

Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners



Newsletter



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CHANGES TO CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VETERINARIANS

In order to renew a license, veterinarians must obtain twenty (20) hours of continuing education each calendar year. Fifteen (15) hours must pertain to the medical and surgical care of animals. Five (5) hours may pertain to a special interest in veterinary medicine in fields other than the medical and surgical care of animals, including but not limited to practice management and state and federal regulatory programs. **A maximum of ten (10) hours may be obtained in a multi-media format. For every two-year period, two (2) of the required hours must pertain to regulatory issues, controlled substances, or professional ethics.** A licensee is exempt from continuing education requirements during the calendar year of the licensee's graduation from an approved school or college of veterinary medicine. The Board approves courses for only the number of hours contained in the course. A licensee will not receive credit for repeating the same course in a calendar year. The complete rule regarding **Continuing Education** is located at **Rule 1730-01-.12**.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Public Chapter 154

This act allows the Commissioner of Health or his designee to have electronic access to medical records in order to facilitate investigations when responding to an immediate threat to public health.

Today the Commissioner of Health or his designee already has this authority but must go to the facility to review the medical records. This act took effect on April 16, 2015.

Public Chapter 502

This act allows the Joint Government Operations Committee (the legislative committee that reviews all rules) to stay a rule up to 75 days instead of 60 days. Present law authorizes the Joint Government Operations Committee to consider the following factors when reviewing rules: authority, clarity, consistency, justification, necessity and reference. This act adds arbitrariness and capriciousness as two new considerations. This act took effect on July 1, 2015.

If you wish to review any of the Public Chapters in their entirety, please visit:

<http://sos.tn.gov/division-publications/acts-and-resolutions>

ACTIVE LICENSEES AS OF September 30, 2015

Veterinarians:	2,196
Veterinary Medical Technicians:	573
Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians:	283
Veterinary Facilities:	886
Certified Animal Control Agencies:	67
Certified Animal Chemical Capture Technicians:	2
Animal Chemical Capture Certification (Agency):	1

BOARD POSITION STATEMENTS

The following position statement was recently adopted by the Board:

Release of Prescriptions Upon Client Request

1. Drug therapy, when medically indicated, should be initiated by the attending veterinarian in the context of veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Clients that wish to purchase their prescription drugs from a pharmacy rather than their veterinarian should be advised to first obtain a prescription from their veterinarian before contacting a pharmacy. The veterinarian may choose to either issue the prescription in writing for the client, or contact the pharmacy electronically or by phone.
2. It is a violation of Rule 1730-01-.13 for a veterinarian to refuse to honor a client's request to prescribe, rather than dispense, a drug (AVMA Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics). The client has the option of filling a prescription at any pharmacy.
3. One factor in evaluating the quality of an Internet pharmacy is accreditation by a recognized organization such as the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). The NABP has developed the Vet-VIPPS program to ensure that Internet pharmacies that sell veterinary drugs are properly licensed and meet other program requirements. Further information is available at www.nabp.net.
4. Veterinarians asked by pharmacies to approve prescriptions they have not initiated should do so only if the prescription is appropriate and a veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists.
5. It is within the veterinarian's (not the pharmacy's) purview to determine the medical criteria whereby a drug is indicated.
6. As with any prescription, a written record should be maintained.
7. Prescribing veterinarians should ensure that information regarding the proper use and dosage of the prescribed drug and the risks associated with its use are communicated to the client, regardless of the drug source.

8. If a client asks about obtaining drugs from a foreign country through an Internet source, the client should be aware that the importation of drugs not approved by the FDA— including foreign-made versions of U.S. approved drugs—is illegal.

9. It is not unethical for a veterinarian to charge a reasonable professional fee for a prescription.

Adopted on December 9, 2014.

All policies of the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners are available online at:

<http://tn.gov/health/article/vet-policies>

PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE TAX

TENN. CODE ANN. § 67-4-1701, et seq., requires the payment of an annual professional privilege (occupation) tax by certain members of certain professions which is payable to the Tennessee Department of Revenue on or before June 1 of each year. **If you are licensed as a veterinarian in Tennessee, you must register for and pay the professional privilege tax.**

The professional privilege tax is levied solely on the privilege of holding an active Tennessee professional license. Because the tax is levied on the privilege of holding the license, there is no distinction in the law between those licensed professionals who live and work in Tennessee and those who do not. **If the professional license is active on June 1 of any given year, the tax return and tax payment are due.** Filing and payment of this tax is required to be done electronically on or before June 1st of each year.

