed all costs and attorneys' fees incurred in connection with this case.

Case No: 97-0401V Veterinarian failed to keep adequate records, specifically failing to keep a proper dispensing or receiving log for controlled drugs (violation of Rule 701 - Record Keeping); inappropriately used Valium to treat a patient for epilepsy (violation of Rule

1023 - Degree of Treatment); kept controlled drugs in two metal lock-boxes placed in an unsecured cabinet for storage, kept several bottles of out-dated drugs, and maintained inadequate procedure for logging controlled drugs (violation of Rules 705.B and 705.E); and violated a previous Consent Order with the Board by possessing an anabolic steroid. Disciplinary action included suspension of license for 36 months (35 months of suspension suspended); submit to and pay for inspections conducted by the Board for a three-year period; complete an approved controlled substances drug course (in addition to annual 16 hour CE requirement); fines of \$500; payment of all Board costs associated with this case; agree to forever refrain from possessing, ordering, purchasing, prescribing and/or dispensing or directing to be ordered, purchased, prescribed and/or dispensed any anabolic steroid; ineligibility as a preceptor for three years; agree that a violation of Consent Order shall constitute grounds for the suspension of license, and that a violation of anabolic steroids prohibition shall forever constitute grounds for the suspension of license.

This document was published at a total cost of \$659.55. 1,400 copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$659.55. The total cost of all printing of this document including reprint is \$659.55. This document was published by the Board of Veterinary Medicine, 263 Third Street, Suite 104, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, by the Board of Veterinary Medicine to inform licensees and other interested parties about regulatory matters relating to the practice of veterinary medicine and other issues falling within the responsibilities of the Board under the authority of LAC 46.LXXXV.101.F. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine

263 Third Street, Suite 104
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED