



Board Notes



Fall/Winter 2014
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A Publication of the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
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NEW MEMBER APPOINTED TO THE BOARD

Keith Pardue of Austin is Board Certified in Administrative Law. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology and Chemistry from Mid America Nazarene University in Olathe, Kansas and received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Houston School of Law. Mr. Pardue replaces Manuela "Mamie" Salazar-Harper whose term expires August 26, 2015.

NEW BOARD OFFICERS

At the October 21, 2014 meeting, the Board elected Roland Lenarduzzi, DVM to serve as Vice-President and Dan Craven, DVM to serve as Secretary.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

January 27, 2015
July 21, 2015
October 20, 2015

LICENSE RENEWALS

Renewal Notices:

As with prior renewal years, the agency will send out renewal postcard reminders on or about January 5th for renewal year 2015. **All licensees should renew their license online at www.veterinary.texas.gov (unless you are delinquent for renewal year 2014) by March 1, 2015.**

Practicing With An Expired License is Illegal:

All licensees should be aware that if they have not renewed their license by March 1, 2015, **they must cease practicing until the license has been renewed.** The law requires that all licensees not practice without a current license. Penalties for practicing with an expired license can include a reprimand, a \$1,000 per day fine, or other disciplinary measures.

Renewal Year 2015 Continuing Education Requirements:

Veterinarians must have attained 17 hours of acceptable continuing education during calendar year 2014 (January 1–December 31). Of those 17 hours, seven must have been obtained from personal attendance at live seminars. EDP licensees must have attained 6 hours of acceptable continuing education during calendar year 2014. The continuing education requirements for LVTs will apply beginning in calendar year 2015.

Individuals who were unable to attain their required CE hours due to circumstances beyond their control may apply to the agency's executive director for a hardship extension. Requests for the hardship extension must be received by **December 15, 2014**. Each request should list the number of hours attained, the number of hours needed and the reason the licensee was unable to meet the requirement. If an extension is granted, the number of hours lacking must be made up the following year.

When renewing online, there will be an option to certify that you have not attained the required number of continuing education hours. This information will then be forwarded to the Enforcement Division for follow-up.

BOARD ADOPTS CHANGES TO RULES

At the October 21, 2014 Board meeting, the Board voted to adopt the following rules.

§573.10 Supervision of Non-Veterinarians. This amendment changes the word “should” to “may” in the sentence stating that “when feasible, a veterinarian *should* delegate greater responsibility to a licensed veterinary technician than to an unlicensed person.” This mirrors the language in section 801.363 of the Veterinary Licensing Act. This amendment also clarifies the exception for emergency care to state that if the rule is followed, the veterinarian is not in violation of the veterinary-client-patient-relationship requirement.

§573.29 Complaint Information and Notice to Clients. This amendment establishes that veterinary technicians are not required to provide notice to clients as to how a client might file a complaint with the Board as that is required of the licensed veterinarian or licensed equine dental provider.

§573.41 Use of Prescription Drugs. This amendment clarifies that licensed veterinarians must comply with the state and federal laws regarding prescription drugs.

§573.43 Controlled Substances Registration. This amendment clarifies that licensed veterinarians must comply with the state and federal laws regarding controlled substances.

§573.74 Management Services Organization in Veterinary Practice. This amendment provides that verbal contracts will not be considered evidence of compliance with this rule. This amendment will clarify that an actual written contract between parties is required.

§573.76 Notification of Licensee Addresses. This amendment removes the exemption of providing a physical business address for mobile practice veterinarians.

§575.28 Complaints—Investigations. This amendment clarifies the timing of the report of investigation as drafted by the Board’s staff to conform to actual practice and to rule §575.29. The report on investigation is completed after the initial investigation is completed by the Board’s investigators and the full investigation is not complete until after the informal conference. This amendment also clarifies the investigation process when the Board is the complainant, conforming with current policy and practice.

§575.281 Complaints—Appeals. This amendment makes non-substantive changes to maintain conformity with terminology as used in the Veterinary Licensing Act.

§575.29 Informal Conference. This amendment allows the general counsel to also conduct informal conferences, in addition to the executive director and director of enforcement. This also clarifies the Board’s policy and practice that anything reported by a licensee during an informal conference may be used against that licensee if the matter proceeds to a contested case before the State Office of Administrative Hearings or as a new complaint or investigation. This amendment also clarifies that any evidence submitted by the licensee during an informal conference becomes a part of the Board’s investigation file.

§575.30 Contested Case Hearing at SOAH (State Office of Administrative Hearings) This amendment clarifies the Board’s policy and practice to include unlicensed people who are practicing veterinary medicine without a license and are subject to the cease and desist procedures in Rule 575.40. Rule 575.40 does not provide for procedures that occur after the informal conference at SOAH. This amendment will add the procedures to the Board’s usual procedure before SOAH and the procedures as found in SOAH’s rules.

