



# Oregon Veterinary Medical Board NEWSLETTER

**Fall 2010**

## ► Rule Changes Redux

The Board's new rules for analgesia and physical exams have confounded many licensees, so here's a shot at clarifying them.

### OAR 875-015-0030 Minimum Standards

Look at this section of the Veterinary Practice Act. It describes what veterinarians need to do to ensure minimum pain management. If you are not sure about current analgesia standards, look at [www.vas.org](http://www.vas.org), or consult an instructor of veterinary analgesia.

*What can a client decline?* Your client may choose not to fill a prescription or administer the pain meds you provide, but you must offer both, and note it in the record. Obviously, you cannot control what your clients do when they leave the clinic—wouldn't *that* be nice!—but make sure they have been offered minimum analgesia for at-home pain management.

The new rules give you more control over your patients' well-being. Most clients don't want their pets to suffer, but they may not understand the essential role of pain management in the patient's treatment outcome. Educating the client may be analgesic for those pained by the extra cost.

*What about physical exams?* Here's what the rules say:

### 875-005-0005 Definitions

(16) "Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR)": Except where the patient is a wild or feral animal or its owner is unknown; a VCPR shall exist when the following conditions exist: The veterinarian must have sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal. This means that the veterinarian has seen the animal within the last year and is personally acquainted with the care of the animal by virtue of a physical examination of the animal or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept.

### 875-015-0030 Minimum Standards

(h) A physical exam shall be performed to establish or maintain a VCPR; and then each time an animal is presented with a new health problem, unless the animal's temperament precludes examination, or physical exam is declined by the owner. For each physical exam the following conditions shall be evaluated and findings documented when applicable by species, even if such condition is normal: *etc.*

~~~ Qs & As ~~~

- Q Do you have to examine a new patient presented for vaccines?  
A Yes.
- Q Do you have to do an exam on an existing patient brought in for vaccines?  
A No, as long as there is a VCPR.
- Q Do you have to do an exam if an existing patient (one with a current VCPR exam on record) presents with a brand-new health issue?  
A Yes. You must also do an exam prior to administration of sedation or anesthesia.
- Q Does this mean that you have to do a minimal exam prior to administration of euthanasia?  
A Yes. (See OAR 875-015-0030(9).)
- Q What if Dr. Clinchpoop down the street is giving vaccines to new patients without an exam?  
A If we find out, it's curtains for Dr. Clinchpoop.
- Q What if the animal is too fractious for an exam?  
A Do your best and note it in the patient record. Or send Tiny down the street to Dr. Clinchpoop.

## ► Legislation/Budget Update

The Board did not propose legislative concepts for the 2011-2013 biennium. No changes are anticipated for fees or staffing. The House Health Care Committee has appointed subcommittees comprising members of regulatory boards (including public members), professional associations and agency directors to identify and propose implementation of administrative efficiencies. Ideas include pooling certain licensing, human resources, accounting and training functions. The committee has assured that consolidation of regulatory agencies into a 'superboard' is not its goal.

The Board has submitted a proposed budget to the Governor. Shortfalls in revenue will be addressed through Emergency Board requests and/or administrative reductions. Although the Board is not a General Fund (GF) agency, i.e., all funding comes from licensing and other fees, it is subject to most of the reductions required of GF agencies, including office closures and mandatory unpaid furlough days for staff.

## ► VTNE Update

The November-December 2010 VTNE is the last time Oregon applicants may claim on-the-job experience (OTJ) to qualify for the exam. After that, only graduates of AVMA-accredited schools may apply. The Board will retain the authority to approve 'other programs', i.e., bachelors degree in pre-vet or animal science, or other education deemed equivalent to an AVMA-approved vet tech program. The Board will discuss amendments to OAR 875-030-0010 at its October meeting. The Board recognizes the statewide shortage of CVTs and must balance the need to facilitate increasing CVT numbers against its obligation to protect the public by ensuring that only qualified candidates sit for the VTNE and become licensed. The historic low passing rate for OTJ candidates (about 70 percent fail the test the first time) impelled the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) to tighten its eligibility requirements, including imposing a testing limit of five times in five years.

Certain other states, including Washington, may continue temporarily to accept

OTJ applicants. More information is available at [www.aavsb.org](http://www.aavsb.org).

Eliminating OJT eligibility continues a trend toward increasing the perception of CVTs as veterinary professionals and reducing temptation and opportunity to abet unqualified applicants. Providing false information to the Board is a violation of the rules, but well-intentioned veterinarians continue to present applicants who cannot substantiate claimed experience.

The application process is also changing. Beginning January 2011, applicants for the VTNE and NAVLE will no longer need to apply through the Board. Instead, applications may be filed directly with the AAVSB. This will save VTNE applicants \$25 and NAVLE applicants \$50 and reduce paperwork and processing time for Board staff.

### **LICENSE RENEWAL FOR 2011**

**Go to  
[www.oregon.gov/ovmeh](http://www.oregon.gov/ovmeh)  
and click on 'Renew Online.'**

This is the only notice that will be sent for your 2011 renewal. You will not need a secret code. The website will prompt you to enter your SSN, and take it from there.

In the event your new license does not arrive before December 31, fear not. Veterinary and CVT licenses are technically valid through March 31st. However, if you renew after the deadline, there are late fees.

Veterinarians need to report 30 hours of CE this time. If you have not completed required CE by December 31, contact us at 971-673-0224 or [ovmeh.info@state.or.us](mailto:ovmeh.info@state.or.us). Interns and CVTs do not need to report CE this year.

#### **Board Members**

- Dolores Gallindo, CVT, Gresham (Chair)
- Mark Reed, Public Member, Portland (Vice-Chair)
- Lauren Acton, DVM, Woodburn
- Robert Lester, DVM, Portland
- Rocky Liskey, Public Member, Klamath Falls
- Mark McConnell, BVMS, MRCVS, Springfield
- Maria McGeorge, DVM, Portland
- Colleen Robertson, DVM, John Day (New Member!)

#### **Staff**

- Lori Makinen, Director
- Gayle Shriver, Admin. Assistant
- Dennis Cheney, Investigator