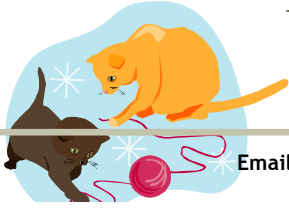


THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



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CAET's: Functions and Facts

What is a CAET? What are they authorized to do? Why is this relevant to me as a licensed veterinarian or registered veterinary technician in West Virginia?

CAET is the acronym for Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician. A CAET is authorized to perform animal euthanasia by injection to animals that are the property of an animal control facility or animal shelter in this state. Effective with passage of Senate Bill 501 in the 2009 legislature, CAET's may also perform euthanasia by gas chamber in instances where the animal shelter or animal control facility has in operation a commercial gas chamber for animal euthanasia, which was in operation prior to the passage of SB501.

Animal control facilities or shelters that have a gas chamber manufactured or created and/or installed by other than a commercial gas chamber manufacturer/installer may not use such chambers. No facility wishing to obtain a gas chamber, even if the chamber is commercial grade and state of the art may do so after SB501 passed, unless it is to replace a gas chamber that met the requirements for operation at the time SB501 was enacted.

Some questions on the authority of CAET's have come up and we hope to clarify some misconceptions in this article.

A veterinarian may not hire a CAET to perform animal euthanasia at his or her veterinary facility. CAET's are authorized to perform euthanasia only at legally authorized facilities.

CAET's are not authorized to perform animal euthanasia on any animals that are not the property of the animal control facility which employs them as a CAET. Transferring ownership of an animal to a facility so it can be euthanized by a CAET is also not allowed.

A CAET or his or her employer organization may not solicit donations from owners in exchange for euthanizing their animals. CAET's are only authorized to euthanize shelter/animal control facility animals.

Additionally, an animal control facility must retain such animals for the legally required time as specified by law prior to euthanasia.

Veterinarians have the authority to euthanize animals for a fee or otherwise that are scheduled for euthanasia. ✨

Renewals

On or before December 1, 2009, all licensed veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians and certified animal euthanasia technicians will receive the renewal form in the



mail for the year beginning January 1, 2010. To avoid delays in your renewal and in your authority to practice your profession, we urge you to complete the renewal form, review it thoroughly before submitting and save a copy for your records. Be sure to send a check payable for the correct amount along with your completed renewal form. December is a very busy mail month, so quick submission may save you substantial delinquency

fees and avoid your inability to practice your profession at the inception of the New Year. ✨

Changes in Fees

Effective July 10, 2009 the Schedule of Fees for the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine have been modified. The new fees are included in this newsletter on pages 2 and 3.

We try to keep our costs down as much as possible.

As your costs go up, so do ours. Some believe that as a government agency, we do not pay for services of other government agencies. That is not true. We must pay our rent; insurance; travel; personnel; administrative and legal fees the same as you. We are limited in not having the option to choose whom we will do business with, unlike you. One of our largest costs is for our legal services.

When a complaint is filed, the Board must review and make a determination of whether action is called for. Once that is determined, if the infraction rises to a level requiring some official form of discipline, we try to settle the matter with a consent agreement. A consent agreement reflects findings and actions by the Board.

In the past, most instances requiring official action could be settled expediently and with minor legal costs to the Board or the licensee. That has changed dramatically in the past few years. As a result, more and more cases are lengthy and take considerable to vast amounts of time for the Board and our legal counsel.

When legal counsel is utilized, charges to the Board increase. As a result, fees must be increased to cover the costs of operating this Board. We are extremely hesitant to increase costs, but there is no other option when expenses absorb more and more of our funding.

All monies for the operation of the Board are generated from our fees. No funds from general revenue of the State are received by the Board. If we charge a fine against a licensee, we do not keep that fine. Once it is collected, we must transfer any fines to the general revenue fund of the State



of West Virginia. This is appropriate; to avoid Board's from appearing to fine persons to increase revenue.

Is there anything that can be done to keep down costs and avoid fee increases?

That is difficult to say. We have a responsibility to address complaints and allow licensees to defend themselves to whatever legal level they wish to advance. When legal counsel is introduced by complaint respondents, we have no alternative but to utilize legal counsel as well.

Hopefully and ideally, we can advance to the point on some cases where negotiations can be undertaken and lead to equitable and prompt response to complaint cases, thereby saving cost to the Board and minimizing needed increases to licensees in keeping up with advancing expenses. ♡

**TITLE 26
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

SERIES 6
SCHEDULE OF FEES**

§ 26-6-1. General.

- 1.1. Scope. This rule establishes the fees to be charged by the Board.
- 1.2. Authority. -- West Virginia Code § 30-10
- 1.3. Filing Date. – May 21, 2009
- 1.4. Effective Date. – July 10, 2009

§ 26-6-2. Schedule of Fees.