§577.15 Fee Schedule. This amendment increases fees for regular and inactive expired license renewals by \$5 to cover the cost of permitting renewals to occur online for Equine Dental Provider licensees. These fee increases will be effective for the 2015 renewal cycle.

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BOARD PROPOSES CHANGES TO RULES

At the October 21, 2014 Board meeting, the Board voted to publish the following proposed rules in the *Texas Register* for comment. Once the rules have been published, they will also be available on our website at <http://www.tbvme.state.tx.us/rules.php>.

§571.15 Temporary Veterinary License. This amendment clarifies that a temporary license will only be valid for a “specific patient, client, continuing education course, or task.”

§571.52 Renewal Certificates. This proposal will delete this rule.

§573.5 Avoidance of the Corruption of Others. This amendment adds a sentence preventing a licensee from harassing or retaliating against a complainant or witness to a complaint, including another licensee that may be providing a second opinion.

§573.11 Responsibility for Unlicensed Employees. This proposed amendment changes the title to apply to a veterinarian’s responsibility for his or her employees or volunteers. It further adds that a veterinarian is responsible for the actions of a volunteer or employee, including another licensee that he or she employs.

§573.20 Responsibility for Acceptance of Medical Care. This proposed amendment would permit a veterinarian within the same practice, clinic, or hospital as the original veterinarian who has a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with the patient and who has access to the VCPR veterinarian’s current records to refill a prescription written by that other veterinarian with the VCPR.

§573.22 Professional Standard of Care. This proposed change articulates the Board’s long held interpretation of the rule that the word “community” references a geographic community. It further adds that the “same or similar circumstances” includes the “type of practice” at issue. These changes are in keeping with current practice whereby the Board compares the standard of care within similar practices and similar communities.

§573.35 Display of License. This proposed amendment removes the requirement for licensees to display their renewal certificate since that information is available online. The renewal certificate consumes a great deal of staff time and resources to print and send the certificates to licensees. This does not change the requirement for a licensee to display his or her original license.

§573.54 Patient Records Release and Charges. This proposed amendment allows a veterinarian to withhold providing copies of medical records until the client pays a reasonable fee for copying. However, veterinarians must provide the amount of the reasonable fee to the client within 5 business days. Once a client verbally or in writing accepts the charges, the veterinarian must prepare the records and then deliver them upon payment. Further, records may not be withheld in emergency or acute situations.

§573.70 Reporting Criminal Activity. This proposed amendment references another Board rule that lists certain crimes so that licensees are not confused as to what criminal offenses must be reported to the Board.

§573.76 Notification of Licensee Address. This proposed amendment clarifies that a physical address does not include a PO Box. Further, it clarifies which address a relief veterinarian must provide. A relief vet would be required to provide an address where he or she works or his or her residential address if he or she is not actively working.



Upcoming TBVME Office Holiday Closures

The TBVME offices will be closed on the following dates:

December 24–26, 2014 in observance of Christmas

January 1, 2015 in observance of New Year’s Day

January 19, 2015 in observance of MLK, Jr. Day

February 16, 2015 in observance of President’s Day

ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Disciplinary Actions

The following veterinarians have had disciplinary actions taken against their licenses. If you would like to receive additional information regarding these or other disciplinary actions that have been imposed, you may search for copies of disciplinary orders on the verification page of our website, or you may send your written request to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, ATTN: Open Records, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-810, Austin, TX 78701 or by email to vet.board@veterinary.texas.gov.

Name	License #	City, State	Disciplinary Date	Discipline	Disciplinary Order
Clay McCreary, DVM	8683	Houston, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; suspended for 2 years with all but 2 months stayed and probated; must submit to an evaluation with the Peer Assistance Program and follow all recommendations; \$2,000 administrative penalty; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam; cannot utilize controlled substances until he receives and maintains a current DPS registration	2014-007 2014-223
Amy Starr, DVM	10315	El Paso, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$1,000 administrative penalty	2014-113
Everett Simmons, DVM	3477	Austin, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$1,000 administrative penalty	2014-128
Karl Toth, DVM	5146	Austin, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$1,000 administrative penalty	2014-129
Christian Simmons, DVM	10763	Austin, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$1,000 administrative penalty	2014-130
Jon Michler, DVM	10037	Jasper, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam	2014-136
Bethany Harris, DVM	12342	Slaton, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; license suspended for 2 years with all 2 years probated; must continue her Peer Assistance Contract for 5 years; must notify employer(s) of the order and provide a signed acknowledgement from employer within 30 days that the employer has read and understands the order	2014-177
Steven Garner, DVM	5371	League City, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$1,500 administrative penalty; must take an additional 3 hours of continuing education	2014-178
Alicia Smallwood, LVT	LVT-1021	Paris, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$250 administrative penalty; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam	2014-188
Thomas Martin, DVM	6663	Houston, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$2,500 administrative penalty; must take an additional 9 hours of continuing education; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam	2014-191
Brooke Ashley, DVM	12674	Lake Jackson, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$2,000 administrative penalty; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam; must take an additional 3 hours of continuing education in recordkeeping.	2014-199
Charles Jameson, DVM	3097	League City, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand	2014-201
Millard Tierce, III, DVM	2455	Fort Worth, TX	10/21/14	5 year suspension beginning 4/30/2014; must take 20 hours of continuing education in practice management and recordkeeping each of the 5 years of the suspension; \$1,000 administrative penalty; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam; attend mental health counseling and follow all recommendations; provide documentation every 6 months of the dates attended regular counseling during the preceding 6 months along with the name of the mental health professional from whom he is seeking assistance from; must not seek reinstatement during his 5 year suspension; must provide a statement from an approved mental health professional stating he is fit to practice veterinary medicine prior to his license being reinstated	2014-204 2014-217

