

THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

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Annual Renewal Time



We are again at that time of year for filing license renewals of Veterinarians, Registered Veterinary Technicians and Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians.

Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians are receiving this newsletter along with the 2010 renewal form. Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians are mailed their renewal forms at this time as well, but they do not receive this newsletter. This newsletter contains information primarily of interest to veterinarians and RVT's.

We recommend that you thoroughly review the application for renewal before completing. Rushing to fill forms out is one of the primary reasons for it to be returned due to insufficient or erroneous information.

It is also recommended before you mail your renewal form to us, that you make a copy of your completed application. This is helpful if we send your renewal back to you. You may see the error(s) more readily, especially relative to your listing of continuing education.

As a courtesy, we keep a c.e. table form on our website, which you may download and print for your files. If you list your approved classes, where and when they were held and the number of hours upon completion, it may save you some time in trying to refresh your memory months after

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attending the classes.

A couple of notes on the provider organization: We want the organization that presented the classes, such as AVMA. Please avoid vague acronyms such as GBVMA, OVMA, etc. We need to clearly understand the name of the provider organization, or we may need to send the form back to you for clarification.

The renewal period is very hectic in this office. We review each and every renewal form. We also review the listing of continuing education. If someone fails to comply with a listing of appropriate c.e., including adequate number of hours in approved classes, we can not complete the renewal process.

Every year we regrettably must inform someone that their license can not be renewed due to inadequate or inappropriate continuing education. The next thing we hear is their question on what they can do to renew. The answer is nothing. A license of any sort (Veterinarian, RVT, or CAET) may not be renewed if appropriate continuing education is not completed for the new year beginning January 1 by December 31 of the previous year. You can not go to a course in January 2010 and then apply to use it to renew for 2010. To renew for 2010, the appropriate classes must have been completed by December 31, 2009.

The only exception to this would be a medical or military emergency that the Board determined as having hindered your ability to comply with the requirement for c.e. by December 31st.

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In such a case, you must file the form, which is attached to your renewal form. There is no guarantee that the request for the c.e. extension will be accepted by the Board. We will review the request and determine if an extension will be granted for completion of the c.e. hours. We must receive the request in our office no later than December 15th to be considered. You will be informed if the extension is granted. You must still file the renewal form along with the renewal fee when you file your request for a medical or military c.e. extension.

To expedite the decision, it would be beneficial for you to submit any verification of your situation. Of course, we don't ask that you violate medical privilege, but a letter from you attesting to your circumstances and any information which you feel is compelling for your request that you are comfortable in divulging to us is helpful.

One of the common requests we receive is for another mailing of the renewal forms. The reasons are various. The first mailing was never received, it was misplaced, you filled it in incorrectly, you never changed your mailing address and mail was not forwarded from your previous employer. In other words, everything but the dog ate it, which in this profession, would surprisingly make sense!

To help alleviate delays in receipt of another copy of the renewal form, we have placed it on our website in pdf format.

You may go to our website at www.wvbvm.org and click on forms. There you will find the 2010 renewal form for Veterinarians, RVTs and CAETs. If you can not copy this because you do not have Acrobat Reader on your computer, we even placed a link on the forms cover page so you can download the pdf format and download the form in a printable version.

We hope access to the forms will be helpful to you and avoid delays if you need a duplicate your mailed renewal form. ☺☺

Our Website- Your Resource



There are two groups of people out there. Those who are computer savvy, and those who are not. Many of us have one foot in each world. Many of us remember a time when we got along just fine, thank you very much, without the internet. Our time period was BC (before computers). There is one very large problem, some of us are still in the B.C. age, while most of us under 45 years of age is worlds ahead in the technology age. We must keep up with technology.

The website of this Board is a work in progress. We are trying to provide you with access to the information and materials that you are most likely to need access to. You are encouraged to go to our website from time to time. See what we can offer you on this site.

We recently placed a good many of the most requested forms on our website. These include applications for veterinary license, RVT registration, CAET certification, Corporations, PLLCs, information on temporary permits for veterinarians, facility registrations, renewal forms, and others will follow.

Also on this site are links to many of the sites related to our profession that you may find of interest. Included in the links are the AAVSB, AVMA and the WVVMA, to name a few.

Our most recent newsletters are on this site also. You can go to the Newsletters page and access recent newsletters for reading on line or printing.

