

Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners



Newsletter



FALL 2013

A regulatory agency of the State of Tennessee

Vol. 9, No. 1

227 French Landing, Suite 300; Heritage Place Metro Center; Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 532-5090 or 1-800-778-4123 ext5325090
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://tennessee.gov/health>

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 medical technician, and one (1) member is a citizen member. The State Veterinarian serves as a non-voting, ex-officio member.

Current members are: Charles “Chuck” Halford, DVM, President; Forrest Reynolds, DVM, Vice-President; Stephen Galloway, DVM, Secretary; Tai Federico, DVM; Kim Johnson, DVM; Karen Walsh, LVMT; Ann Strong, Public Member; and Charles Hatcher, DVM, State Veterinarian.

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.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE TO RELOCATE

The Department of Health's Division of Health Licensure and Regulation, Office of Health Related Boards, will be transitioning from leased space at Heritage Place Metro Center to a newly renovated state-owned space. Our new location will be 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243. Our move is currently scheduled for October 25, 2013. All individual employee phone numbers and e-mail addresses will remain the same.

While the department has prepared diligently to minimize downtime, maintain accessibility and sustain productivity throughout this relatively complex move, we do appreciate your understanding and patience as personnel and material move into our new space. We look forward to working with you and providing excellent customer service from our new location.

Please send any correspondence after October 31, 2013 to our new address:

Tennessee Department of Health
Division of Health, Licensure and Regulation
Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2013 Legislative Session has ended, and the following is a summary of bills relative to the practice of veterinary medicine in the state of Tennessee:

Public Acts 2013

Public Chapter No. 39

This public act extends the sunset date of the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to June 30, 2017.

This act became effective March 22, 2013.

Public Chapter No. 440

This public act increases the per diem of board members from \$50 to \$100 per day while in actual service of the board; revises supervision requirements for licensed veterinary technicians by changing the language “direct supervision” to “responsible supervision”; and modifies requirements for premise permits by authorizing the board to issue a limited waiver to a veterinarian who meets the following requirements: the waiver is granted for one (1) day, once in a calendar year; the waiver is applicable to only one (1) county and only one (1) waiver shall be granted in each county in a calendar year; the waiver is only for livestock testing; and, the waiver is only for one location, which shall be a farm.

This act became effective July 1, 2013.

These public chapters are available on line at:

<http://www.tennessee.gov/sos/acts/index.htm>.

ACTIVE LICENSEES AS OF August 31, 2013

Veterinarians:	2,138
Veterinary Medical Technicians:	507
Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians:	281
Veterinary Facilities:	724
Certified Animal Control Agencies:	64

ELECTRONIC NOTICES TO LICENSEES

On January 1, 2013, a new law, Public Chapter 952, became effective requiring healthcare professional licensing boards to provide electronic notices to licensees. The law gives you the **option** of being notified electronically of the following: (1) Renewals of license, certification, or registration; (2) Any fee increases; (3) Any changes in state law that impact the license holder; and (4) any board meeting where changes in rules or fees are on the agenda. If you “opt in”, the Department of Health will also be able to alert you of critical public health matters impacting the State of Tennessee.

Please visit <https://apps.tn.gov/hlrs/begin.jsp> and complete the registration process to opt in. Once you opt in and provide a current email address, you will begin to receive **ALL** notices electronically rather than through the United States Postal Service mail. Please note that opting in means your renewal notification will be delivered electronically approximately 45 days in advance of the expiration date of your license. The e-notice will direct you to the appropriate webpage to renew. If your profession does not permit you to renew your license online, a paper renewal will continue to be provided.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mailing and practice address changes must be reported in writing to the board’s office within thirty (30) days after such change is effective. Please include the following:

- Your name and license number;
- Your profession
- Your old address and phone number;
- Your new address and phone number, e-mail address, and/or your fax number;
- Your SIGNATURE

Keeping your address up to date facilitates the timely notification to you of important information such as your application for licensure renewal and important statutory and rule changes.

BOARD POSITION STATEMENTS

The following position statements were recently adopted by the Board:

Use of Pre-Euthanasia Drugs in Certified Animal Control Agencies

Under Rule 1730-04-.13, a licensed veterinarian on staff with a Certified Animal Control Agency (C.A.C.A.) may utilize ketamine or other pre-euthanasia drugs as the veterinarian finds necessary, and may direct a certified animal euthanasia technician or other employee to use such drugs for specific animals while the veterinarian is on the premises.

A certified animal euthanasia technician working for a C.A.C.A. that does not have a licensed veterinarian on staff may only utilize the pre-euthanasia drugs of acepromazine and xylazine.

Adopted on August 16, 2012.

Permission and Requests for Release of Patient Records and Other Information Under Rules 1730-01-.13(6) and 1730-01-.18

In addition to the "written permission" requirement under rule 1730-01-.13(6), requests for records under Rule 1730-01-.18 must also be in writing. For purposes of Rules 1730-01-.13(6) and 1730-01-.18, written permission may be given, and written requests may be made, by any handwritten means, or by electronic mail, facsimile, or text message.

Adopted on August 15, 2013.

All policy/position statements adopted by the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners are available online at:

<http://health.state.tn.us/boards/Veterinary/legislative.htm>

BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTION 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. All action taken by the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners is viewable online at:

<http://health.state.tn.us/boards/disciplinary.htm>

ACCESSING THE BOARD'S WEBSITE

- Log onto <http://tn.gov/health>
- Click on "For Health Care Professionals"
- Under "Health Related Boards": Click on "Veterinary Medical Examiners"

There are many resources on our website including, but not limited to, rules, statutes, applications, and policy statements. License renewal and licensure verification may also be utilized on this website. This is a valuable resource. Please use it. You will find it to be very friendly.

BOARD MEETING DATES

December 11 – 12, 2013

2014

April 09 – 10, 2014

August 26 – 27, 2014

December 09 – 10, 2014

All Board meetings begin at 9:00 a.m., Central Time. Board meetings are held at the Board's office and are open to the public. Dates are subject to change, but are listed on the Board's Website.

Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

227 French Landing, Suite 300
Heritage Place Metro Center
Nashville, TN 37243



**Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Board Members as of August 31, 2013**

Forrest W. Reynolds, D.V.M.
Vice-President
Franklin

Charles "Chuck" Halford, D.V.M.
President
Memphis

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

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

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

R. A. Tai Federico, D.V.M.
Chattanooga

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