



Oregon Veterinary Medical Board

NEWSLETTER

800 NE Oregon St., Suite 407 Portland, OR 97232

November 1999

Time to Renew!

Renewal forms have been mailed to licensees' address of record. If you have moved and didn't notify us, you may not receive your renewal form timely or at all, and you may be subject to late fees. If we haven't received your paid renewal by January 1st, the late fee is \$50. The fee goes up to \$100 on February 1st, and if you wait until March, expect to pay \$150 in addition to the \$100 renewal fee. The Board is required to send one late notice to licensees who have not renewed by January 1st. Licenses that have not been renewed by April 1st automatically expire. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to ensure that your license to practice is current.

This is an even-numbered renewal year, so you won't need to report CE, and you won't see a space to report it on the form. Plan on reporting 30 hours for renewal in 2001.

Board Goals for 99-01

Every two years the Board presents a proposed budget to the Governor and the Legislature. This biennium's approved budget includes two important goals—updating the Veterinary Practice Act, and identifying standards of practice for alternative or complementary methods of veterinary medicine.

Work has begun on both goals. Board members are considering other states' veterinary policies on acupuncture, chiropractic, homeopathy and other complementary methods. Dr. Bob Anderson attended the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association's annual conference in October and has drafted standard of care guidelines. In September, Dr. Marty DeWees attended the 13th Annual Conference of the International Association of Equine Dentistry. Dr. DeWees is reviewing other state's statutes and rules regarding regulation of this practice. The Board expects to promulgate relevant rule amendments before 2001.

The Unlicensed

In the last year complaints to the Board about unlicensed persons suspected of practicing veterinary medicine have increased. Ironically, the Board has no statutory authority over unlicensed individuals. If an unlicensee's behavior constitutes an egregious threat to public or animal safety, the Board may seek an injunction or ask the local District Attorney to prosecute.

New Chairperson Elected

The Board has elected Dr. Vera Rogers of Days Creek to a two-year term as chair, replacing Portland's Dr. Bob Anderson.

Dr. Rogers earned her MS and DVM degrees at Kansas State University. She and her husband, veterinarian Dr. Wayne Rogers, have owned three veterinary practices in Oregon. They currently enjoy semi-retirement on their cattle ranch.

In addition to listings in Who's Who in Veterinary Medicine and Who's Who Women of the World, Dr. Rogers has served on the AVMA Advisory Committee on Veterinary Technician Education & Activities, on the OVMA committee on continuing education, and as president of the Cottage Grove Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. Before coming to Oregon, Dr. Rogers was a professor at the OSU, KSU and WSU colleges of veterinary medicine and at Ahmad DuBello college in Nigeria. She also served as Director of the veterinary technology program at Northeast Missouri State University, now Truman State University.

Dr. Rogers is in the second year of her second term as a Board member.

Exam Dates for 2000

NBE-CCT April 11-12 December 12-13	VTNE January 21 June 16
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Registration deadlines are 60 days prior to each exam. Exams are held in Portland.

Complaints Unlimited

The Board continues to receive about 10 complaints a month. Most are quickly determined to be outside the Board's jurisdiction: fee issues, business practices, cold-hearted veterinarians. Seriously, complaints about perceived lack of compassion or sympathy constitute a significant percentage of non-jurisdictional complaints. Although there's no hard data—our database suffered an upgrade that has temporarily hidden our complaint statistics—valid complaints may have decreased in 1999. We attribute this to efforts on the part of licensees to work with clients on disputes, as well as our efforts to mediate and resolve potential problems.

There's more good news: Last legislative session's Senate Bill 235 (ORS 676) has been amended by this session's Senate Bill 236. Among other things, we are now allowed to provide more information to licensees about complaints filed against them. Although the practical application of the amendment remains to be interpreted by the Attorney General, it's possible that licensees will again be able to receive copies of complaints.

Complaints reviewed by the Board in 1999 generally have involved substance abuse, failure to provide records, charging for service not rendered, negligence, incompetence and unprofessionalism. The Board has issued two Notices of Discipline and scheduled one Contested Case Hearing.

Board office hours are
7am to 5pm Monday—Thursday
7am to 4pm on Fridays.

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Board Members

- ◆ Robert J. Anderson, DVM, Portland
- ◆ Jonathan E. Betts, DVM, Woodburn
- ◆ Martha H. DeWees, DVM, Springfield
- ◆ JoAnn V. Dewey, Public Member, Bend
- ◆ Donald M. Hagglund, Public Member, Klamath Falls
- ◆ Mark L. McFarland, DVM, Madras
- ◆ Vera Rogers, DVM, Chair, Days Creek

Can Vets Prescribe for Humans?

NO! Do not prescribe or administer drugs to people, *including yourself*. It's not lawful, even if another medical professional tells you it's okay. Two recent complaints involve one veterinarian ordering large quantities of painkillers for a friend and another self-medicating with narcotics. The DEA investigated and referred these cases to the Board. Abusing drug ordering privileges can result in the loss of your DEA license and criminal prosecution, as well as Board discipline up to and including revocation of your veterinary license.

ECFVG Rule Amendment

The Board deliberated for over a year before voting to amend in the Practice Act the definition of "graduate" to include a graduate of a foreign veterinary school who is enrolled in and has completed step 3 of the ECFVG Program and whose scheduled date to sit for the CPE exceeds six months. The rule amendment hasn't been adopted; the Board at its September meeting decided to await further developments in the negotiations between AVMA and AAVSB to improve the program. An additional test site was added this year, and some candidates' exam dates were moved up.

WebSite

It's under development right now and should be up in early Y2K. Planned features include downloadable application forms for licensure and board exams; current Board meeting minutes; info on how to file and respond to a complaint; directory of licensees; full text of the Veterinary Practice Act; and links to other exciting places, like AVMA, OVMA, AAVSB, etc. Future offerings may include online payment of fees via credit card.

Happy

Holidays!