

Oklahoma Veterinary Board Newsletter

December 2010

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Jim P. Lee, D.V.M. Dan G. Danner, D.V.M. Paul Q. Sells, D.V.M. Jeff L. Tidwell, D.V.M. Frank O. Denney, D.V.M. Carole Houghton, Esq.

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PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

Recently, the Farm Bureau passed its 2010 resolutions. Included is a resolution to move the Veterinary Board under the Department of Agriculture. This is a clear attempt to rearrange the board in a manner that places many more lay individuals on the board, and at the same time diminish the number of veterinarians on the board. Ultimately, this will result in lay individuals in a position to make determinations about what constitutes veterinary medicine in general, but also those same lay individuals will be reviewing complaints without the requisite education necessary to determine whether proper medical decisions were made. This is a major concern for <u>all</u> veterinarians!

Imagine having your medical records reviewed by lay individuals to determine whether you had practiced in a prudent and sound fashion! We must take steps to prevent this now. All of us, both small animal and large animal practitioners, need to contact our legislators and stress to them the importance of having the board remain a peer review board, as all medically oriented boards are. Your legislators need to be aware that the only way to maintain the high standards of our profession is to have veterinarians determining what constitutes the practice of veterinary medicine and what constitutes acceptable standards of practice. If you are unsure of who your state representative or state senator is you can go to www.lsb.state.ok.us.

Also, the board would like to congratulate Dr. Phil Richardson on his appointment to the chair of the Agriculture Committee. He is an excellent representative of both the veterinary community and the State of Oklahoma, and it is satisfying to see his stewardship recognized by the Speaker of the House.

Remember, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing". The time to act is now – we must defeat this threat to our practice lines.

From all of us at the OSBVME, we wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Jim Lee, DVM Board President

Download latest version of the

OK VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT

Effective 8/30/10

www.okvetboard.com

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Carole Houghton was born in Modesto, California. She received a Bachelors of Arts, in Psychology, from California State University at Northridge in 1993. Ms. Houghton relocated to Oklahoma City in 1995 and attended Oklahoma City University, School of Law, receiving a Juris Doctorate cum laude, in 1998. Ms. Houghton is currently an associate with Fellers Snider Blankenship Bailey & Tippens, PC, and has an active practice concentrating generally in civil and commercial transactions and litigation matters. She is licensed to practice in both Oklahoma and Texas and has been in practice for twelve years.

In addition to the practice of law, Ms. Houghton is actively involved with Heartland Lab Rescue and devotes most of her free time working with the rescue. However, her favorite pastime, especially after a long day, is nice a long run with her labs.

Ms. Houghton is married to J. Drew Houghton. They have three Labrador Retrievers; Maverick, Tucker and Avery.

REMINDER OF THE EXPANDED DUTIES FOR THE RVT

In April of 2009 the Board expanded duties for Registered Veterinary Technicians that included allowing them to perform 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 and the flotation or dressing of equine teeth. These duties can be performed on the order of a veterinarian without the continuing physical presence of the veterinarian but the technician must comply with the general record keeping requirements as set forth in the Practice Act.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There has been a concerning wave passing across the Veterinary Practice Acts in the U.S. especially throughout the Midwest. The players all seem to be very consistent such as the "Institute of Justice" out of Minnesota and many others. Texas recently did a great job keeping teeth floating to no sedation and no power tool level of care by lay persons. Everyone is very familiar to the frustrations in Oklahoma and the problem of legislation efforts by just a few to castrate our profession and put it under the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture or in other words...your practice will be reviewed by lay persons with no appreciable understanding of what we really do. This is just a flip from including all areas of our profession including companion animal practice once this ball keeps rolling.

The OSBVME is working on a much more aggressive level with Dr. Rene Carlson, President-Elect for the AVMA, who has admitted that up to this point did not have a true appreciation of the bigger picture of what Ag. and Farm Bureau groups have been trying to do. We are also very active in communicating and sharing efforts with other state boards and have gotten a strong support response from the American Association of State Veterinary Board's Board of Directors.

The OSBVME will continue to be proactive and debate these laws on the merits and problems created for the public in our State. We will continue to work with the OVMA to find the best possible solutions to keep Oklahoma clients and the public safe. When the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security and USDA are gearing up and requiring all of us to renew our Accreditation and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau and others are trying to reverse this ability, it creates a confusing picture.

Dan Danner DVM Board Vice-President

LICENSING STATISTICS AS OF DECEMBER 2010

DVM	1834	PROVISIONAL	L 1
SDVM	2	FACULTY	48
EMERITUS	153	RVT	310
CAET	114		

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS May 2010 – November 2010

Curtis Smith, DVM

VSJ - Agreed Order - Provided fraudulent blood testing on horses presented for sale at the Livestock Auction; pulling blood from one horse and pour the blood into multiple tubes that were submitted as blood testing for other horses; and failing to properly and accurately test animals for diseases (horses) or fertility (bulls). Sanctions included: 3 years Probation; 10 addt'l hours of CE to cover Ethics or large animal production; license suspended for six months; \$10,000 fine and monthly probation fees of \$50.00; after payment of a portion of the fine for \$3,000 the balance and monthly probation fee are deferred until 2013, such payments will be waived upon compliance.

Kyle Taylor, DVM

VSJ -Agreed Order - Failing to properly and accurately test animals for diseases (cattle). Sanctions included: Probation two years; pay a \$5,000.00 fine; and a probation fee of \$50.00 per month; after payment of a portion of the fine for \$2,500.00 the balance and the monthly administrative fee are hereby deferred until 2012, such payments shall be waived upon compliance.

Dean Brenner (non licensee)

The Probable Cause Committee determined that a non licensed individual performed an equine rectal palpation, along with the use of reproductive diagnostic ultrasound equipment/apparatus on a horse which constituted the practice of veterinary medicine. Therefore a field citation in the amount of \$500 was assessed and paid with respondent not admitting any liability.

UPCOMING DATES

January 14, 2011 4pmBoard Meeting at Board Office

January 27-29, 2011OVMA Convention - Clarion Hotel OKC

March 11, 2011 4pm Board Meeting at Board Office

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