

Veterinary Medicine

NEWSLETTER

Board Telephone: (717) 783-7134
E-mail: veterina@pados.dos.state.pa.us
www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/vetbd/mainpage.htm

Spring 2001

Inside:

License PA

2

Animal Health Technician Certification

5

Confidentiality of Medical Records

7



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Ridge
Governor

Kim Pizzigrilli
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Albert H. Masland
Commissioner
Bureau of Professional
and Occupational Affairs

For more information, visit us through the Pennsylvania homepage at www.state.pa.us or visit the Department of State directly at www.dos.state.pa.us

Board Members

Brian V. Harpster, V.M.D., Chairman
Lebanon, Lebanon County

Patricia L. Thomson, D.V.M., Vice Chairperson
Lancaster, Lancaster County

Barbara C. Pinker, C.A.H.T.
Reading, Berks County

Robert W. Cloninger, V.M.D.
Centre Hall, Centre County

Thomas J. McGrath, D.V.M.
Columbia, Lancaster County

James A. Orsini, D.V.M.
Kennett Square, Chester County

Judith F. Baillis, Public Member
Port Matilda, Centre County

Mary D. Evans, Public Member
West Chester, Chester County

Board Staff

Teresa Lazo-Miller, Esq.
Counsel

Clifford D. Swift, Esq.
Prosecuting Attorney

Robert Kline
Administrator

Change of Name and/or Address Reminder

To ensure receipt of a renewal notice or important information from the board, licensees must contact the board office with any changes in name or address. Name changes require a copy of court order, marriage certificate, divorce decree or other official document. Send changes to:

State Board of Veterinary Medicine
P.O. Box 2649

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

License PA

Dear Professional Licensee:

I welcome the opportunity to communicate with you through this newsletter and the Department of State website. Our website serves as a valuable resource for the general public, as well as the regulated community licensed by the 27 professional licensing boards and commissions.

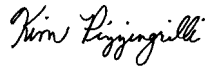
Our mission, and the responsibility of each licensing board and commission, is to protect public health, safety and welfare. At the same time, we are doing our part to make state government more accessible and more responsive to the public and the regulated community. To that end, I invite continued dialogue and open communication with each board and commission to further the effective regulation of its licensed community.

In response to Governor Ridge's challenge to all state agencies to improve productivity and customer service through technology, the Department of State's, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs has contracted with System Automation Corporation to develop a state-of-the-art licensing system to serve the professional community and consumers.

Known as **License PA**, this new system will ultimately provide licensees with the ability to apply for a license and renew existing licenses via the Internet. It will also enable licensees and consumers to verify licensure status electronically. We expect **License PA** to provide the resources to the licensing board offices that will result in more efficient service to licensees and the public. The project is scheduled for completion in July 2001. To continue to keep informed about our progress and the availability of new features, please visit our website at www.dos.state.pa.us.

We also look forward to continuing to work with you toward our mutual goals of protecting the health, safety and welfare of all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,



Kim Pizzigrilli
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Message from the Chairman

Brian V. Harpster, V.M.D.

As we are all aware, radical change is occurring not only in our private lives, but also within the veterinary profession. Not only do we as practitioners need to address these changes, these challenges must be addressed by the Pennsylvania State Board of Veterinary Medicine. Issues in alternative medicine, spinal manipulation, the quality of continuing education, and the availability of pharmaceuticals and vaccines have come before the Board with increasing frequency. The Board is designed to serve as both a consumer-oriented, adjudicative body to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth, and as an administrative body to develop regulations to implement the act governing the practice of the profession. The Board is determined to safeguard professional standards and integrity, so the profession will remain one that protects public safety and welfare. In this regard, we will encourage as much input from our colleagues as possible.

I have the privilege to serve with extremely qualified, dedicated, and highly motivated members. We, as current Board members, applaud the diligence of those members of the veterinary community for their efforts in reviewing the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medicine Practice Act. All of the individuals involved with this important undertaking should be proud of their commitment to the profession. In addition, the Board recognizes the PVMA for its efforts with the PA Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, concerning the operation of the Professional Health Monitoring Program. The PVMA's awareness of the need for its involvement in such a program is valued.

Meet the Board

James A. Orsini, D.V.M.

James A. Orsini, D.V.M., is Associate Professor of Surgery, New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, Kennett Square, Chester County. Dr. Orsini's areas of research are critical care medicine, clinical pharmacology, and surgery. He is a member of the honor societies Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Zeta, and is listed in *Who's Who in Veterinary Science and Medicine*.

