

Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners



Newsletter



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CURRENT COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners is composed of seven (7) members. Five (5) members are licensed veterinarians, one (1) member is a licensed veterinary technician, and one (1) member is a public member. The State Veterinarian serves as a non-voting, ex-officio member.

Current members are: Tai Federico, DVM, Vice-President; Stephen Ladd, DVM, Secretary; Kim Johnson, DVM; Elizabeth Thompson, DVM; Rob Simpson, DVM; Karen Walsh, LVT; Ann Strong, Public Member; and Charles Hatcher, DVM, State Veterinarian.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Public Chapter 819

This act revises various provisions of the Tennessee Veterinary Practice Act:

- Specifies that veterinary facilities located in retail establishments shall have a separate entrance that is directly on a public street or other area which adjoins the establishment.
- Redefines "retail establishment" to include companion animal retail facilities that primarily sell goods in the categories of companion animal nutrition, food, supplies, and behavioral products.
- Provides that veterinary facilities located in retail establishments that were issued a

premises permit prior to January 1, 2015 and that have a separate entrance used by regular retail customers shall maintain and utilize the separate entrance; however if no separate entrance is available the requirement is waived for those facilities issued a premise permit prior to January 1, 2015.

- Specifies that the "practice of veterinary medicine" occurs wherever the patient is at the time services are rendered.
- Authorizes the board to deny, suspend, or revoke any license or to otherwise discipline an applicant or licensee who is found guilty by the board of practicing veterinary medicine without establishing and maintaining a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship.
- Grants immunity from civil or criminal liability to veterinary wellness committee members, employees, and agents engaging in the performance of any duties on behalf of the committee or participating in any administrative or judicial proceeding resulting from their participation on the committee.
- Defines a "veterinary wellness committee" as any committee, board, commission or other entity established by any state-wide or local veterinary medical association for the purpose of providing immediate and continuing help to veterinary professionals licensed to practice and students of veterinary medicine or technology, certified animal euthanasia technicians, and employees of veterinary practices in this state who suffer from physical or mental conditions that result from disease, disorder,

trauma, or age and that impair their ability to perform their duties in veterinary medicine with reasonable skill and safety.

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

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

BOARD POSITION STATEMENT

The following position statement was recently adopted by the Board:

Practicing Without a Premises Permit, Or With an Expired Premises Permit

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 63-12-139(a), any person who owns or operates a premises where a licensed veterinarian practices or where the practice of veterinary medicine occurs shall apply for and secure a premises permit from the board prior to the commencement of any veterinary medical services.

In the event that a facility's permit expires and the practice of veterinary medicine continues at the facility beyond the permit's expiration date, the supervising veterinarian for the facility shall pay a Type C civil penalty of \$100.00 for each month that the practice of veterinary medicine continued beyond the permit's expiration date.

Should any person be found to be practicing veterinary medicine at an unpermitted facility, the owner and/or operator of such facility shall pay a Type B civil penalty of \$200.00 for each month that the practice of veterinary medicine occurred at the facility while it was without a permit. In the event that a facility is owned and/or operated by a licensee or licensees and one or more laypeople, the licensee or licensees shall be held responsible for payment of any civil penalties.

Adopted on August 17, 2016.

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

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

REMINDER: 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**.

BOARD MEETING DATES

December 1 – 2, 2016

2017

April 5 - 6, 2017

August 16 - 17, 2017

December 13 - 14, 2017

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.

As of January 1, 2015, all board meetings are streamed live. The link is:

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

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE MONITORING DATABASE PROGRAM

The Tennessee Prescription Safety Act of 2016 – Public Chapter 1002 – provides further enhancements to the monitoring capabilities of the database and became effective on April 27, 2016. The Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners has a representative on the committee.

The Act provides that licensed veterinarians who never prescribe a controlled substance in an amount intended to treat a non-human patient for more than five (5) days are not required to register in the database. Licensed veterinarians are not required to check the database before prescribing a controlled substance to a non-human patient. Veterinarians are only required to report to the database every fourteen (14) days. Licensed veterinarians are not required to report to the database drugs dispensed which are limited to an amount adequate to treat a non-human patient for a maximum of five (5) days.

Failure to comply with the requirements of the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database laws may subject a licensee to discipline by the licensing board.

To register to access the database, go to www.tncsmd.com and click on the word “register”. For general questions or technical issues with the database, contact the CSMD Administrator at 615-253-1305 or email the CSMS Administrator at CSMD.ADMIN@TN.GOV.

ACTIVE LICENSEES AS OF OCTOBER 20, 2016

Veterinarians:	2,332
Veterinary Technicians:	704
Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians:	273
Veterinary Facilities:	811
Certified Animal Control Agencies:	66
Certified Animal Chemical Capture Technicians:	3
Animal Chemical Capture Certification (Agency):	1

FREE CONTINUING EDUCATION TRACKING AVAILABLE

The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) has developed a Veterinary Continuing Education Tracking (VCET) system available to veterinarians and veterinary technicians licensed in Tennessee. It is an online system for licensees to log continuing education credits required for license renewal in a centralized database. It allows you to log both RACE-approved and non-RACE-approved programs. Through the AAVSB website, licensees may record their CE classes attended, upload the proof of completion documents and either print a report of CE to mail in to the licensing board(s) or send the report to the licensing board(s) via an email directly from the VCET system. VCET is a free program to veterinary professionals. If interested in this service, please visit the AAVSB website at <http://www.aavsb.org/vcet> for more information.

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 October 20, 2016

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

Elizabeth B. Thompson, D.V.M.
Tazewell

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

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

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

Robert J. Simpson, D.V.M.
Kingston

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