

Report to Licensees

of the

LOUISIANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

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Board Administrative Staff Changes

A farewell to **Ms. Tisha Turner Tillman** who resigned her position as Board Administrative Assistant following the birth of her second child in late July. For the past 6-1/2 years, Tisha has served the administrative office with dedication and efficiency. She is wished all the best in her future endeavors.

Tracy M. Landry has been hired to assume the position as Administrative Assistant of the Board's administrative office. A native of Pointe Coupee and current resident of Geismar, Ms. Landry's recent experience includes 4 years in the hospital/health care admissions arena.

The Board office staff is always pleased to assist anyone with questions concerning the Board and its role in regulating veterinary medicine in the State.

Current Information/Addresses – Many licensees have had changes in address (business and home), as well as employment, since the 2005 natural disasters. Please let the Board office know of any changes, permanent and temporary, to your information. A “Change of Information” form can be downloaded from the Board's website, www.lsbvm.org, under the “Renewals” section.

License Renewals Due End of September

All licenses expire September 30, 2006.



Emergency Plan for Temporary Registration of Out of State Health Care Providers

by Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine

As we are all aware, the 2006 hurricane season began June 1, 2006 and ends November 30, 2006. Accordingly, the LBVM has adopted an Emergency Rule, effective June 9, 2006, in accordance with the requirements of Act No. 207 of the 2006 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. This new law, Act 207, was enacted to address declared emergency situations.

The immediate implementation of the LBVM's emergency rule (which can be viewed at www.lsbvm.org) is in the best interest for the protection of the public health and safety in the event a public health emergency is lawfully declared by the Governor prior to the final promulgation of the rule through regular rule-making procedure. This emergency rule will allow

the implementation by subsequent emergency rule for the temporary registration in Louisiana, during a public health emergency lawfully declared as such by the Governor, for out of state veterinarians or veterinary technicians, whose licenses, certifications or registrations are current and unrestricted in another jurisdiction of the United States.

The Emergency Rule is to remain in effect for a period of 120 days or until adoption of the final rule, whichever occurs first. The regular rule-making process has been initiated whereby the substance of the emergency rule will be promulgated as new Rule 309 of the LBVM's current rules.

The following is the protocol which will be used by the LBVM pursuant to the law and its new rule regarding temporary registration of qualified out of state veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

I. Declaration of Public Health Emergency by Governor

On some unknown date in the future, the Governor will eventually declare a public health emergency. Pursuant to Act 207 (and new Rule 309), a determination must initially be made by the LBVM as to whether the public health emergency requires the implementation, by new emergency rule, for "temporary registration" of veterinarians or veterinary technicians whose licenses, certifications or registrations are current and unrestricted in another jurisdiction of the United States.

II. LBVM's Determination to Implement "Temporary Registration"

If the LBVM makes the determination that temporary registration is needed to appropriately respond to the public health emergency, then it exercises its authority to adopt an emergency rule at that time providing for the "temporary registration" of qualified veterinarians and qualified veterinarian technicians pursuant to its new Rule 309 (initial emergency rule and thereafter regular rule). It is the LBVM's understanding that the Louisiana State Veterinarian will be the legal entity to properly provide the LBVM with information regarding the necessity for temporary registration of out of state veterinarians and veterinary technicians due to a shortage of Louisiana licensed veterinarians during the declared emergency.

By law, the LA State Veterinarian is in charge of the Incident Command Central effort during the declared emergency. It is also the LBVM's understanding that input will be sought by the State Veterinarian's office from the appropriate Federal authorities, the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association-SART, and LSU-SVM, as well as other interested governmental entities including local authorities.

The emergency rule shall be applicable for a period of time not to exceed sixty (60) days at the discretion of the LBVM, with the potential extension of up to two (2) additional periods not to exceed sixty (60) days for each extension as determined appropriate and necessary by the LBVM. Again with regards to any extensions (which will each be implemented by subsequent emergency rule), the

LBVM will seek input from the LA State Veterinarian.

Please note that if the LBVM makes the informed determination that temporary registration of out of state veterinarians and veterinary technicians is not required for the declared emergency, then the current provisions of the Louisiana Veterinary Practice Act regarding the necessity for a Louisiana license, or a qualified exemption for a license, to practice veterinary medicine will apply. In other words, the current status quo requiring a Louisiana license will remain in effect.

III. Dissemination of Information by the LBVM

Once the LBVM adopts an emergency rule to address the need, then informational documents or notice, updated as needed, will be placed on the LBVM's website (www.lsbvm.org) which will be used for those persons interested in applying for temporary registration of qualified veterinarians or veterinary technicians whose licenses, certifications or registrations are current and unrestricted in another jurisdiction of the United States. The website will also contain the Practice Act/LBVM Rules, as well as the application form for registration and other pertinent information regarding contact information and procedures relative to the office operations and implementation of the emergency rule for temporary registration.

In concluding, the decision by the LBVM to issue temporary registration to qualified out of state veterinarians and veterinary technicians will be based primarily on whether the needs, during a declared disaster, are being sufficiently met by Louisiana licensed veterinarians and Louisiana registered veterinary technicians. It is the LBVM's understanding that the LVMA and the State Veterinarian's office have been working diligently to comprise a list of contact information for veterinarians licensed by the LBVM in the event their services are needed in a volunteer capacity in the future. If you are interested, please contact these entities. A volunteer list and organized plan will help insure that any emergency response action will be conducted as efficiently and expeditiously as possible when, and if, the need arises.

Rules Update – Please call or write the Board office for a copy of any Notice of Intent or Rules described below.

Emergency Rule 309 – Licensure Procedures – Temporary Registration During a Declared Public Health Emergency – Effective June 9, 2006. In accordance with Act 207 of the 2006 Regular Session, amendment allows implementation of emergency rule creating process for temporary registration in Louisiana, during a declared public health emergency, lawfully declared as such by the governor, for out of state veterinarians or veterinary technicians, whose licenses, certifications or registration are current and unrestricted in another jurisdiction of the United States.

Rule 309 – Licensure Procedures – Temporary Registration During a Declared Public Health Emergency – Notice of Intent published July 20, 2007.

Act 615 of the 2006 Regular Legislative Session - On June 23, 2006, Senate Bill 607 became Act 615. Act 615 was developed to formulate emergency operation plans for humane evacuation, transport, and temporary sheltering of service animals and household pets in times of emergency or disaster.

The act requires that animal shelters, humane societies, veterinary offices, boarding kennels, breeders, grooming facilities, hospitals, schools, animal testing facilities and any other businesses or not-for-profit agencies that normally house household pets or service animals, create an evacuation plan. This evacuation plan is to be filed annually with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) and your parish office of homeland security and emergency preparedness. To view a copy of the Act, please visit the Louisiana State Legislation website www.legis.state.la.us.

Currently, the LDAF is requesting that this plan be filed with their office by July 31, 2006. The evacuation plan form, along with a memo from Malcolm G. Myer, Assistant Commissioner of Animal Health Services, an example of the evacuation plan completed, and a model evacuation plan with which to guide you in your own planning, can be found on LDAF's website (www.ldaf.state.la.us) or on the LVMA's website (www.lvma.org).

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