Licensing boards are provided a monthly list of licensees who are delinquent 90 days or more. **Any veterinarian who has not paid the tax in a timely manner will not be allowed to renew his/her license** until notification is received from the Department of Revenue that the tax has been paid.

For more information, please visit the Department of Revenue web site at:

<http://www.tn.gov/revenue/topic/professional-privilege-tax>

LIVE STREAMING VIDEO

As of January 1, 2015, each board meeting is streamed live so the public can view the meeting as it is actually being held. A video recording of the meeting is available on the Department's web site for one month following the meeting. An audio recording of the meeting is available indefinitely.

<https://web.nowuseeit.tn.gov/Mediasite/Catalog/Full/98fe21d561e9489487745f0c7da678b221>

BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTION REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Tennessee Department of Health issues a monthly media release listing all disciplinary actions taken by the health related boards during the prior month.

<http://www.tn.gov/health/article/boards-disciplinary-actions>

BOARD MEETING DATES

December 09, 2015

2016

April 13 – 14, 2016

August 17 – 18, 2016

December 01 – 02, 2016

All Board meetings begin at 9:00 a.m., Central Time. Board meetings are held at the Board's administrative office and are open to the public. Dates are subject to change, but are listed on the Board's Website. In the event of an electronic meeting, a conference room is made available to the public and is the location from which the electronic meeting is conducted.

DID YOU KNOW.....

- Board members are appointed by the Governor and serve five-year terms
- The Board meets regularly three (3) times per calendar year and on an as-needed basis to conduct administrative business and hear disciplinary cases.
- The Board receives complaints via the Office of Investigations. The complaint is reviewed by a licensed member of the profession, who is approved by the Board, and the Board's attorney.
- All individuals and facilities licensed by the Board are required to display the license and renewal certificate in a conspicuous place.
- Licensees are required to notify the Board's administrative office of a change of address or name change within thirty (30) days of such change.
- A new premise permit application must be filed whenever there is a change of ownership or change in location of the facility.
- Renewal notices are mailed forty-five (45) days prior to the expiration of the license. Licenses can be renewed on-line seventy (70) days prior to expiration.

ACCESSING BOARD WEBSITE

- Log onto <http://tn.gov/health>
- Click "Health Professionals"
- Click "Health Professional Boards"
- Choose "Veterinary"

There are many resources on our web site including applications, rules, statutes, policies, board meeting schedules and meeting minutes. License renewal and licensure verification may also be utilized on this web site. This is a valuable resource. Please use it often.

MISSION OF THE BOARD

The Board's purpose is to protect the public from being misled by incompetent, unscrupulous and unauthorized practitioners, and from unprofessional or illegal practices by persons licensed to practice veterinary medicine. The board was enacted in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the animal population and the citizens of Tennessee. The Board adopts and interprets the laws, rules, and regulations to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills and practice in the profession of veterinary medicine. The Board is responsible for the investigation of alleged violations of the Practice Act and rules and is responsible for the discipline of licensees who are found guilty of such violations.

Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners Board Members as of September 30, 2015

R. A. Tai Federico, D.V.M.
Vice-President
Chattanooga

Stephen S. Galloway, D.V.M.
President
Memphis

Stephen M. Ladd, D.V.M.
Secretary
Memphis

Kim D. Johnson, D.V.M.
Franklin

Karen S. Walsh, L.V.M.T.
Dunlap

D.V.M. Member
Vacant

Charles Hatcher, D.V.M.
State Veterinarian
Ex-officio Member

Ann Strong, Consumer Member
Alamo

Rosemarie Otto, Director
Health Related Boards
Ex-officio Member

Board Staff

Rita Buckner-Shelton
Board Administrator

Lisa Lampley
Director

Katherine Young
Licensing Technician