

Report to Licensees

of the

LOUISIANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

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Welcome Back...The members of the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine and staff of the Board office would like to welcome back Board member, Steven Slaton, DVM. Dr. Slaton currently practices in Metairie and has been appointed to serve an additional five year term through July 31, 2015. We extend a warm welcome and best wishes for a productive team.



2011 Board Meeting Dates

The Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine will meet at 8:30 a.m. on the following dates:
Thursday, February 3, April 7, June 2, August 4, October 6, and December 1, 2011.

Continuing Education

Continuing education (CE) needed for annual renewal has come under criticism regarding the "14 day pre-approval" requirement. The CE requirement for annual renewal has been in effect for some time. CE is mandated by the Practice Act and the Board is obligated to implement and regulate standards which assist the profession and benefit the recipients of veterinary services. The Board has complied with its obligations and in good faith has attempted to strike a balance between the goal of insuring continued competency and reasonable standards. Accordingly, the Board enforced the existing Rules governing CE for the current renewal period (2010-2011).

The need for stricter enforcement was adhered to given two primary factors: First, the course content of some CE programs submitted with annual renewal applications at the 11th hour were simply not acceptable. The Board recently amended the Rules increasing the total number of hours for annual renewal to 20 from the previous 16, as well as removed the limitation on certain categories of course content, but there still exists the requirement that course content maintain some relation to the practice of veterinary medicine.

Second, the lack of compliance by a growing number of licensees each year failing to abide by the rules and protocol necessary for efficient and proper renewal has simply become too unreasonable to manage. A tremendous amount of time and effort by the Board and its staff were being expended on trying to accommodate some licensees during renewal. Time and effort which could have been better spent on addressing substantive matters regarding the practice of veterinary medicine. To the licensees who timely and properly complied with the CE requirements, the Board commends you and extends its thanks.

More important to the present subject, based on the constructive criticism received regarding the pre-approval requirement for "*all CE programs*," the Board has reviewed the current standards with an open mind concerning such issue. It is still the Board's intent to regulate CE so as to accomplish the goal of continued competency, but keep in focus practical factors which affect such goal, both for the Board and its licensees.

Therefore, the Board has made the decision to amend its existing CE Rules to NOT require pre-approval of a continuing veterinary education program accepted by another state's regulatory board of veterinary medicine, a governmental entity, and/or AAVSB, as well as those programs sponsored by AVMA accredited schools of veterinary medicine and/or any professional associations recognized by the Board. However, any other programs and/or their participants, including in-house programs, shall be submitted to the Board for pre-approval of the units or hours of continuing education in accordance with the current requirements which will remain in effect governing these programs.

In addition, the list of programs for which pre-approval has been granted will be updated as needed and published by the Board on its website, as well as those programs which are accepted by another state's regulatory board of veterinary medicine, a governmental entity, and/or AAVSB, and those programs sponsored by AVMA accredited schools of veterinary medicine and/or any professional associations recognized by the Board.

It is also the Board's intention that the new criteria shall become effective for the period of time (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011) for the 2011-2012 annual license renewal and every annual license renewal period thereafter. The same criteria, and effective date, shall also apply for annual CE for all RVTs and CAETs. Please monitor the Board's website at

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www.lsbvm.org with regards to acceptable CE programs, and other information pertinent to your practice. In closing, the Board will begin the rule-making process in the immediate future to effectuate the intent of this article.



License Renewal Statistics 2010-2011

Active DVM – 1170, Inactive DVM – 209, RVT – 126, CAET – 161, RED - 3

Disciplinary Cases

Case 09-0825.1V-A - As per a Consent Order, the Board found that the veterinarian administered a drug to an animal (which is extremely sensitive to its species) in an amount without advising the client of the risks of its use, and was ordered to pay a fine, as well as administrative costs.



Case 09-0825.1V-B (companion case to one above) - As per a Consent Order, the Board found that the veterinarian administered a drug to an animal (which is extremely sensitive to its species) in an amount without advising the client of the risks of its use, and was ordered to pay a fine, as well as administrative costs.

Case 09-0318V - As per a Consent Order, the Board found that the veterinarian failed to examine an animal at the time of presentation to determine whether or not a true emergency condition existed, as well as failed to communicate directly with the owner/client, and was ordered to pay a fine, as well as administrative costs.

Through its impairment program, the Board recently entered into two (2) new consent agreements with licensees/certificate holders regarding impairment issues whereby the participants will maintain licensure/certification status and are allowed to practice under certain conditions. The Board thanks these particular persons for self-reporting and their cooperation. The identities of these professionals/para-professionals and specifics with regards to these matters, as well as any other prior or pending cases with the same subject matter, are confidential and will remain so as required by law.

Please keep in mind that the Board can lawfully support the recovery and practice of those professionals/para-professionals who are cooperative and willing to help themselves (whether self-reported or reported by a third party), and still properly discharge its duty of protecting the public. If you have, or any veterinary professional/para-professional you suspect has, a problem with a controlled substance and/or alcohol, please report this to the Board office. The Board will continue to approach the matter in good faith with the hope of reciprocal cooperation to address the issue.