Dr. Orsini has been published widely in such journals as the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, *Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, and *Veterinary Surgery*, and he sits on the Consulting Board of *Equine Practice*. Dr. Orsini has also contributed chapters to several textbooks on veterinary medicine, and is coeditor with Thomas Divers of *Manual of Equine Emergencies: Treatment and Procedures*.

His professional memberships include the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians, the International Society of Veterinary Perinatology, and the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Orsini received his B.S. degree from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, and his D.V.M. degree from Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY. He completed his internship and residency at New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine.

Brian V. Harpster, V.M.D.

Dr. Harpster received a bachelor's degree in biology from Bucknell University in 1973; a master's degree in physiology from Penn State University in 1975; and a V.M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1981. Prior to veterinary school, Dr. Harpster was a marine biologist with the Florida Marine Research Laboratory in St. Petersburg, where he was involved in mariculture research and development. Since 1984, Dr. Harpster has been a partner in an American Animal Hospital Association-accredited, six-veterinarian, small animal practice in New Cumberland. His special interests include ophthalmology, orthopedics and endoscopy.

Judith F. Baillis, Public Member

Ms. Baillis is a native of State College and attended Penn State University, majoring in English. She has been active in volunteer work for most of her adult life. Ms. Baillis and her husband retired to Centre County in 1990. Since then, she has been an exhibitor and breeder of Miniature Wirehaired Dachshunds. She enjoys memberships in the Dachshund Club of America and the National Miniature Dachshund Club. She is also active in the Dachshund Rescue. Ms. Baillis previously served on the State Cancer Control, Research and Advisory Board. She also served as Coordinator for the American Cancer Society's (Centre County Unit) iReach to Recovery program, a peer counseling group for breast cancer patients. She currently works at home, designing and making contemporary quilted clothing and wall hangings. Ms. Baillis also makes teddy bears and is iMom to six resident mini Dachshunds.

Robert W. Cloninger, V.M.D.

Dr. Cloninger is a dairy practitioner from Centre Hall, PA. Dr. Cloninger is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and has completed the Dairy Production Medicine Certification Program from Penn State and the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of PVMA, AVMA and AABP. Dr. Cloninger and his wife have four children.

Barbara C. Pinker, C.A.H.T.

Mrs. Pinker has been involved in veterinary medicine for 15 years and has been a certified technician for 11 years. She graduated, with honors, from the technician program in St. Petersburg and is licensed in Florida and Pennsylvania. She is a past president of the North American Veterinary Technician Association and a past president of the Veterinary Technician and Assistants Association of Pennsylvania. She is currently employed as a Product Support Specialist at Pfizer in the Animal Health Division.

Thomas J. McGrath, D.V.M.

Dr. Tom McGrath owns and operates the Donegal Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Columbia, Lancaster County. His wife Ann, a Certified Animal Health Technician, manages the practice. He has two daughters, 13-year-old Caitlin and 10-year-old Christine.

Dr. McGrath completed an Associate degree in Veterinary Technology at S.U.N.Y. at Delhi and a bachelor's degree in Animal Science at Cornell University. He received his master's and Ph.D. degrees in Veterinary Anatomy and his doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree from Texas A&M University. Dr. McGrath's professional interests lie in surgery. He is also an avid sportsman, Rotarian and is restoring a 1956 DeSoto Firedome.

Patricia L. Thomson, D.V.M.

Dr. Thomson received her pre-veterinary education at the New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, and her veterinary degree from the College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University.

Patricia began practicing in Summit, NJ. She also served as a clinician at the Cornell Veterinary School Small Animal Clinic, and as a relief veterinarian in upstate New York.

In 1964, she and her husband, Donald M. Herr, D.V.M., established a veterinary practice in Lancaster, where she continues in companion animal practice in a four-doctor hospital. A member of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA), Dr. Thomson chaired the Gender Related Issues Committee and the Legislative Committee. She has also served as president of the PVMA. The PVMA named her Veterinarian of the Year in 1990 and Pennsylvania Outstanding Veterinarian in 1996. She has served on the Pennsylvania Kennel Regulation Task Force and as a member of the Pennsylvania Dog Law Advisory Board.

Dr. Thompson has been a hospital director and member of the American Animal Hospital Association. She has also served as a member of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine Advisory Board. She now represents the State Board of Veterinary Medicine on the Health Advisory Committee of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs.