- 2.1. Veterinarian application, examination and license fee... \$300.00
- 2.2. Duplicate license or renewal certificate.....\$15.00
- 2.3. Annual veterinary license renewal fee..... \$250.00
- 2.4. Temporary permit.....\$100.00
- 2.5. Written confirmation of licensure, registration or certification by West Virginia..... \$25.00
- 2.6. North America Veterinary License Exam (NAVLE) eligibility processing fee.....\$50.00
- 2.7. Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician continuing education program fee.... \$250.00
- 2.8. Veterinary Technician application, exam & registration fee.....\$100.00

- 2.9. Veterinary Technician annual renewal fee.....\$60.00
- 2.10. Veterinary Technician National Examination.....\$250.00
- 2.11. Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician application, exam & certification fee.\$75.00
- 2.12. Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician training program fee..... \$225.00
- 2.13. Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician annual renewal fee\$50.00
- 2.14. WV State Police Background Check\$30.00
- 2.15. Inspection of a facility which employs a Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician....\$250.00
- 2.16. Roster; (written or electronic)
- Veterinarians.....\$ 25.00
 - Veterinary Technician.....\$ 10.00
 - Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians ...\$10.00
 - Registered Veterinary Facilities ..\$25.00
- 2.17. Rules and Practice Act.... \$ 25.00
- 2.18. Relief permit fee..... \$ 25.00
- 2.19. Relief permit renewal fee...\$ 25.00
- 2.20. Emergency relief permit.... \$100.00
- 2.21. Facility inspection fee\$250.00
- 2.22. Facility re-inspection fee....\$300.00
- 2.23. Veterinary facility annual permit....\$50.00
- 2.24. Written change of name.....\$ 10.00
- 2.25. Written change of address.....\$ 10.00
- 2.26. Copies of public records (per page).....\$.50
- 2.27. Continuing education program review and evaluation....\$50.00
- 2.28. A penalty to be determined by the Board, not to exceed 25% of the original fee required, shall be assessed on all fees not paid by the due date.
- 2.29. All fees shall be payable to the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine by check, cashiers check, money order, or cash. ✨

Who Do You Trust?



An individual comes in to interview at your practice. She is articulate, well dressed, professional, enthusiastic, everything you feel is important in a veterinarian. She shows you letters of reference. Her original diploma is in her folder and she shows that to you as well. She can start to work as early as next week. Your terms regarding wages and benefits are agreeable. Her family is in West Virginia and she wants to come back home. She is a dream come true.

You have been trying to get some time away for three years. You ask her if she has a license to practice veterinary medicine in West Virginia. She assures you she does. She explains when asked to see her license that it is in storage, but she will be moving her things back soon and can show it to you later. You agree.

After she has been with you about six weeks, a situation arises with a long standing client. You stand by your employee and the client says he is filing a complaint with the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

A few days later, that client calls you and confronts you with the knowledge that your new veterinarian does not have a license in West Virginia. He now questions your honesty and integrity as a result of this finding. He called the Board to file a complaint and was informed that no such person was licensed in this state.

In addition, your associate veterinarian signed some interstate health certificates for the client's horses to transfer from West Virginia to Colorado, and the horses are in transport. Since she does not have a license, she does not have accreditation in this state.

You confront this veterinarian with the information that she does not have a license in West Virginia. At first, she says that the Board erred in that statement, and she will call and get them straightened out. When she learns that there is also an issue regarding accreditation, she confirms that she has never applied for a West Virginia license, as her license was revoked in another jurisdiction two years ago.

Now you have an issue with one of your longest standing and most lucrative clients. There are also problems because the animals may be quarantined since the health certificates were not signed by an accredited veterinarian. And, your license is subject to disciplinary action for having professional association with a person who was practicing veterinary medicine illegally in this state.

As an honorable person in a highly respected profession, it is difficult to imagine that there could be persons in your profession who do not share your ethical standards. This can make you more vulnerable to deception.

How could this have been stopped? By one phone call to the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (304.776.8032) to confirm that the veterinarian did in fact hold a current and unrestricted license in this state before you authorized her to practice at your facility.

Just knowing a person has a license may not be enough for you. A person may have and show you a current license, but there may be restrictions or current discipline against that license, which of course would not be discovered upon simply seeing the license renewal certificate.

You may call the Board to determine if someone has a current license and if there is any existing disciplinary action against him or her.

Before jeopardizing yourself, your license and your professional reputation, we suggest that you make a call to us before employing someone to practice veterinary medicine in association with you. 🏠

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

Mohandas Gandhi

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