

Report to Licensees

of the

LOUISIANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Volume 20, No. 1

Winter 2011-2012



Welcome Back...The members of the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine and staff of the Board office would like to welcome back Board member, Patrick R. Bernard, DVM. Dr. Bernard has practiced in the Lafayette area and has been appointed to serve a five year term through July 31, 2016. He previously served as Board member from 2002 through 2007. We extend a warm welcome and best wishes for a productive team.



2012 Board Meeting Dates

The Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine will meet at 8:30 a.m. on the following dates: Thursday, February 2, April 5, June 7, August 2, October 4, and December 6, 2012.

Mission of the Board

The Board's Mission Statement is set forth in Section 1511 of the LA Veterinary Practice Act which states that "this law is an exercise of the police powers of the state to promote the public health, safety, and welfare by safeguarding the people of this state against incompetent, dishonest, or unprincipled practitioners of veterinary medicine." Accordingly, the members of the Board are appointed to their position and take an oath of office as state officials to enforce the LA Veterinary Practice Act and other laws governing the practice of veterinary medicine. For example, the Sunshine Law (Open Meetings Law) requires that the Board conduct its business in the "sunshine" after proper notice, posting of the agenda, and the conduct of protocol for public meetings. Sunshine on government is required so that anyone interested may know the workings of, and be on an equal footing before the Board.

The Board continues to be very active due to the number and diverse types of matters presented, and you are invited to attend a board meeting to see the process in action and what topics are facing your profession. More particularly, the volume of issues presented to and addressed by the Board have rapidly and unforeseeably risen in recent months. For example, a peek at some of the categories of items facing the Board are license application issues including examination and preceptorship requirements, continuing education, rule-making, declaratory statements, legislative matters, and the investigative/disciplinary process.

The Board elects to meet every two months to conduct business, unless there is a need to call a special meeting. The law only requires it to meet once a year. There has recently been the need to have two-day meetings to properly and timely address the issues, some of which are very complex, that many of you as practicing veterinarians may not even realize exist, but affect you on a daily basis.

While the Board understands that some individuals, including veterinarians and members of the public, may feel that it takes "too long" to get a resolution to their particular topic of interest, the response offered is that the Board is doing its very best to properly and timely respond to all matters within its jurisdiction. It is much more important to focus on accuracy rather than mere expediency. There are also times that certain matters require more of a priority handling and the Board must adjust its agenda accordingly. However, rest assured that the Board will address all matters presented to it for consideration.

In addition, the Board members represent the public at large, not any one segment of the community nor any special interests or private groups. To truly understand what the Board does, you need to serve on the board and/or attend the Board meetings. All veterinarians are encouraged to serve a term on the Board. You as members of the profession actually regulate yourself, as the Board is merely the vehicle. Fortunately, there are many occasions when the interests of the public and the interests of the veterinarians are the same.

The Board's website (www.lsbvm.org) is a wealth of information regarding current issues and approved CE listings, as well as a copy of past Board Newsletters for review as an information resource. In addition, the Board office staff may be contacted during regular business hours regarding the submission of information or questions for Board consideration. Please do not be offended if you are requested to submit your questions in writing. The objective is for the Board to fully understand your questions so that a complete response can be provided. Thank you for your continued cooperation and patience.

Notice of Intent – Rules 712, 1103, 1105, 1200, 1201, 1209, 1211, Alternative & Collaborative Treatment, Preceptorship Week of Training, Temporary CAET Certificate, published October 20, 2011 in the *Louisiana Register*.

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License Renewal Statistics 2011-2012

Active DVM – 1214, Inactive DVM – 198, RVT – 107, CAET – 178, RED - 3

Disciplinary Cases



Case 10-0810V - As per Consent Order, the veterinarian was negligent in failure to perform pre-anesthetic blood work or offer service to client, then record consent/refusal; failure to provide proper aftercare blood work under facts of the case or offer service to client and then record consent/refusal, and was ordered to pay a fine, as well as administrative costs.

Case 10-1203V - As per Consent Order, the veterinarian was negligent in failure to properly perform surgery on the patient's leg, and was ordered to pay a fine, as well as administrative costs.

Case 11-0714.1V - As per Order of the Board, the veterinarian practiced veterinary medicine without current license, purchased/dispensed/prescribed controlled substances to client/patients without proper CDS & DEA registrations, denied copies of patient records or opportunity to copy records without notice, and was ordered to pay a fine and administrative costs, as well as other administrative sanctions. Based on failure to renew and otherwise right to reinstate license, the veterinarian was denied licensure for a two year period.

Case 10-1217B V - As per a Consent Order, the Board found that the veterinarian was negligent in failure to document issuance of prescriptions in the patient's medical record, and was ordered to pay a fine, as well as administrative costs.

Through its impairment program, the Board enters into a consent agreement with licensees/certificate holder regarding impairment issues whereby the participant will maintain licensure/certification status and is allowed to practice under certain conditions. The Board thanks these persons for 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.

There are matters which the Board has addressed in executive session since the last Newsletter, such as impairment cases, the details of which are confidential by law. Accordingly, these particular matters are not set forth in the report above.