

Oklahoma Veterinary Board Newsletter

April 2011

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President's article

By Jim P. Lee, DVM

The past 2 years have seen several legislative actions which had the consequence of affecting veterinarians or veterinary medicine both directly and indirectly. The message is clear. As veterinarians, our professional improvement cannot be limited to medicine and practice management. We need to become more familiar with the legislative process and be vigilant of upcoming legislative bills and their potential consequences on veterinary medicine.

We need to become friends with our individual Representatives and Senators so that when issues affecting veterinary medicine arise, they have an expert from whom to seek advice.

We are fortunate to have 3 veterinarians in the House – Dr. Lee Denney, Dr. Brian Renegar, and Dr. Phil Richardson. All of us should express our gratitude to these 3 fine veterinarians and legislators for all their efforts on our part. They have carried a tremendous load for all of us the past 2 years and should be recognized. A simple call, an e-mail, or handshake expressing our thanks is warranted.

Finally, veterinary medicine is under scrutiny these days. So it is vitally important that we conduct ourselves in a most ethical and professional manner. Veterinarians have consistently been ranked within the top 10 most trusted professions. It is imperative that we continue to practice in a manner that reflects that trust and public confidence. Strong positive public opinion will carry a great deal of influence with legislators.

As I write this, the Texas A & M women's basketball team has just won the women's national championship. Congratulations to all you Aggies out there!

Use of Succinylcholine

Reprint from November 2008

It has come to the attention of the Board that some veterinarians are using succinylcholine as their sole euthanasia solution. The use of succinylcholine as a form of euthanasia without any other form of sedation/anesthesia is considered to be inhumane by the Board, and veterinarians utilizing this type of euthanasia are in violation of the Practice Act and will be sanctioned. With the variety of humane commercial euthanasia solutions available, the Board sees no reason for succinylcholine to be used as a euthanasia agent except in rare emergency settings, and in those settings, all attempts at establishing an unconscious state with narcotics/anesthesia/etc should be used.

Legislative Update

As of April 8, 2011

HB 1310 – Has passed the House and is in the Senate for consideration

This Bill requires the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to certify individuals providing non veterinary reproductive services. It establishes qualifications and continuing education requirements. The bill also establishes the Animal Technology Advisory Committee to be established by the board to advise and make recommendations to the board regarding any new and evolving technologies and procedures related to animal husbandry.

HB1471 – Has passed the House and is in the Senate for consideration

This Bill directs the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to consist of five licensed veterinarian members, the state veterinarian, one lay person representing the general public and a registered veterinarian technician. It requires that for each congressional district, veterinary members shall be nominated to serve by the veterinarians residing in that congressional district and the names of the three veterinary members receiving the most nominations from each congressional district shall then be given to the governor who shall appoint one veterinary member to represent each district. The bill requires the board's lay member and registered veterinary technician to be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The bill states that veterinarian members of the board appointed by the governor prior to Nov. 1, 2011, shall be allowed to serve out the remainder of their terms, and nominations shall be collected as seats become vacant.

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Legislative Update

SB772 - Has passed the Senate and is in the House for consideration

This Bill is a consolidation bill which includes the Veterinary Medical Examiners. It creates the Office of Business and Professional Facilitation within the Department of Commerce. It requires the office to oversee the transfer of required authority, powers, duties and responsibility and oversee certain trades. It requires the under secretary of commerce for the Office of Business and Professional Facilitation be appointed by the governor. It gives the under secretary of commerce the power, duty and responsibility to administer all industries, trades, occupations and professions transferred to be under his or her power. It requires the under secretary of commerce to develop and implement a consolidation and transfer plan showing a demonstrable 15 percent savings for each transferred agency, board of commission. It requires all unexpended funds, property, furnishings, equipment, supplies, records, personnel and outstanding financial obligations and encumbrances relating to the transfer to be transferred to the Office of Business and Professional Facilitation within the Department of Commerce.

Renewal Tips

- ADDRESS INFO: List home and employment information then check one box to indicate which address is to be used for correspondence.
- CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: This will be necessary if HB 1471 is passed. The Board appointments will be through secret ballot nominations from the licensed veterinarians in that District where a vacancy occurs. If you are unsure, please go to http://www.okhouse.gov/Documents/Districts/CongressionalDistricts.pdf.
 Mark N/A if not an Oklahoma resident.
- QUESTIONS PAGE 1: All four of these questions must be answered.
- CONTINUING EDUCATION: You can obtain the two hours of Mandatory Review of CDS Laws by reviewing the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act (www.okvetboard.com) or any CDS laws.
- SIGNATURE: Before returning the form, please be sure you have signed and dated it.
- Send it immediately! If you do not have your renewal to us by June 30th, the cost will be \$500 to reactive it. If received after August 29th, the cost is \$625.

Defeat Drug Impairment

Effective help is available. If you know someone we encourage you to get involved and if you personally have a problem, seek drug treatment assistance. Call ExecuCare at (405) 427-4391 to arrange a confidential telephone interview with one of their doctors.

2010 Upcoming Dates

May 13th 4:00pm Board meeting at Board office

June 30th Renewals Due

July 15th 4:00pm Board meeting at Board office Sept 9th 4:00pm Board meeting at Board office

Download latest version of the

OKLAHOMA VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT

Effective 2/22/11

www.okvetboard.com

Online Renewal Instructions

First Time Users:

- Go to www.okvetboard.com and click "Renew Online".
- Select "First Time User?" on the left and enter your email when prompted.
- Enter your first name and last name as listed on your wallet card, choose the license type, and enter your License/ Registration/ Certification number. Complete the required fields on the next screen and "submit".
- You will receive an email with your Login Activation Number. Choose the link the email provides and enter your number.
- Return to the log in Renewal page to start the renewal process.

To Renew:

- Go to www.okvetboard.com and click "Renew Online".
- Log in on the left side.
- Click "Start Here—Step 1" to review the Personal Information and enter your Congressional District #.
- Click "Step 2" to review the My Clinics/Employment section. Select each clinic to answer a mandatory "CDS" question (except RVTs).
- Click "Step 3" to report your Continuing Education. You may list seminars and conferences in one entry with the total number of hours received and the date it began.
- Click the "Continue Renewal" button to complete the renewal, answering several questions and paying the renewal fee with MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and EFTs.