



# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2005

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## Board Members:

President	Dwight A. Olson, D.V.M.
Vice-President	Jeff L. Tidwell, D.V.M.
Secretary/Treasurer	Dan G. Danner, D.V.M.
Member	Ross Dewbre, Esq.
Member	Brian E. Renegar, D.V.M.
Member	Jim P. Lee, D.V.M.

## Staff Members:

Executive Director	Cathy Kirkpatrick
Chief Investigator	Dale Fullerton
Administrative Assistant	Kelly Rahill

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings this Thanksgiving season! In the aftermath of all the destruction that our country has endured from all the hurricanes this past fall, I find myself both grateful and sad. We all are blessed in Oklahoma that we have our homes, clinics, and families. I've never been through a hurricane and really don't want to endure 150 mph winds, rains, and floods for several days. Tornados seem much more tolerable due to their short life and hit or miss behavior. I am sad because it will take years to rebuild New Orleans, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida but lives have been changed forever, and in some cases may never be the same. I hope you will consider how you can help in some way.

One thing that is new starting November 1, 2005, is a change in the Pharmacy Act. Previously, if a drug supplier wanted to drop ship an order to a client, they had to have pharmacist certify the order prior to being dispensed by the wholesaler or distributor. That requirement for certification by a pharmacist is no longer needed. However, there still exists the requirement that a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) exists before an order can be shipped. It also requires that a prescription be authorized by an Oklahoma licensed veterinarian with a valid VCPR. It also requires that the owner use the drug according to the label and with a valid VCPR.

I also want to encourage you to plan your CE for this year to be sure to have it completed by June 30, 2006. There are numerous meetings that you can attend, including the Oklahoma State meeting in January, that allow you to get your required 20 hours of CE. Don't wait until you get your license renewal in May and then realize that you are deficient. As your Veterinary Board we strive to protect the public from illegal practices and work to make it as easy as possible to keep you informed about your licensing requirements. If you have any questions please call us or check out our website for answers.

Dwight Olson DVM  
President

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Jim Lee a native Oklahoman is the Board's newest member. He was appointed by Governor Henry and confirmed by the Senate this past May. He will serve a five-year term to May 2010.

Dr. Lee was raised in Lawton where he graduated from high school with honors and received an academic and music scholarship to Oklahoma State University for his undergraduate and in 1986 completed his DVM. After graduation, he began his career in the Oklahoma City area. In 1988 he began practicing in a multi doctor centralized emergency and critical care facility until 2002, during those fifteen years he also was an adjunct instructor for the Biology Department at Oklahoma City University for two semesters. In 1999 to 2000 he was an instructor in the veterinary technician program at OSU-OKC. Since 2002 he has been practicing at Wedgewood Pet Clinic a small animal practice in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Lee is married to Tina; they have five dogs and one cat. In his spare time he enjoys scuba diving, biking, and camping. He also is a member of the AVMA, OVMA, and the Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Society.

The staff looks forward to having his knowledge and dedication join forces with the other members of the Board.

## 2006 BOARD MEETINGS AND EVENTS

<b>January 19</b>	OVMA Convention Tulsa, OK
<b>January 20</b>	Technician Exams at OSU-OKC
<b>January 27-28</b>	7pm Fri/8:30am Sat Board Meeting
<b>March 3-4</b>	7pm Fri/8:30am Sat Board Meeting
<b>April 10</b>	DVM Exams at OSU
<b>May 19-20</b>	7pm Fri/8:30am Sat Board Meeting

## NEW RULES AND REGULATIONS

### New Legislation Effective November 1, 2005

This past legislative session some new statutes were added to the Practice Act. The Board proposed a change to the Abandoned Animal statute but the language the Board introduced was greatly modified by the Legislature. A veterinarian is now required to give written notice by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, is **received or refused** by the owner or the owner's agent at the last-known address of the owner or the owner's agent. If notice is received or refused then an animal can be considered abandoned after three days. The Board will be presenting new legislation regarding this section for the 2006 legislative session that will allow for three (3) days after written notice, is given by registered or certified mail, return receipt, received or refused, or by actual hand-delivery, to the owner or the owner's agent.

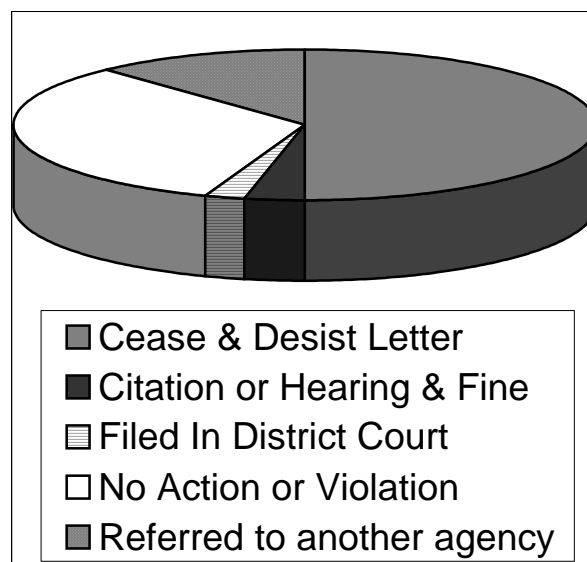
Another change by the Legislature to the practice act was the addition of animal massage therapy. This addition was added under protest by the Board. The statute reads (under Acts Not Prohibited); "Any individual that is certified in animal massage therapy and acquires liability insurance from engaging in animal massage therapy after a referral from a licensed veterinarian." The Board will be drafting rules for this statute in the 2006 legislative session that will specify a written referral will be required from a licensed veterinarian and the individual must be certified (Certification shall be from a program approved by the Board) before engaging in animal massage therapy.

In addition a statute change was made in the Pharmacy Act regarding veterinary prescription drugs shipped directly from the wholesaler or distributor to a client. The drugs shipped shall not be required to be certified by a pharmacist prior to being dispensed but a valid VCPR must be in place. It shall be a violation of state law for an owner or authorized agent to acquire or use any prescription drug other than according to the label and/or outside of a valid VCPR.

## ILLEGAL PRACTITIONERS

From August of 2001 to present, the Board has received 92 complaints regarding the illegal practice of veterinary medicine. Upon reviewing these complaints and determining these unlicensed practitioners are indeed practicing veterinary medicine the Board can and does take action, such as issuing a Cease and Desist letter (for the first offense), a Citation and Fine or issue a formal Complaint that warrants an appearance before the Board. Citations and Fines have been issued to six unlicensed practitioners resulting in \$3500 total fines received.

During the course of investigating these unlicensed practitioners, investigators have discovered meth labs, recovered stolen vehicles, apprehended out of state fugitives, seized large quantities of both veterinary and human prescription medication and controlled dangerous drugs (CDS). The Board Investigator has also assisted local law enforcement with large-scale animal cruelty investigations and other crimes against animals. Peace Officer status for the investigator is a very important and necessary tool for the Board to combat unlicensed activity as it relates to veterinary medicine. We have found it very difficult to get a local law enforcement official interested in investigating an equine dentist or massage therapist. If you have information on unlicensed activity, please contact the Board office.



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