Mary D. Evans, Public Member

Ms. Evans earned an associate's degree from the Goldey Beacom College work-study stenographic program in Wilmington, DE. She was employed at DuPont Company from 1959 through 1966. Ms. Evans then worked as an office administrator for the Newman Center at West Chester University from 1987 to 1991.

Albert H. Masland, Commissioner Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs

Albert H. Masland was unanimously confirmed as Commissioner of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs by the Pennsylvania Senate on February 7, 2001.



Albert H. Masland

As Commissioner, he is responsible for overseeing the day to day functions of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. The Bureau provides administrative support to the 27 professional licensing boards and commissions. Commissioner Masland serves as the Governor's designee on 25 of the 27 professional licensing boards.

Masland previously served four terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 199th Legislative District from 1992 until November 2000.

While in the General Assembly, he served on the House Environmental Resources and Energy, Judiciary, Labor Relations, and State Government committees; the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency; the Pennsylvania Commission for Women; the Task Force on Domestic Relations; the Task Force on DUI; the Task Force on Drugs; the PA Futures Commission on Justice; and the Communities That Care Policy Board. Masland also received the Champion of Good Government Award in October 1999.

From 1986-1992, Masland served as Cumberland County Assistant District Attorney. He received his bachelor's degree at Dickinson College, and his law degree from The Dickinson School of Law.

He lives in Carlisle, Cumberland County, with his wife, Deborah, and their three children, Albert Jr., Sarah and Hilary.

Disciplinary Actions

The following is a chronological listing of formal disciplinary or corrective measures taken by the board from May 28, 1998 to June 1, 2000. Each entry includes the name of the respondent; the respondent's license or registration number; the respondent's business address with the board; the sanction imposed; a brief description of the basis for the disciplinary or corrective measure; and, the effective date.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the following information is correct. However, these actions and their effective dates should not be relied upon without verification from the board office. Official confirmation of the current status of a license or registration can be obtained by writing the Veterinary Medicine Board at P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649.

It should be noted that the names of persons listed on this page might be similar to the names of persons who have not had disciplinary or corrective measures taken against them.

KENNETH A. JOHNSON, license no. **BV-004338-L**, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was suspended, with three months active and the remaining period stayed in favor of probation for having been convicted of a crime. (5-28-98)

MARK S. BRIDGE, license no. **BV-006812-L**, of Lansdowne, Delaware County, was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty for practicing veterinary medicine on a lapsed license. He may not reinstate his license until he complies with section 9 of the Act. (4-1-99)

DAVID M. SWANEY, license no. **BV-003346-L**, of New Wilmington, Lawrence County, was reprimanded and assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty for engaging in veterinary practices without having established a veterinary/client relationship. (7-14-99)

LAWRENCE R. LETSKY, license no. **BV-006950-L**, of Gibsonia, Allegheny County, was indefinitely suspended based upon the suspension of his veterinary license by the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board. (8-27-99)

LINDA S. YBORRA, **unlicensed**, of Broomall, Delaware County, was assessed a \$500 civil penalty for engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine without being licensed by the Board. The Board ordered her to advise her clients in writing that she is not a licensed veterinarian, but a holistic dowser. (10-21-99)

ROBERT JOHN MARO, license no. **BV-005255-L**, of Lowellville, Ohio, was assessed a \$500 civil penalty as a result of disciplinary action taken against his license in another state. (1-20-00)

DOUGLAS P. FREDERICKS, license no. **VT-000089-L**, of North Port, NY, was indefinitely suspended for failing to complete mandatory continuing education. (3-28-00)

MARC PICCONE, license no. **BV-006556-L**, of Ambler, Montgomery County, was reprimanded and assessed a civil penalty of \$500 for failing to timely complete mandatory continuing education. (6-15-00)

DONALD GLOTFELTY, license no. **BV-004848-L**, of New Kensington, Cumberland County, was suspended for one year, stayed in favor of probation, assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty, and ordered to complete an additional eight hours of continuing education for failing to conform to the acceptable and prevailing standard of veterinary practice. (5-30-00)

CAROLYN G. MALIN, license no. **BV-005314-L**, of Ulster, Bradford County, voluntarily surrendered her license until such time as she is declared fit to resume practice for engaging in practices in connection with the practice of veterinary medicine which are in violation of a standard of professional conduct. She was also reprimanded and assessed a \$100 civil penalty. (3-23-00)

