



Oklahoma Veterinary Board Newsletter

April 2009

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Vice-President	Dwight A. Olson, D.V.M.
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Member	Ross Dewbre, Esq.
Member	Jeff L. Tidwell, D.V.M.
Member	Paul Q. Sells, D.V.M.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Dan G. Danner, DVM

It has been a busy and interesting quarter this last year!

The Practice Act has expanded in several areas so please review the additions that are now in place. One of which is an increased application fee for Continuing Education extension to \$100.00 due to the increasing number of requests and poor reasons. Please get your 20 CE hours done well in advance so this should not be a problem for you!

The veterinary professionals and agricultural community have asked and we have responded by the expansion of the RVT's duties and responsibilities! This was done to assist the veterinarians to do more diagnostic care and expand their time to do more medicine with RVT support.

It also addresses the shortage of veterinarians on the farm to do reproductive work and equine dental care. Some of the Legislators are a little surprised the Board has been working on these issues for the last two years. The OVMA List serve has been an excellent news update for all the ongoing issues and we will continue to present the issues that the Board is involved with.

We had a great meeting at the OSBVME office on April 7, 2009 with over a half dozen Legislators, four Dept. Heads from the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine, several members of the OVMA Executive Board, a dozen plus veterinarians. What we lacked were lay individuals interested in being able to give quality input of what they go through and the education that has been received in equine dental floating to give them any credibility.

I had talked with several Equine Dental Floaters at the Capital about forwarding information on the schools that are teaching Equine Dentistry and what is covered in their curriculum. The State Board has contacted Weatherford College in Texas and we are looking for "who the better schools are" for their information as well. We are also looking at the Wyoming, New Mexico, and Louisiana Veterinary Practice Acts (and others) for how they have expanded options and the best way to preserve the quality that both sides of the fence are looking for. We appreciate those individuals who do dentistry that want only the best for the Oklahoma horses and cattle!

Two current ways it is lawful to practice equine dental floating that you can quote and pass on to any interested individuals.

A) The State Board has been proactive for the last two years and effective April 30, 2009, a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) may perform the following procedures listed below as directed by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian without the continuing physical presence of the licensed veterinarian, but the RVT must comply with the general record keeping requirements as set forth in the Veterinary Practice Act:

- Flotation or dressing of equine teeth; and
- Administration and management of anesthetic and analgesic agents

OR

B) Under Direct Supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

So veterinary partnering with the Equine Dental Floaters that are qualified in the above manner is an

immediate solution to any concerns for the dental floaters. We are trying to open up other avenues for quality dental work to be done! Also if any questions are on the table it is VERY important to call the State Board office and request clarification! We want everyone to stay out of trouble and be educated to the concerns that exist!

Thank you again for everyone's time and input for a balanced solution!

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S LETTER

By Jim P. Lee, DVM

The Board has expanded the duties of veterinary technicians this year to allow veterinarians to better utilize their technicians and their technicians abilities. Previously, veterinary technicians could perform:

- 1) Euthanasia of animals
- 2) Thoracocentesis
- 3) Abdominocentesis
- 4) Ocular Tonometry
- 5) Animal Massage Therapy
- 6) Vaccinations
- 7) Dental Scaling and Polishing

These duties can be performed on the order of a veterinarian without the continuing physical presence of the veterinarian. The technician must comply with the general record keeping requirements as set forth in the Practice Act.

As of April 30, 2009, the expanded duties include:

- 8) Suturing existing skin excisions made by a veterinarian
- 9) Microchipping or tattooing for identification purposes
- 10) Pregnancy checking of farm animals with or without diagnostic equipment, rectal palpation, artificial insemination, correcting of uterine prolapse, uncomplicated fetal extractions excluding fetotomies and c-sections
- 11) Flotation or dressing of equine teeth
- 12) Gavage
- 13) Ear flush
- 14) EKG, Ultrasound or diagnostic imaging or monitoring
- 15) Administration and management of anesthetic and analgesic agents
- 16) Application of splints and bandages
- 17) Wound management and care

Please remember that the title of veterinary technician and any of the abbreviations such as RVT, CVT, VT are reserved for those individuals who have graduated from an AVMA accredited program or its equivalent, and who have successfully completed the examination requirements as set forth by the Board. The title is also protected by the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act. The use of any of the above terms by lay people is a violation of the Practice Act and therefore unlawful. Individuals violating the section of the Practice Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and can be fined anywhere from \$500 to \$2,500.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Paul Sells is the new Board member from District 2. He was raised in the rural southwest town of Carnegie, OK. After graduation, he served in the US Army from 1989 to 1997. He is a graduate of OSU CVM class of 2001. After graduation, Dr. Sells had a large animal practice in Chandler, OK until 2006. He is currently working at Renegar Animal Hospital in McAlester OK as a mixed animal practitioner. His special interests include equine reproduction, dentistry, and small animal surgery. He is married to Dr. Becky Sells and they have four children, four horses, one barn cat, and one dog that stays gone half the time.