Disciplinary Actions Continued...

Name	License #	City, State	Disciplinary Date	Discipline	Disciplinary Order
Isabell Haynes, LVT	LVT-970	Spring, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$250 administrative penalty; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam	2014-208
Vanessa Espinoza, LVT	LVT-1256	Dallas, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$250 administrative penalty; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam	2014-209
Daniel Valenciano, DVM	7674	Denton, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$1,00 administrative penalty	2014-211
Brandi Hoenninger, LVT	LVT-1266	Schertz, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$250 administrative penalty; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam	2014-212
Mendi Hill, DVM	8548	McKinney, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; 5 year suspension , probated after July 7, 2015; must enter into a 5 year Peer Assistance contract and follow all recommendations	2014-222
Chelsi Powell, LVT	LVT-1020	Dallas, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$250 administrative penalty; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam	2014-224
Kelly Witty, LVT	LVT-1022	Dallas, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$250 administrative penalty; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam	2014-229
Benjamin Lognion, DVM	13122	Ames, IA	10/21/14	Formal reprimand and \$500 administrative penalty	2014-231
Holly Kiernicki, DVM	9001	Frisco, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand, must take and pass the jurisprudence exam	2014-234
Abbett Hudson, DVM	13593	Muleshoe, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam; license suspended for 2 years with all stayed and probated; must submit to and follow all recommendations of the Board's Peer Assistance Program; must notify employer of the order and provide employer a copy of the order and submit a signed acknowledgment that the employer has read and understands the order	2014-247
Aimee Beckham, DVM	7910	Hempstead, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$1,000 administrative penalty	2014-255
Michelle Johnson, LVT	LVT-1019	Houston, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$250 administrative penalty	2014-256
Darrell Kinnard, DVM	3595	Mabank, TX	10/21/14	Formal reprimand; \$500 administrative penalty; must take an additional 3 hours of continuing education in recordkeeping	578-14-2551



DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL?

In addition to renewal reminder postcards, we will be sending a reminder email to all licensees who have an email address on file with us. To update your contact information you can access our Notice of Address Change form on our website or by clicking [here](#).

Disciplinary Actions Continued...

In addition to the disciplinary actions previously listed, there were an additional 13 actions taken against veterinarians at the October 21, 2014 meeting. If you would like to receive additional information regarding these or other disciplinary actions that have been imposed, please send your written request to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, ATTN: Open Records, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-810, Austin, TX 78701 or by email to vet.board@veterinary.texas.gov

Number of Licensees Disciplined	Violation Type	Sanction	Disciplinary Date
27	Failure to maintain a current Department of Public Safety Controlled Substance Registration	Administrative penalty	10/21/14
1	Failure to maintain a current Department of Public Safety Controlled Substance Registration and failure to obtain required continuing education	Administrative penalty and must obtain an additional 17 hours of continuing education	10/21/14
5	Failure to obtain required continuing education	Administrative penalty and must obtain additional continuing education hours	10/21/14
1	Failure to maintain adequate patient records	Informal reprimand	10/21/14
2	Failure to report criminal activity and/or indictment	Informal reprimand and/or administrative penalty	10/21/14
2	Failure to properly supervise non-veterinarian employee in performance of a delegated duty	Informal reprimand	10/21/14
1	Supplying ketamine to an animal shelter to sedate animals prior to euthanasia without establishing a VCPR	Informal reprimand; \$500 administrative penalty; must take and pass the jurisprudence exam	10/21/14
1	Failure to properly label syringes; failure to enter required information in a patient record	Informal reprimand; 3 additional hours of continuing education in recordkeeping	10/21/14
1	Performing unauthorized treatment	Informal reprimand	10/21/14
1	Failure to take radiographs to determine tenderness in patient	Informal reprimand	10/21/14



Cease and Desist Orders

The following Cease & Desist Orders have been signed and approved by the Board. If you would like to receive additional information regarding these or other disciplinary actions that have been imposed, please send your written request to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, ATTN: Open Records, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-810, Austin, TX 78701 or by email to vet.board@veterinary.texas.gov, or by fax to (512) 305-7574.