EDGAR L. LOY, license no. **BV-002551-L**, of Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, was assessed a \$150 civil penalty, plus \$151 in restitution to the complainant to compensate for costs for negligence. (3-23-00)

ROBERT ANDRES, **unlicensed**, of Dalton, Lackawanna County, was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty for engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine without being licensed by the Board. (6-1-00)

MURRAYA. GLICKMAN, license no. **BV-003216-L**, of Nazareth, Northampton County, was suspended for two years, stayed in favor of probation, was ordered to complete an additional 32 hours of continuing education, was assessed a \$4,000 civil penalty, and was reprimanded in connection with his handling and care of a golden retriever. (2-10-00)

Disciplinary Function of the Pennsylvania State Board of Veterinary Medicine

Disciplinary actions come before the State Board of Veterinary Medicine by virtue of a systematic procedure allowing for a thorough investigative and legal process. State law mandates that the Board remain isolated from the prosecutorial functions of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Therefore, the Board does not make any determination of whether or when to bring formal charges against an individual. This is the sole responsibility of the prosecution division.

A complaint is filed through the Complaints Office of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. This complaint is then evaluated, prioritized, and proper documents are obtained for disposition. If an investigation is warranted, the case is referred to the Bureau of Enforcement and Investigations.

The BEI conducts an investigation by interviewing relevant individuals, obtaining evidence, and finally providing a report to the Complaints Unit paralegal staff for review. A case analysis is created and forwarded to a Bureau prosecuting attorney for one of the following determinations: formal disciplinary action; the matter may be informally resolved; there is insufficient

evidence; or, there is no violation of the law or regulations.

If the prosecuting attorney determines formal action is warranted, an Order to Show Cause is prepared. This document sets forth allegations and requires a response from the cited individual (respondent). A formal hearing date is then set.

In many cases, the respondent is willing to enter into a proposed consent agreement with the Commonwealth before a hearing takes place. In such cases, the Board approves or rejects the proposed consent agreement.

If a formal hearing is required, the Board or a hearing examiner holds a formal hearing to accept evidence, receive testimony, and permit the respondent to testify on his or her own behalf. The Board or hearing examiner adjudicates the case and then issues an order calling for one or more of the following: dismissal of charges; revocation or suspension of license; reprimand; monetary penalty; or other sanctions allowed by law. Should the respondent elect to appeal, the decision of the hearing examiner is appealed to the

Board. All final orders of the Board may be appealed to the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania.

In 1998, a total of 74 complaints were filed. This increased to 106 complaints being filed in 1999. The number of disciplinary sanctions imposed by the Board also increased between 1998 and 1999. In addition, warning letters are issued by the Bureau's prosecution office. The Board is not involved in decisions to send a warning letter. In 1998, a total of 16 files were closed with disciplinary action as follows: two public reprimands; one suspension; four fines; and, nine warning letters. In 1999, 39 files were closed with disciplinary action as follows: one public reprimand; two suspensions; three fines; 32 warning letters; and, one case dismissed by Board adjudication.

Individuals who believe the practice or service provided by a licensed professional is unethical, immoral, or below an acceptable standard of practice, are urged to contact the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs and file a complaint at 1-800-822-2113 in Pennsylvania or 1-717-783-4854.

Animal Health Technician Certification

The Board will grant certification as an Animal Health Technician to a qualified applicant who has fulfilled the following criteria:

1.) Satisfactory completion of an approved program for the training and education of animal technicians. An approved program is accredited by the AVMA including provisionally, probationally and fully accredited programs; and,

2) Satisfactory performance of the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) which is offered twice annually. Presently, there are five approved schools within the State:

- 1) Wilson College, Chambersburg;
- 2) Harcum Jr. College, Bryn Mawr;
- 3) Manor Jr. College, Jenkintown;
- 4) Johnson Technical Institute, Scranton; and,
- 5) Lehigh-Carbon Community College, Bethlehem

Veterinary hospital employees can earn a veterinary technician degree through distance education. Laboratory courses require host veterinarians or their employees to help teach and evaluate the students' lab skills.

Endorsement is another method to obtain certification in Pennsylvania. A person issued a certificate as an Animal Health Technician or a Veterinary Technician in another state, whose requirements are at least equal to those of the Commonwealth, may complete and file with the Board an application for certification by endorsement.