LAY EQUINE TEETH FLOATERS AND THE VALID VCPR

By Paul Sells D.V.M.

What do the lay Equine teeth floaters, prescription drugs, and veterinarians all have in common? The answer is an invalid VCPR. We figured it would be a good time to discuss the subject of a VCPR and prescription drugs due to all the recent publicity over Equine Dentistry. Ask yourself, have you contributed to the problem of lay teeth floaters acquiring prescription drugs? How do you think lay teeth floaters are acquiring sedation drugs? Either they are getting them directly from a veterinarian or a client that is funneling it to them. Have you sold a bottle of sedative to a client and could not account for where it all went? If so, you have just broken the VCPR. Also, a valid VCPR is non-transferable. For example, you can't sell to a client and they in turn use that drug on someone else's animal. So what is considered legal when a sedative leaves your clinic in the hands of a client?

In order to understand what is legal, you must understand the definition of a valid VCPR. For a valid VCPR to exist the veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal and the client has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian. The veterinarian must also have sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at least a general diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal. This can be accomplished if the veterinarian has recently seen or is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal or by medically necessary and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept. Furthermore, the veterinarian must be readily available for follow-up in the event of adverse reactions, for failure of therapy, or has made arrangements for emergency medical coverage.

It is not legal to dispense more than is needed just because the owner says they may need it in the future. A drug should be dispensed for a specific reason and for a finite amount of time. With the above in mind, tell me why a client would need a bottle of sedation in their hands? If you are a veterinarian that is dispensing more than what is needed, you are in violation of the Practice Act. If you are dispensing a sedative to a lay teeth floater, you are aiding and abetting to the illegal practice of veterinary medicine. The penalty for aiding and abetting upon conviction is a felony punishable by a fine in an amount not less than \$1,000.00 nor more than \$10,000.00 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not more than one year or imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for a term of not more than four years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

We as a profession can put an end to the invalid VCPR concerning prescription sedatives. It is time for us to stand together and do what's right by upholding the valid VCPR concerning sedation drugs. If every veterinarian followed the law we would not have this problem. Unfortunately, like any profession it takes only a few bad apples to spoil the entire bunch.

Download latest version of the
OKLAHOMA VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT
Effective 4/30/09
www.okvetboard.com

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS November 2008 – April 2009

No discipline to report

INTERNET DRUG SOLICITATIONS

Occasionally, you may receive solicitations from the various internet or mail order organizations that ask you to "participate" in their program or are selling Rx items without a prescription or a valid VCPR. We are requesting that you fax a copy of this solicitation to our Board office at (405) 524-9012. Please also fax a copy to the Pharmacy Board at (405) 521-3758 and FDA at (405) 609-8741. Note at the top of your fax "Complaint" to ensure it is routed to the right department. This will also keep these agencies in the know about unscrupulous practices.

RENEWAL HIGHLIGHTS

The renewal for a veterinarian license (effective April 30, 2009) was increased to \$225; if the renewal is not received on or postmarked by June 30, 2009, there will be an additional fee of \$100 for the period July 1 through August 29 for a total cost of \$325.

Please be sure that you have completed your renewal in its entirety including the mandatory continuing education section (a minimum of 2 hours) on the back of the form.

- **MANDATORY QUESTIONS:** All four of these questions must be answered.
- **MANDATORY REVIEW OF CDS LAWS (CE):** Reviewing the OK Veterinary Practice Act (available on OSBVME website) or any CDS laws.
- **SIGNATURE:** Before returning the form, please be sure you have signed and dated it.
- **AFFIDAVIT:** If you are NOT a US Citizen, you will need to send in the "Affidavit Verifying Lawful Presence In the US" with your renewal to stay compliant with the new immigration laws.
- **RENEWAL MUST BE MAILED ON OR BEFORE 6/30/09.**

YOUR ASSISTANCE PLEASE

Over the past year, in our efforts to contact the wholesalers, distributors and pharmacies of veterinary prescription drugs, we have discovered there may be some of those companies we are unaware of. We are asking for your assistance to supply us with a list of the companies you purchase prescription drugs from. E-mail to information@okvetboard.com, fax (405) 524-9012 or contact us by phone at (405) 524-9006. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

UPCOMING DATES

June 30, 2009 Renewals Due

July 17, 2009 4:00pm
Board Meeting at Board Office

September 11, 2009 4:00pm
Board Meeting at Board Office

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) 271-2474 to arrange a confidential telephone interview with one of their doctors.

UNLICENSED PRACTICE – REPORT IT TO THE BOARD

If you have evidence that a person is practicing without a license, please notify the Board. The Board will investigate the allegations and if founded, can take immediate action. Effective November 1, 2008, anyone practicing veterinary medicine without a current license or certificate can be charged with a felony.