

Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners



Newsletter



SPRING 2007

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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

Dr. Tiffani D. Rogers, D.V.M. - Memphis, TN
Ms. Janet B. Jones, L.V.M.T. – Knoxville, TN

BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Mary J. Welch, D.V.M. – President
C. Maben Thompson, D.V.M. – Vice-President
Thomas D. Edmonds, D.V.M. – Secretary

BOARD RATIFIES RULES

The following is a summary of rules recently ratified by the Board:

- The following new definitions were added:

Accepted livestock management practices –

Services which may be performed by persons who are not licensed as veterinarians. Such services are limited to:

- In livestock of the equine species, the administration of any prescription drug, medicine, or biologic or the intra-uterine administration of medication when any of these procedures are performed under the indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian in the context of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship. The administration of any over-the-counter drug, medicine or biologic, or the use of any manual or mechanical procedure for artificial insemination may be provided without veterinarian supervision.

- In livestock other than the equine species, the administration of any over-the-counter drug, medicine, or biologic; the use of any manual or mechanical procedure for artificial insemination; the implantation of frozen embryos; acts of dehorning; castration; deworming; the implanting of commercially available growth promotants; clipping of needle teeth; and the feeding of commercially available medicated feed. Prescription drugs, medicine or biologics may be administered under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian in the context of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

Client – The patient's owner, owner's agent, or other person responsible for the patient.

Indirect supervision – Services provided pursuant to written or oral instructions issued by a licensed veterinarian for the treatment of an animal or herd after the animal or herd has been examined by the veterinarian such that a valid doctor-client-patient relationship exists. The licensed veterinarian is not required to be on the premises for services that may be provided under indirect supervision, but must comply with the recordkeeping requirements of Rule 1730-1-.22.

Patient – An animal that is examined or treated by a veterinarian.

Veterinarian-client-patient relationship –

- A licensed veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making medical

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BOARD RATIFIES RULES (continued from page 1)

judgments regarding the health of the animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian; **and**

(b) There is sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) by the veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s). This means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of an examination of the animal(s), and/or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) is (are) kept; **and**

(c) The veterinarian is routinely and physically available for follow-up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment or regimen of therapy, or has arranged for substitute follow-up care.

- Additions were made to the rule pertaining to necessity of licensure to clarify that the scope of practice of veterinary medicine and the definition of accepted livestock management practices as provided in Board rules shall not prevent any person or such person's full time employee from administering to the ills and injuries of the person's own animals unless employment was provided for the purpose or with the effect of circumventing any statute or rule.
- Amendments were made which clarify that failure to cooperate with authorities conducting an investigation of incompetent, unethical or illegal practices constitutes "Unprofessional Conduct".
- A new section was added which authorizes the member who chaired the Board for a contested case to be the agency member to make the authorized decisions regarding petitions for reconsiderations and stays in that case.
- Amendments were made to the definition of a proper veterinarian-client-patient relationship in the section pertaining to the distribution of veterinary prescription drugs to include the new

definition of a proper veterinarian-client-patient as it pertains to follow-up care by the veterinarian.

- A new section was added to the recordkeeping section which requires veterinarians providing, to persons who are not licensed as veterinarians, written or oral instructions to perform accepted livestock management practices to record the order, including specific information on the substance of the order and the date given, in the record of the animal.
- Amendments were made to the licensure procedures for veterinary medical technicians as pertains to the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), adopted by the Board as its state and national examinations. All examination applications and fees for the exam shall be sent directly to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) with official examination scores submitted directly from the testing agency whenever the exam is not taken in Tennessee.
- Rules pertaining to continuing education were amended to clarify that veterinarians and veterinary medical technicians were exempt from continuing education requirements during the calendar year he/she graduated from an approved school or college of veterinary medicine or approved veterinary technology program.
- Pursuant to Public Chapter 716, a new section was added to allow for the refund of all monetary fines and civil penalties imposed and collected in fiscal years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 for the artificial insemination of livestock without a veterinary medical license, upon receipt by June 30, 2008 of a written request for such refund and provided such funds are specifically appropriated by the General Appropriations Act.

ACTIVE LICENSEES AS OF February 28, 2007	
Veterinarians	1,687
Veterinary Medical Technicians	337
Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians	169
Veterinary Facilities	596
Certified Animal Control Agencies	47

LICENSING ACTIVITY FOR 2006

New Licensees:

Veterinarians:	120
Veterinary Medical Technicians:	37
Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians:	31
Veterinary Facilities:	50
Certified Animal Control Agencies:	6

Renewals:

Veterinarians:	711*
Veterinary Medical Technicians:	128**
Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians:	48***
Veterinary Facilities:	254
Certified Animal Control Agencies:	13

*Web Renewals:	78
**Web Renewals:	24
***Web Renewals:	2

CONTINUING EDUCATION AUDIT

An audit of Continuing Education (CE) hours required to be obtained during calendar year 2005 will be conducted in the upcoming months. Participants for the audit will be randomly selected. Licensees are required by rule to retain documentation of completion of CE hours for a period of four (4) years from the end of the calendar year in which the course is completed. Any licensee who fails to obtain the required continuing education hours may be subject to disciplinary action. Please see **Rule 1730-1-12 (Veterinarians)** and **Rule 1730-3-12 (Veterinary Medical Technicians)** for complete continuing education requirements.

Accessing the Board's Web Site

- Log on to <http://tennessee.gov/health>
- Click on "Licensing" in the title bar
- Click on "Health Professional Boards"
- Select "Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners"

Applications, board meeting schedules, meeting minutes, board rules/statutes, and more are available at this website. Don't forget that licensure renewal and licensure verification can also be done online via this site!

DID YOU KNOW.....

- "Veterinary technician" means a person who is a graduate of a veterinary technology program accredited by the AVMA; 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 person has successfully completed the licensure process.
- Effective June 1, 2006 applicants for initial licensure in TN (not renewal or reinstatement) are required to obtain a criminal background check.
- Complaints made against a licensee become public information only upon the filing of a notice of charges by the Dept. of Health.
- A new premise permit application must be filed whenever there is a change of ownership or change in location of the facility.
- Acepromazine and xylazine are the only drugs approved by the Board for the pre-euthanasia of animals by a certified animal euthanasia technician in a certified animal control agency.
- All licensees are required to notify the Board in writing within 30 days of any name change or change of address.
- The professional privilege tax (Due Date: Annual – June 1 and Rate: \$400) is imposed and collected by the Dept. of Revenue.
- Renewal notices are mailed approximately 60 days prior to the expiration date of the license.
- Per the Board's adopted position statement*, "micro-chipping" must be done by a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary medical technician under the employment and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

* **All policy/position statements adopted by the Board are available on our website.**

Tennessee Department of Health Authorization No. 343922
No. of Copies 2,500. This public document was promulgated at a
Cost of \$.36 per copy. 04/07

2007 BOARD MEETING DATES

April 18 & 19
August 22 & 23
December 12 & 13

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



Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners Board Members as of March 15, 2007

C. Maben Thompson, D.V.M.
Vice-President
Crossville

Mary J. Welch, D.V.M.
President
Franklin

Thomas D. Edmonds, D.V.M.
Secretary
Centerville

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

Marie A. Gordon
Consumer Member
Nashville

James "Chuck" Lyons, D.V.M.
Paris

Ronald B. Wilson, D.V.M.
State Veterinarian
Ex-officio Member

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

Robbie H. Bell, Director
Health Related Boards
Ex-officio Member

Board Staff

Rita Buckner-Shelton
Board Administrator

Lisa Lampley
Director

Katherine Young
Licensing Tech

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