

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Annual Report FY 2013

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board's mission is to insure that the citizens of Ohio are served by professional, trustworthy and competent veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Overview

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board (Board) met the second Wednesday of the month and held 11 meetings for FY13.

Board Members:

Gurdas Dass, DVM, President	Beachwood – term ends 12/31/2013
Dr. Cynthia Kidd, DVM Vice-President	Jackson – term ends 12/31/2014
Renee Jessen, RVT, Secretary	Berkey – term ends 12/31/2015
Roger Redman, DVM	Wooster-term ends 12/31/2013
Tim Kolb, DVM	Delaware - term ends 12/31/2015
Rebecca Salinger, DVM	Ashtabula – term ends 12/13/2015
John Brandt, public member	Westerville – term ends 12/31/2015

Board Staff:

Theresa Stir, Esq.	Executive Director
Joseph McClain	Licensure Coordinator
Darcy Griffin-Kamerer	Clerk

Fiscal

The Board is self-sustaining fiscally through licensure fees, late fines and miscellaneous sources. The Board was allotted \$319,407 for FY 2013. The Board had \$80,086.39 in operating expenses and \$222,360.03 in payroll expenses for FY13. The Board generated \$258,390.35 in Revenue for FY13 for a biennial total of: \$1,015,046.45. Of the total revenue in FY13, \$680 has been transferred to the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program in accordance with ORC 4741.17(A)(7).

Policies, Law & Rules

The Board is in the process of reviewing the Board rules to meet the 5 year review deadline and filing with JCARR. Two new rules to address Vaccination and Wellness Clinics and home visits are in the process of being developed. The rules are being developed in response to the multiple inquiries to the Board regarding the unregulated vaccination clinics and their ability to comply with existing rules for stationary hospitals and mobile clinics.

Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program

HB 458 of the 126th General Assembly created a veterinary loan program to address current and future shortages of veterinarians in large animal and regulatory public health situations in Ohio. Loan repayment grants can be up to \$20,000 for a two year commitment of service. Pursuant to Section 4741.17(A)(7) ORC, the Board transferred \$680 to the Veterinary Student Loan

Repayment fund (ALI 888-602) in FY 13 to reflect \$10.00 from each veterinary license renewal from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

In accordance with Section 4741.47 ORC, an annual progress report regarding the implementation and progress of the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program was provided to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President prior to March 1, 2013.

Three (3) applicants submitted applications for consideration by the Board at their May 2013 meeting for the Veterinary Student Loan. The Board considered the applications based on their willingness to provide large animal veterinary services in a resource shortage area. The Board awarded each candidate a \$5,000 grant for a service commitment of one year. The recipients will submit progress reports biannually.

Licensure

The Board continued on-line renewal through the state E-licensing system for the registered veterinary technician biennial renewal in 2013. Approximately 68% of the registered veterinary technicians utilized the on-line renewal. As predicted, the on-line renewal process was time efficient for the Board staff and eliminated the need for the Board staff to handle over \$60,660 in individual checks within the office.

The Board is currently responsible for the licensure requirements of 4255 veterinarians, 3036 registered veterinary technicians, 97 limited licensed veterinarians (whose practice is limited to an academic institution, governmental laboratory, or performing a residency in veterinary medicine), 112 Specialty licenses and 48 business facility licenses. The number of licensees varies slightly from year to year as indicated here:

<u>RVTs:</u>			<u>Veterinarians:</u>		
FY09 New:	243	Total: 2168	FY09 New:	158	Total: 3861
FY10 New:	297	Total: 2492	FY10 New:	186	Total: 3790
FY11 New:	234	Total: 2476	FY11 New:	209	Total: 4022
FY12 New:	245	Total: 2876	FY12 New:	127	Total: 4041
FY13 New:	399	Total: 3036	FY13 New:	236	Total: 4255

The Board has modified their initial application process by requiring all necessary documents to be submitted with the application excluding the criminal background check which must be submitted to the Board directly from BCI. The Board staff has found the new process more efficient and has reduced the number of phone calls from applicants wanting to know the status of their license. With the documents being submitted together, the Board can issue the license quickly as long as the application is complete.

Complaint & Disciplinary Process

During FY 13, the Board received 165 complaints. The Board collected \$14,298 in Fines as a result of discipline.

Summary of Board Disciplinary Actions In FY 2013

Retired license in lieu of discipline (addressed 12 of the complaints)	1
Adjudication Orders issued	1
Settlement Agreements Entered	10
Cease & Desist Letters issued	14
Referrals to Prosecutor and/or other state agencies	5
Advisory Letters	23
On site investigations	10
Compliance Inspections	11
30-day correction Compliance Inspection deficiency letters issued	2

The Board contracts with the Ohio Department of Agriculture for investigations of complaints. Once the Board reviews a complaint and medical records, they will determine if the complaint warrants an actual on-site investigation. The Board members will direct the investigator what information they need that is germane to the complaint filed. The Board has found this arrangement very satisfactory.

Upon receipt of a complaint, the complainant is notified in writing of the Board complaint process and the file number issued to the complaint so they can follow the disciplinary process in the Board minutes which are posted on the web site. Once a discipline is issued by the Board, it is entered into a national databank for other state regulatory agencies of veterinary medicine, flagged in the state e-licensing system, and entered onto the Board's web site.

Communication

The Board staff consists of two full time members and one part time clerk. The Board works diligently to return calls and address all correspondence within one business day. In an effort to keep veterinarians and RVTs current on regulatory issues impacting their practice, the Board issued an informative newsletter to its listserve in December and posted the newsletter on the website. Additionally, the Board has updated the website to include recent Board decisions regarding veterinary issues, approved continuing education, and Board disciplines of licensees. The Board recently collaborated with OVMA to develop a quick reference regarding duties of RVTs and Animal Aides and the necessary supervision. This list has been posted on the Board web site and will be published in the upcoming newsletter. Board Agendas and Minutes are also posted on the website. The Board has approved and posted the Public Records Policy in the Board office and on the website.

Renee Jessen, RVT Board Secretary, presented on current Board issues and compliance processes to attendees at the Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians conference in October, 2012. Dr. Gurdas Dass, DVM, Board President presented on current board issues and on the disciplinary and compliance process of the Board at the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association's 2013 Midwest Veterinary Conference. Dr. Tim Kolb, DVM and Theresa Stir, Executive Director, presented on Board licensing and disciplinary issues to the third year veterinary students at The OSU College of Veterinary Medicine in April, 2013.

IT

The Board contracts with DAS IT for computer services. There has not been a need for replacement of computers or printers this fiscal year. However, in an effort to reduce the costs of copying and mailing the board packets, the Board purchased I-pads for the board members' usage for board meeting business.

Continuing Education

The veterinarian must have 30 hours of approved continuing education (CE) to renew. The registered veterinary technician must have 10 hours of approved CE to renew. The Board approves those CE courses that do not fall within guidelines as set forth in Rule 4741-1-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

National Membership

The Board maintains membership with the American Association of State Veterinary Boards (AAVSB). The membership is not only necessary for staying current on regulatory issues nationwide, it permits access to the national system to report disciplinary actions against veterinarians and RVTs licensed in the State of Ohio. Dr. Roger Redman was appointed to the AAVSB Bylaws & Resolution Committee after his reappointment to the Board in 2011. Dr. Redman has been nominated by the Board members to serve on the AAVSB Board of Directors.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by:

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