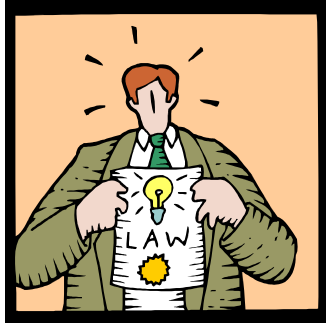
We are currently working on the rosters of licensees. This will be a reference source to verify those who are currently licensed.

We also have for your reference our practice act and rules and regulations.

You are encouraged to take advantage of this resource.

For those who may have forgotten, our website address is : www.wvbvm.org

WV Veterinary Practice Act Legislation



Some of you may be aware that we worked throughout the summer of 2008 with members of the House of Delegates and staff to update our veterinary practice act. At final count, we had about 14 rewrites of this practice act.

It was addressed in the 2009 legislative session, passing the House of Delegates with 96 yeas and no dissenting votes. Unfortunately, it failed to make it through the Senate. So, we attempted to get it through special session, but that was also unsuccessful.

We will again be submitting our practice act to the legislature in the 2010 session. Hopefully, we will meet with success in this attempt.

Some of the issues being addressed in our proposed practice act changes are:

- ❖ It would allow the Board to accept foreign graduates who complete an equivalency program aside from the education commission for foreign veterinary graduates. To date, at least 28 states have accepted the alternative option for foreign graduates, with other states having legislation pending. We have had considerable interest in WV allowing this option to graduates of foreign schools, as

a second option for completion of the foreign graduate equivalency requirements.

- ❖ Allowing the appointment of a veterinary technician to the Board.
- ❖ Granting the Board the option of using a hearing examiner in hearings.
- ❖ Allowing the Board to waive the renewal fee for veterinarians and veterinary technicians while on active duty of the armed services or the public health service of the U.S. during a declared emergency.
- ❖ Increasing the number of board members from seven to nine, (with one being a veterinary technician) to assure the complaint committee may consist of more than one person and still have enough members who are not on the complaint committee to constitute a quorum for final decisions on complaints.
- ❖ Asserting that board members may not be an officer in a state or national association whose purpose is advocating the interests of the licensees. This is to assure that the purpose of protecting the public is our primary function, as required by law.
- ❖ Eliminating outdated language mandating citizenship for licensure, and also eliminating language stating that to apply for a veterinary license in West Virginia, the applicant must be a resident of this state.
- ❖ Allowing the Board to send out renewal notices earlier than

- December 1, as specified in current code.
- ❖ Clarifying that temporary permits for veterinarians pending the opportunity to sit for our exam (which is offered twice yearly) may be issued until the written notice of results are available for the first exam after issuance of the temporary permit.
 - ❖ Allowing exemption from the requirement of a veterinary license for someone treating or relieving a living animal in an emergency for no fee or other compensation. Current code allows exemption from a requirement for a veterinary license to someone treating an animal in an emergency, but does not specify that the actions must be conducted with no fee or other compensation, thus creating the possibility of someone who is not a licensed veterinarian practicing emergency veterinary care under “Exemptions from the Article”.
 - ❖ Authorizing board members or the Board’s executive director to issue subpoenas. Subpoenas are delayed as there are no board members in the immediate area of the office to sign them, so we must await the opportunity of a board member to come to the office or we must mail the subpoenas to a board member and have them mailed back to the office before serving them, creating delays.
 - ❖ Authorizing board members or the Board’s executive director to sign consent decrees on behalf of the Board, which have

been approved by a quorum of the Board. Consent decrees are delayed as there are no board members in the immediate area of the office to sign them, so we must await the opportunity of a board member coming into the office, or mail the consent decree to the Board President for signature and have the consent decree mailed back to the office. If the Board President is out of town and we are under time restraints, this creates a problem, and delays in resolving cases.

- ❖ Increasing possible fines for the illegal practice of veterinary medicine as a deterrent to such illegal activity.

We welcome your support for our changes to the WV Veterinary Practice Act in the 2010 Legislature. We hope you will relay your support of our proposed legislation to your legislators. If you have any questions about this legislation, please email: wgoodwin@wvnet.edu or call our office and we will be happy to discuss the issues with you.



Best Wishes from the Board Members and Staff of the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine for The Holidays and a Healthy, Joyful and Bountiful New Year!!

✿ ✿ *In Memorium 2009* ✿ ✿

Dr. William R. Porter II

Dr. Maurice H. Vaughan

Dr. James (Jim) Davis

Dr. Carlos A. Williams