



Dear Licensee:

At its March 5, 2011 meeting, the Board voted to amend OAR 875-015-0030(h) to permit vaccination of an apparently healthy animal without a physical examination. The proposed rule change has been filed with the Secretary of State and will appear in the April Bulletin. A public hearing has been scheduled for April 14th, 1pm, in Room 445 at the address above. Written comments will be accepted up to the hearing and for a certain period afterward. Oral testimony will be permitted at the hearing. The Board anticipates adopting the proposed rule in May. It will become effective immediately upon adoption.

The Board encourages attendance at the public hearing. In 2008, at the request of the OVMA, the Board held a public hearing in Salem for comment on its proposed amendments regarding the Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) exam and pain management. One veterinarian appeared in support of the proposed rule changes.

Current concerns about the VCPR exam requirement may arise from misunderstanding or misapplication of the rule. Simply, it requires that a physical exam be conducted and recorded the first time an animal is treated. This exam establishes a VCPR, and at your professional discretion, additional exams for routine visits within the next 12 months may be waived. Twelve months after the last exam, a new exam would be required before further treatment is given.

The Board has received a plethora of complaints from citizens concerning this rule. Clients have been told that the Board mandates compulsory exams and fees for each visit and annual exams even if the animal has not been treated during the year. When the rule is explained, clients express disappointment that they are being charged for exams that are unnecessary or may be waived.

Please note that the rule:

- **Does not require an exam every time the client enters the practice.**
- **Does not require an annual exam if the animal is not receiving treatment.**
- **Does not require the veterinarian to charge an additional fee.**
- **Does not apply to animals under herd/flock management, or to breeders.**
- **Does not allow you to waive a pre-anesthetic exam.**

Please also note that this is a minimum standard. Exams are a fundamental diagnostic tool and waiving exams, particularly when an animal is presented with an undiagnosed problem, may lead to inappropriate treatment.

In related matters, the Board has affirmed that the current rules allow Certified Veterinary Technicians to conduct physical examinations of animals under general supervision of a veterinarian, but they may not make diagnoses. CVTs may also administer vaccines. Additionally, the Board affirmed that electronic signatures and signature stamps are acceptable for rabies vaccine and other health certificates.

Please share this information with colleagues who may not have provided the Board with a valid email address. It can also be found on the Board's website, www.oregon.gov/ovmeb.