

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board Newsletter

2022 Spring Edition

Current Board Members

**Kim Riker-Brown, DVM
President**

Toledo, OH
Term: 7/13/15-12/31/22

**Scott Myers, DVM
Vice-President**

Sharon Center, OH
Term: 2/19/21-12/31/23

**Dianne “Annie” Jones,
RVT**

Secretary
Ostrander, OH
Term: 3/12/15-12/31/24

Nancy O’Connor, DVM

Akron, OH
Term: 2/19/16-12/31/24

Tim Kolb, DVM

Delaware, OH
Term: 1/1/22-12/31/24

**John “Jack” Walken-
horst, DVM**

Lebanon, OH
Term: 1/1/22-12/31/22

Susan Pohler, Esq

Public Member
Columbus, OH
Term: 6/2020-12/31/2024

Board meetings are open to the public to listen to discussion on Agenda items.

Board Staff:

Theresa Stir, Executive Director
Joseph McClain, Licensure Coordinator

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The Board office is closed on state holidays. The staff are continuing to work remotely, but will respond as quickly as able.

New Rules Impacting Veterinary Medicine

Dog Warden and Chemical Capture

As a result of recent enactment of the Chemical Capture law which expanded the current law governing the seizures and impoundment of companion animals, new rules had to be promulgated by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy.

Section 4729.542 of the Ohio Revised Code and rule [4729:5-15-05](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code allow an animal shelter or county dog warden that holds a limited terminal distributor of dangerous drugs license to apply for a chemical capture classification. This classification permits the holder to purchase, possess, and administer a combination of drugs for chemical capture. To assist licensees in complying with the laws and rules governing the chemical capture of companion animals, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy posted a frequently asked questions document, which can be accessed here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CCapture

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board is responsible for approving the Chemical Capture courses which can be found on the Board web site under Continuing Education. <http://ovmlb.ohio.gov/cecourses.stm>

Veterinarian Student Debt Assistance Program

The Veterinarian Student Debt Assistance Program selected by a lottery was created under this law and the Board has finalized the rules. The Board’s first award will be after June 1, 2023, Information for the application, eligibility and contract terms can be found on the board web site under [Student Loan](#) as well as through alerts and publications.

Eligibility:

- Prior to applying, the veterinarian must have performed charitable veterinary services in an amount determined by the Board in rules, but at a minimum, 12 hours. (Charitable veterinary services include free spay and neutering services and any other services specified by rule with a nonprofit organization, a humane society, law enforcement agency or a state, local, or federal government entity).
- The veterinarian must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. National, or permanent resident of the United States;
- The veterinarian is licensed and has been engaged in the practice or instruction of veterinary medicine in Ohio for more than six months prior to application’
- The veterinarian has taken out an educational loan that was used for educational expenses incurred while the veterinarian was enrolled in a veterinary college;
- The veterinarian is not a member of the Board at the time application is submitted;
- The veterinarian is not an active program participant under contract with the Board; and
- The veterinarian has not been under contract as a program participant with the Board within a year prior to submitting an application.

The selected candidate(s) will be required to sign a Letter of Intent and then enter into a contract with the Board agreeing to perform charitable veterinary services for a two year period in exchange for repayment of all or part of an educational loan. The amount of hours and other terms are spelled out in Rules found under Chapter 3: <http://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-4741-3> (effective 4/14/22)

Rules (continued)

Continuing Education Rule 4741-1-11 OAC

As most practitioners are aware, on July 8, 2020, the Ohio Veterinary Licensing Board enacted a Resolution to permit unlimited continuing education hours to be obtained online CE in order to meet the requirements for renewal of a veterinary, limited veterinary, or registered veterinary technician license during the COVID pandemic. **This resolution ended March 1, 2022 and was not extended at this time.**

However, the Board members did modify Rule 4741-1-11 OAC to increase the number of online continuing education hours to 15 for veterinarians in a renewal cycle. The Registered Veterinary Technician online permitted hours remains at six (6) hours.

Medical Records Rule 4741-1-21 OAC

Due to the frequency noted in medical records of the lack of documentation of routes of administration of drugs, the Board members modified [Rule 4741-1-21](#) OAC to include the requirement to document routes of administration of drugs.

Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program

This student loan program was developed in 2006 to provide large animal veterinary services or protect public health in veterinary resource shortage areas. \$10.00 of each veterinary license renewal fee is deposited in the loan repayment fund. The loan awards up to \$10,000 a year for a service commitment of one year for those who have been out of veterinary school less than 3 years. Applications for 2022 can be found on the Board's web site under [Student Loan Program](#) and are due by **May 1st**. The applications can be mailed in or sent via email to Theresa.stir@ovmlb.state.oh.us

License Verification Reminder

Licensees will no longer receive a small certificate upon initial licensure or upon renewal of licensure. Licensees will receive an email validating the license/renewal which should be maintained for recordkeeping purposes. It is not necessary to display the email.

Employers and Pharmaceutical companies can validate a license through the [Licensure Verification](#) port on the Board's web site or the ELicense site. (elicense.ohio.gov) The Licensure Verification will now have the initial licensure date as well as disciplinary action. Please enter VET.## or RVT.## (## = license number) when validating a license by license number rather than name. If you hold a specialty license, it may be necessary to add ".SPEC" to the verification.

It is no longer a requirement to display a license per Rule 4741-1-03 OAC.

The Use of Heating Pads

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board has seen several recent complaints of thermal burns to a companion animal obtained during surgery or post-operatively. Most of the burns occur due to lack of monitoring or the use of heating pads not designed for use in sedate animals. Common heat sources used in clinics are water-filled exam gloves, "rice socks," IV fluid bags, reusable discs, "hard" electric heating pads, heating blankets, water or air blankets, and surgery tables. These burns are horrific in nature and lead to extended medical care. **When used appropriately**, heat therapy is beneficial to animals. The Board is not against the use of all heating devices. There are several medical devices on the market that safely maintain an animal's body temperature. The best way to avoid complications starts with a basic understanding by all team members of the different and appropriate heat sources, their intended use, and their risks.

Trenbolone Use—It has come to the attention of the Board that Trenbolone, an anabolic steroid used in livestock, has seen an increase in abuse by humans and should be monitored closely by veterinarians when prescribing.