General Board Information

Governmental Structure

- The authority for the establishment of the Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) and duties and responsibilities are found in the Code of Virginia (Code).
- The governmental structure for the Board is the following:
  - Code designates the Board to be part of the Executive Branch of government (Governor).
  - Governor appoints the seven members to serve on the board based on parameters set forth in the Code.
  - Code designates that the Board is to be overseen by the Health and Human Resources (HHR) Secretariat.
  - Code designates that the Department of Health Professions (DHP) is to oversee Board operations.
  - DHP ensures that the day to day functions of the Board are managed by appropriate staff.

Board Structure

- Seven members appointed by the governor as follows:
  - Five licensed veterinarians
  - One licensed veterinary technician
  - One citizen member
- Terms are limited to:
  - Four years
  - No more than two successive full terms
- Board elects a President, Vice-President and Secretary

Board Staff Members

- Executive Director – Leslie Knachel
  - Reports to agency director
  - Responsible for overseeing the day-to-day functions of the Board’s activities and its staffs
- Deputy Executive Director – Amanda Blount
  - Responsible for managing disciplinary case load
  - Supervises licensing staff members
- Operations Managers – Carol Stamey and Terri Behr
  - Manage the licensing, discipline and compliance monitoring functions
- Administrative Assistants – Temple Ross & Tamara Farmer
  - Perform duties related to licensing
Board Functions

As a member board under DHP, the Board adheres to the mission statement of the agency:

*Our mission is to ensure safe and competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforcing standards of practice, and providing information to health care practitioners and the public.*

Board Activities vs. Professional Associations

- Board’s primary responsibility is to protect the public
- Professional Associations advocate for the profession

Board vs. State Veterinarian vs. Virginia Department of Health

The Board, State Veterinarian and Public Health Veterinarian are three different entities
- Office of the State Veterinarian is housed in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
  - Provides guidance to local animal control for enforcement of comprehensive animal care laws
  - Inspects animal shelters
  - Enforces certain testing to protect livestock health
  - Performs meat, poultry and dairy inspections
  - Works with USDA to manage national and state accreditation
- Public Health Veterinarian is housed at the Virginia Department of Health and oversees rabies issues

Laws vs. Regulations

- The Code grants the Board authority to promulgate regulations which are recorded in the Virginia Administrative Code (VAC)
  - Referred to as Administrative Law
  - Enforced as law
  - Changed by following the promulgation process defined in Code whereby the public has the opportunity to view the regulatory changes and participate in open comment periods
- Each licensee is responsible for knowing and following the applicable laws and regulations
- Board members and staff are not authorized to provide interpretations or legal advice regarding laws or regulations
Law and Regulation Numbering

- § 54.1-3800 et seq.
  - § means section
  - 54.1 is the Title
  - 3800 is the chapter
  - Et seq. means all of the sections within the chapter

- 18 VAC 150-20-10
  - 18 = Title
  - VAC = Virginia Administrative Code
  - 150 = Agency
  - 20 = Chapter
  - 10 = Section

Guidance Documents

- A guidance document is defined as "...any document developed by a state agency or staff that provides information or guidance of general applicability to the staff or public to interpret or implement statutes or the agency’s rules or regulations..."
- Board may issue a guidance document that provides information on how a law or regulation is viewed by the Board.
- Guidance documents are not laws or regulations and are not enforceable as such.
- Code of Virginia requires annual publication of lists of guidance documents from state agencies.
- Publication appears on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website and on the Board’s public website.

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall

Registering on the Town Hall website is an excellent way to stay abreast of all regulatory actions in process or taken by the Board of Veterinary Medicine or any other Virginia regulatory body. To register go to http://townhall.virginia.gov/ and choose areas of interest. Whenever a regulatory action takes place within an individual’s registered area of interest, an automatic email notification is sent.

Regulatory Updates

Regulations

Board of Veterinary Medicine’s regulations are titled:

Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine

Regulatory Actions

2017
- CE credit for volunteer practice (effective 5/5/17)
- Emergency regulations for prescribing opioids (effective 6/26/17)
- Periodic Review (effective 10/25/17)

2016
- Elimination of restriction on practical training only in final year of veterinary school (effective 7/27/16)
- Use of the term specialist (effective 7/27/16)
- Increase in CE hours for veterinary technicians (8/10/16)
Opioid Crisis

- Virginia Public Health Crisis
- Opioid vs. Opiate
- Drugs of Concern listed in Code
  - Tramadol
  - Gabapentin

Highlighted Changes

Significant Changes

- Disclosure to owners when a veterinary student is practicing (18VAC15-20-130)
- Delegation of duties (18VAC15-20-172)
- Informed consent for surgery (18VAC15-20-173)
- Re-categorization of veterinary establishments (Part V)
- Requirements for drug storage (18VAC15-20-190)

Veterinarian-in-Charge (VIC)

Every veterinary establishment is required to have a VIC whose responsibilities include but are not limited to:
- Maintaining the facility within the standards set forth by this chapter
- Being on site as necessary to provide routine oversight
- Performing controlled substance inventories
- Ensuring the establishment maintains a current and valid permit issued by the board
- Notifying the board if the establishment is closing
- Notifying the board if no longer acting as the VIC

Licensure/Registration Updates

- All licenses/registrations issued by the Board expire on December 31st of each year
- Email renewal notification
  - Two emails are typically sent
  - Online renewal is available and payable with a credit card
- VIC must renew individual license before renewing veterinary establishment registration
- Practicing with a lapsed license may result in disciplinary action
Continuing Education (CE)

- Veterinarians must complete 15 hours/year
- Veterinary Technicians must complete 8 hours/year
- Approved courses or programs are to be clinical courses sponsored by an entity listed in the regulations
- Review Guidance Document 150-11: The Board accepts CE that is related to disaster or emergency preparedness, the U. S. Department of Agriculture’s National Veterinary Accreditation Program and communication development to strengthen the veterinarian-client-patient relationships, including but not limited to grief counseling and personal wellness.

Statistics Update

- License and Registration Count
  - Veterinarians – 4,115
  - Vet Techs – 2,087
  - Equine Dental Techs – 25
  - Veterinary Establishments – 1,124
- Board Cash Balance on 11/30/17: $627,924
- Disciplinary Cases Received: 244 in last 12 months
  - Inspection related issues
  - Standard of care
  - Failure to complete CE
  - Drug theft or loss

Health Practitioners Monitoring Program

- DHP contracts with Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Department of Psychiatry, Division of Addiction Psychiatry, to provide confidential services for the health practitioner, who may be impaired by any physical or mental disability, or who suffers from chemical dependency.
- Practitioners may enter voluntarily or be ordered to the program
  - Case management services are paid for by the Board and treatment services are paid for by the practitioner
  - At any given time several veterinary medicine licensees are enrolled in the program

Prescription Monitoring Program
Prescription Monitoring Program

- This program allows for prescribers to review a patient’s controlled substance prescription history
- Access by veterinarians

Summary