



North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

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Annual Report to the North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association

August 9, 2019

John R. Boyce, Executive Secretary

Licenses

As of July 18, 2019, there were 539 veterinarians actively licensed in North Dakota, an increase of 12 from last year. This included 285 licensees with North Dakota mailing addresses. As of July 26, 31 veterinarians had not renewed their licenses for 2019-20, including 14 with North Dakota mailing addresses. The renewal fee for veterinarians is \$75, with a 50% late fee for renewals received after June 30.

Seventeen veterinarians were approved for licensure in North Dakota at the November 13, 2018 board meeting, and 17 candidates were approved at the June 4, 2019 meeting.

Twenty veterinarians were deleted from the list of licensees after June 30, 2019 for the following reasons: board action (1), nonpayment (8), and wishes not to renew (11).

As of July 18, 358 veterinary technicians were licensed in North Dakota, an increase of five from last year. In 2018-19, 23 new technician licenses were issued. Seven licensees will be two years in arrears and will be deleted if they do not renew by December 31. The renewal fee for technicians is \$15 and the late fee is \$7.50.

The board instituted on-line license renewal for veterinarians for the 2013-14 period, and added on-line renewal for veterinary technicians for the 2014 renewal. Licensees who renew online pay the fee by credit card, and may print their own renewal certificate.

Complaints and Disciplinary Actions

During 2018-19, the board received 13 complaints involving 10 licensed veterinarians; one complaint named three veterinarians at the same practice. Two complaints were carried over from the previous year, and the board noted completion of settlement agreements with the veterinarians. Five new complaints resulted in settlement agreements with the veterinarians, one of them also included a letter of reprimand and one a letter of concern. Three complaints were dismissed, with a letter of concern sent to the veterinarians. Five other complaints were dismissed. As of July 18, four licensed veterinarians are under current disciplinary action; three of those mentioned above who have settlement agreements, and one whose license is on indefinite probation as a result of previous action by the board. The board approved a revised complaint form at its June meeting, and that form is now available on the website.

Practice Act and Rule Changes

There were no changes made to the practice act or board rules during 2018-19.

North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®)

Beginning with the November-December 2014 administration, North Dakota NAVLE candidates apply through and are approved by the International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA, formerly the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners). For the November-December 2018 testing window, eleven North Dakota candidates took the NAVLE and all passed. Two North Dakota candidates took the NAVLE in April 2019; both candidates passed.

Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE)

The VTNE is a computer-based examination, involving three testing windows per year (July-August, November-December, and March-April). Candidates apply through the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, which owns the VTNE. For 2018-19, a total of 24 North Dakota candidates took the VTNE. Eighteen candidates passed and six failed.

Board Membership

In 2017, Dr. Carolyn Woodruff was appointed by the Governor to a second three-year term, through June 2020. In September 2018, Drs. Russell Behm of Minot and Tammy Weiland-Ness of Fargo were appointed to succeed Drs. Thomas Bettenhausen and Gerald Buchholz, with their initial terms running until June 2021. As of this date, the board has not been notified by the Governor's office of new members to succeed the veterinary technician member, Ms. Lynn Priebe, and the public member, Ms. Carmel Miller. Their second three-year terms expired June 30, 2019, but they remain on the board until their successors are appointed.

Attorney

In February 2018, Ms. Nici Meyer, Assistant Attorney General, was appointed to serve as the board's attorney to succeed Mr. Joseph Bialke.

Audit

At its March 1, 2019 meeting, the board accepted the audit for 2017 and 2018 prepared by Haga Kommer, Ltd.

Mission Statement

At the March meeting, the board approved the following board mission statement: "The mission of the North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners is to protect the public and animals through control and regulation of persons who practice veterinary medicine or veterinary technology within this state."

Website

The board's website, www.ndbvme.org, includes copies of applications, complaint forms, links to the practice act and board rules, and a search feature that allows users to access the licensure status of North Dakota veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Meetings

The board generally has two face-to-face meetings per year. The fall 2019 meeting is scheduled for Bismarck on Friday, November 15, and the spring meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Both meetings will be at the North Dakota Heritage Center.

Executive Secretary and Board Office

Dr. John Boyce has served as Executive Secretary of the board since 1997. Starting in August 2019, Dr. Sara Lyons will succeed Dr. Boyce as Executive Secretary and the office will move from Bismarck to Lisbon. The mailing address will change to PO Box 328, Lisbon, ND 58054. The telephone number will change to 701-683-4705, but the email address, ndbvme@nd.gov, will remain the same.