For more information contact:
Veterinary Technology Program
 P.O. Box 13489
 St. Petersburg, FL 33733

State Board Activities Focus on Regulatory Changes

Over the past several months, the State Board has promulgated the following regulations:

REGULATION NO. 16A-576 ó Professional Conduct (Advertising). This regulatory change requires veterinarians to disclose in all their advertisements the specific hours when emergency service will be available, whether the veterinarian is on premises or on call, and if available emergency services are limited to particular types of patients (species). In essence, this enables pet owners to make more informed decisions.

REGULATION NO. 16A-579 ó Biennial Renewal Fees. This regulation changed the biennial renewal fee to sixty (\$60) dollars for animal health technicians and to two-hundred twenty-five (\$225) dollars for veterinarians. The last fee increase was in 1995. The increase will cover the increased cost of disciplinary matters before the Board.

REGULATION NO. 16A-578 ó Fees. This regulation presents a cost allocation adjustment for two types of fees. The first allows for a fee increase from ten (\$10) dollars to fifteen (\$15) dollars for the verification of veterinarian licensure or animal health technician certification. The second creates a new fee of twenty-five (\$25) dollars for certification of scores or continuing education hours for veterinarians and animal health technicians.

REGULATION NO. 16A-5710 ó Examinations, licensure, and fees. This regulatory change replaces the National Board Examination and Clinical Competency Test, which were administered for the last time on April 11-12, 2000, with the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). The NAVLE is a uniform examination for the United States and Canada and was initially given in late November-early December, 2000.

The fee for the NAVLE is \$325.00, as compared to a combined fee of \$395.00 for the NBE and CCT.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS: include **16A-5711**, which would limit the number of independent study courses to 25% that a veterinarian could take to fulfill the Board's continuing education requirement, and **16A-5713**, which updates the application procedure for licensure, requires that applicants for certification as an animal health technician submit evidence related to any past criminal history or discipline by another state, and eliminates references to the examination fees in the regulations.

In addition, the Board has been working to develop a regulation related to the dispensing and packaging of prescription drugs.

Continuing Education

Veterinarians and certified animal health technicians (CAHTs) are subject to eight hours of continuing education (CE) courses for their license renewal. (One hour = 1 CE credit). CE hours/credits can be obtained throughout the 24 months preceding the renewal date.

Office management or practice building courses do not provide credit for veterinarians. Practitioners may be randomly selected for the CE audit, which is conducted following each renewal; therefore, it is of utmost importance to have approved CE hours.

The following providers have pre-approval for their continuing education courses:

- ï American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- ï AVMA-accredited schools including provisional, limited, and fully accredited programs
- ï Allied organizations of the AVMA
- ï AVMA approved major regional veterinary organizations
- ï AVMA specialty boards
- ï PA Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA)
- ï PVMA constituent associations
- ï Other states' veterinary medical associations
- ï Veterinary Technicians and Assistants Association of PA (VTAAP) for only CAHTs

If planning to attend a course not yet approved by the board, it is the responsibility of the CE **PROVIDER** to receive prior approval, to validate CE hours/credits.

The **PROVIDER** must obtain an application from the State Board Office and submit it, with the appropriate fee, **60 days** prior to the date of the proposed program. The Board will then issue a Board approval number, which shall be printed on the certificate of attendance.

Presently, the Board is considering a restriction that no more than 25% of the required hours be from individual study programs. Individual study programs must meet approval requirements.

Confidentiality of Medical Records - A Duty

The advent of the modern computer provides a level of service in record keeping that, just a short time ago, was not possible. Veterinary medicine is, after all, a business that is highly dependent upon access to reliable records. With the many advances in computer and communication technologies, there is a great opportunity to improve the speed and ease to obtain all types of medical information, specifically patient records. The confidentiality of these records is a hot issue in human medicine. This raises a number of ethical, rather than technological concerns. Medical records will continue to play an important role in the business of veterinary medicine. We are often called upon to share this information with others. When dealing with the question of confidentiality of medical records and who has access to them, there are several guidelines that we can use to simplify this decision.

Specifically, veterinary medical records serve as a basis for providing the best animal care. In addition, medical records provide a means of communication among members of a veterinary practice. These records furnish information on an animal's illness, hospital care, and treatment, and serve as a grounding for review and evaluation provided by a clinician.

Sections 31.21, Principle 7(c), and 31.22 of the Board's regulations set forth some requirements for veterinary medical records.

