

Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners



Newsletter

FALL 2009

A regulatory agency of the State of Tennessee

Vol. 6, No. 1

227 French Landing, Suite 300; Heritage Place Metro Center; Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 532-5090 or 1-800-778-4123 ext25090
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time (615) 532-5164 Fax
(closed State and Federal holidays) <http://health.state.tn.us/>

BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Valisa Thompson, Public Member – Nashville, TN
Forrest W. Reynolds, D.V.M. – Franklin, TN

BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

James C. Lyons, D.V.M. – President
Bryan W. Bondurant, D.V.M. – Vice-President
Joseph Kendrick, D.V.M. – Secretary

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following is a summary of bills relative to the practice of veterinary medicine in the state of Tennessee:

Public Acts 2009

Public Chapter No. 67

This public chapter amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 53, Chapter 11, Part 3 by adding a new section providing that it is unlawful for a person to deceive or fail to disclose to a physician, nurse practitioner or other health care provider that he or she has received the same controlled substance or a therapeutically similar controlled substance within the previous thirty (30) days.

This public chapter also amends T.C.A. § 53-11-309 by adding a new subsection providing that a physician, dentist, optometrist, podiatrist, veterinarian, physician assistant, or licensed

practical nurse or registered nurse working under the supervision of a physician or osteopathic physician shall report to local law enforcement within three (3) business days if they have good reason to believe a person has obtained or attempted to obtain a controlled substance when they obtained the same or a therapeutically similar controlled substance within the previous thirty (30) days.

This public chapter also provides that the health care provider is immune from civil liability if they furnish this information to law enforcement in good faith. A violation of this statute is a Class D felony. A person who fails to disclose or deceives a health care provider to obtain a controlled substance when they have already received a prescription for the same controlled substance is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. This bill became effective on July 1, 2009.

Public Chapter No. 149

This public chapter prohibits local governments from restricting the authorized practice of veterinary medicine. This public chapter also provides authorization to local governments to regulate the time and place of veterinary business operations provided that such regulation does not conflict with state laws or regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine.

Note: 2008 Public Chapter No. 1035 which requires that all prescriptions written or printed be on tamper-resistant prescription paper **does not apply** to prescriptions written by veterinarians.

PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE TAX

Under T.C.A. § 67-4-1702, any qualified professional with an active license on June 1 of each year must submit a professional privilege tax return and payment of \$400 for the privilege of holding an active license in Tennessee. Failure to pay your professional privilege tax constitutes grounds for suspension of your license to practice veterinary medicine in Tennessee. If you fail to pay your professional privilege tax, the Department of Health will file formal charges against you seeking the suspension of your license pursuant to T.C.A. § 67-4-1704. Avoid the possible suspension of your privilege to practice veterinary medicine in Tennessee by remitting your tax to the Department of Revenue in a timely fashion. For more information please go to:

<http://tennessee.gov/revenue/tntaxes/proftax.htm>

LICENSING ACTIVITY FOR 2008

New Licensees:

Veterinarians:	129
Veterinary Medical Technicians:	40
Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians:	53
Veterinary Facilities:	57
Certified Animal Control Agencies:	11

Renewals:

Veterinarians:	784*
Veterinary Medical Technicians:	142**
Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians:	53***
Veterinary Facilities:	257
Certified Animal Control Agencies:	16

*Web Renewals:	143
**Web Renewals:	35
***Web Renewals:	7

CONSUMER RIGHT-TO-KNOW

The Health Care Consumer Right-to-Know Act of 1998, T.C.A. § 63-51-101 et seq., requires veterinarians to submit information regarding details of their training, specialty certification and practice prior to licensure and/or renewal of licensure. Licensees who have submitted information are required to update that information in writing by notifying the Department of Health, Healthcare Provider Information Unit, within thirty (30) days after the occurrence of an event or the attainment of a status that is required to be reported. Failure to comply with the requirement to update profiling information constitutes grounds for disciplinary action against your license. For information on updating your practitioner profile, please visit our web site at:

<http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/index.htm>

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE DATABASE REPORTING

Reminder: Any practitioner licensed in Tennessee who dispenses controlled substances is required to submit information to the Controlled Substance Database at least twice monthly. The submitted data should include the prescribing practitioner; who filled the prescription; basic patient/client information; and the name and form of medication that the patient/client received. Failure to submit information to the database is grounds for disciplinary action against your license.

<http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/ControlledSubstance>

ACTIVE LICENSEES AS OF August 31, 2009

Veterinarians	1,865
Veterinary Medical Technicians	392
Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians	222
Veterinary Facilities	653
Certified Animal Control Agencies	59

Redesign of Web Site

The Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners' website has been redesigned for easier navigation.

The navigational options are as follows:

- Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners Home has tabs for *About*, *Members*, *Meeting Schedule*, *Meeting Minutes* and *National Organization*.
- Licensure and Education Information has tabs for *Licensure*, *Educational Programs* and *Continuing Education*.
- Complaints, Disciplinary Actions and Peer Assistance has a tab for *Complaints and Disciplinary Actions*.
- Applications, Publications, and Information has tabs for *Applications*, *Noteworthy*, and *Funding Sources*.
- Statutes, Rules and Policies has tabs for *Legislative Updates*, *Statutes and Rules*, and *Policies*.

DID YOU KNOW.....

- "Veterinary technician" means a person who is a graduate of a veterinary technology program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association; and it is a Class B misdemeanor for any person to use in connection with the person's name any designation intending to imply that the person is a veterinary technician or a licensed veterinary technician unless the

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person has successfully completed the licensure process.

- Complaints for all Health Related Boards are handled through the Office of Investigations and must be in writing. You may contact the Office of Investigations toll-free at 1-800-852-2187.
- Complaints made against a licensee become public information only upon the filing of a notice of charges by the Dept. of Health.
- A total of one hundred three (103) complaints pertaining to the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners were received in the Office of Investigations during calendar year 2008.
- The Board's disciplinary coordinator is currently "monitoring" thirty-four (34) licensees.
- A certified animal control agency must also hold a valid premise permit issued by the Board in order to apply for chemical capture certification.
- All licensees are required to notify the Board in writing within 30 days of any name change or change of address.
- A total of three hundred sixty-seven (367) facility inspections (initial and renewal) were conducted during calendar year 2008.
- Renewal notices are mailed approximately sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date of the license.
- You may verify licensure of all licensed TN healthcare professionals on our website at <http://health.state.tn.us/Licensure>.

2010 BOARD MEETING DATES

April 21 & 22
August 25 & 26
December 15 & 16

All meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. CT and are open to the public. Dates and locations are subject to change, but are listed on the Board's web site.

**Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Board Members as of October 15, 2009**

Bryan W. Bondurant, D.V.M.
Vice-President
Gallatin

James C. Lyons, D.V.M.
President
Paris

Joseph Kendrick, D.V.M.
Secretary
Knoxville

Tiffani D. Rogers, D.V.M.
Memphis

Valisa Thompson
Consumer Member
Nashville

Forrest W. Reynolds, D.V.M.
Franklin

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

Janet B. Jones, L.V. M.T.
Knoxville

Elizabeth L. Miller, Director
Health Related Boards
Ex-officio Member

Board Staff

Rita Buckner-Shelton
Board Administrator

Lisa Lampley
Director

Katherine Young
Licensing Technician

Robert Taylor, D.V.M.
Consultant/Inspector