The key points are as follows:

1) RECORD RETENTION - A veterinarian shall maintain veterinary medical records of an animal so that any veterinarian coming into a veterinary practice may, by reading the veterinary medical record of a particular animal, be able to proceed with the proper care and treatment of the animal. Records shall be maintained for a minimum of three years from the date the animal was last treated by the veterinarian.

2) OWNERSHIP AND USE OF RECORDS - The records of a veterinary practice are the sole property of that facility, and when a veterinarian leaves salaried employment therein, the departing veterinarian may not copy, remove, or make subsequent use of the records without the consent of the owner of the veterinary practice.

3) RADIOGRAPHS - A radiograph is the property of the veterinary practice that originally ordered it to be prepared. Radiographs shall be properly identified by the hospital name, date, name of client, name of animal, and positional marker. A radiograph shall be released upon the written request of another veterinarian who has written authorization of the client. The radiographs shall be returned within a reasonable time to the veterinary practice that originally ordered it to be prepared.

4) RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO CLIENTS - A veterinarian shall release a summary or copy of the veterinary medical record of an animal to the client upon written request. A veterinarian may charge a reasonable fee for duplicating medical records and preparing of the veterinary medical record file summaries for release to clients. A veterinarian may not withhold the release of veterinary medical records or summaries to clients for nonpayment of a professional fee. The release of veterinary medical records or summaries to clients under these circumstances does not constitute a waiver by the veterinarian of the fee claimed.

5) CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEDICAL RECORDS - Records should be treated as confidential. Only authorized personnel should have access to the records. Authorization of the client should be presented and then maintained in the original record as authority for release of medical information.

The State Board of Veterinary Medicine will remain vigilant to ensure that client/patient confidentiality with all medical records is preserved. As the Internet continues to play a bigger role as a medium for medical records, it will be even more important that the Board be careful to prevent misuse of privileged information in these records. If we fail to do this, we fail to meet our ethical responsibilities to our clients, our colleagues and our profession.

Change of Name and/or Address Reminder

To ensure receipt of a renewal notice or important information from the board, licensees must contact the board office with any changes in name or address. Name changes require a copy of court order, marriage certificate, divorce decree or other official document.

Send changes to:

*State Board of Veterinary Medicine
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649*

North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE)

The NATIONAL BOARD EXAMINATION (NBE) and CLINICAL COMPETENCY TEST (CCT) were given by all states for the last time in April 2000. In their place is the one-day, computerized, **NORTH AMERICAN VETERINARY LICENSING EXAMINATION (NAVLE)** developed by the National Board Examination Committee (NBEC) for Veterinary Medicine.

• The NAVLE consists of 360 multiple-choice questions; administered via computer over a 6.5 hour total examination time. Approximately 10% of the questions include some type of pictorial or graphic information (photograph, radiograph, chart, etc.).

• The NAVLE is administered in six, 65-minute blocks of 60 questions each, with 15 minutes for a tutorial/orientation and 45 minutes for breaks.

• The NAVLE is administered at Sylvan Technology Centers throughout North America.

• The NAVLE is administered daily during a four week window in November/December and a two week window in April. **The next administration is April 9-21, 2001.**

EXAMINATION ELIGIBILITY: An applicant must be a graduate of an AVMA accredited veterinary program or graduate within six months following date of examination. Graduates of foreign schools must have ECFVG certification or be currently enrolled in the ECFVG program.

Applications are available from the State Board office. More information is available online at www.nbec.org.

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

State Board of

Veterinary Medicine

P.O. Box 2649

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Role of Public Members

Amendments to the Administrative Code of 1978 placed two persons representing the public-at-large on then-existing licensing boards. Today, as a general rule, at least two consumer or public representatives are required on each of the 27 Licensing Boards or Commissions in the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Public members help to ensure and encourage public participation in board/commission decisions. Public members serve as equals with the professionals on the Board, and have the same opportunities to voice opinions and vote as the Board professionals. To illustrate the importance of the role public members play in Board governance, the Legislature has mandated in the Public Member Law that public members may not be affiliated in any way with the profession governed by the Board on which they sit. Additionally, public members are required to attend two Bureau-sponsored training seminars annually to help them fulfill their mission, which is to represent the consumer.

As public members, Judith Baillis and Mary Evans bring different perspectives to the State Board of Veterinary Medicine; however, the goals of all Board members are the same - to ensure delivery of professional and competent care for animals, and to protect public health and safety.

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Harrisburg PA
Permit No 918