Name	City, State	Violation	Disciplinary Date
Jessica Law	Cypress, TX	Diagnosing, administering medication, and treating animals without a license	10/21/14
Mary Gardner	Yorba Linda, CA	Ownership and control of a veterinary practice by a non-licensee	10/21/14
Dani McVety	Lutz, FL	Ownership and control of a veterinary practice by a non-licensee	10/21/14

DPS now offers online payment for Schedule II Prescription Pads

Practitioners and mid-level practitioners with a valid Controlled Substances Registration and Texas DEA Registration are now able to pay online and electronically submit Prescription Pad Order Forms. Registrants can now order prescription pads in just three easy steps:

Pay online at <https://apps.portal.texas.gov/feepaylite/tx/dps/rxpad/order/start>. Save the receipt to your computer.

Complete the [Prescription Pad Order Form](#). The form is a fillable pdf. After completing the form, print, sign and save to your computer. Go to [Contact Us](#). Select **Texas Prescription Program**, then select **Submit completed prescription pad order form** to upload your receipt and completed order form. To ensure timely processing, make sure both documents are attached and uploaded in the same email.

Online payments are processed with major credit cards -Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. In addition to credit card billing information, a valid credit card number, expiration date and verification code are required. Please allow 30 days for delivery.

For detailed instructions including screenshots, please see [Guide to Prescription Pad Ordering](#).

TRAMADOL'S CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE STATUS

On July 2, 2014, the DEA published in the Federal Register the final rule placing tramadol into schedule IV of the Controlled Substances Act. This rule became effective on August 18, 2014. All regulatory requirements applicable to schedule IV controlled substances now apply to tramadol.

In addition, as of November 1, 2014, The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481 has been amended to place tramadol into schedule IV of the schedules of controlled substances.

2015 LICENSE RENEWAL FEES

Veterinarians

- Renewals—\$370
- Delinquent Renewal (90 days or less) - \$450
- Delinquent Renewal (90 days or more) - \$531
- Inactive Renewal—\$170
- Delinquent Inactive Renewal (90 days or less)—\$250
- Delinquent Inactive Renewal (90 days or more) \$331
- Special License Renewal- \$365
- Delinquent Special License Renewal (90 days or less) - \$445
- Delinquent Special License Renewal (90 days or more) - \$526

Equine Dental Providers

- Renewals—\$205
- Delinquent Renewal (90 days or less) - \$305
- Delinquent Renewal (90 days or more) - \$405
- Inactive Renewal—\$105
- Delinquent Inactive Renewal (90 days or less)—\$155
- Delinquent Inactive Renewal (90 days or more) \$205

License Veterinary Technicians

- Renewals—\$51
- Delinquent Renewal (90 days or less) - \$74
- Delinquent Renewal (90 days or more) - \$97
- Inactive Renewal—\$28
- Delinquent Inactive Renewal (90 days or less)—\$40
- Delinquent Inactive Renewal (90 days or more) \$51

RENEWAL CERTIFICATE CHANGES

The Board has voted to propose a change to two rules affecting the display of renewal certificates. The proposed changes will delete the rule **§571.52 Renewal Certificates** which requires the executive director to sign all renewal certificates

In addition, the Board is proposing amendments to **§573.35 Display of License** which will remove the requirement for licensees to display their renewal certificate. This proposal will not change the requirement for a licensee to display his or her original license.



2015 Licensing Examination Schedule

Veterinary State Board Examination (SBE) Licensed Veterinary Technician Examination (LVTE) Equine Dental Provider Examination (EDPE)

All State Board Exams, **with the exception of the April SBE**, will be administered at participating COMIRA testing centers. Please read the deadline dates carefully. An application must be submitted to TBVME for **ALL** exams to determine eligibility for veterinary licensure in Texas. **Only approved applicants will be able to purchase and schedule the exam through our website.**

April 2015—SBE

Date of exam:
Deadline for application to be received by TBVME:
Location: **Texas A&M University, College Station, TX**

April 24, 2015
February 20, 2015

April 2015—LVTE & EDPE

Deadline for application to be received by TBVME:
Window for purchasing and scheduling exam:
Window for taking the exam:

February 20, 2015
March 16–27, 2015
April 6–17, 2015

June 2015 (all exams)

Deadline for application to be received by TBVME:
Window for purchasing and scheduling exam:
Window for taking the exam:

April 24, 2015
May 11–22, 2015
June 8–19, 2015

August 2015 (all exams)

Deadline for application to be received by TBVME:
Window for purchasing and scheduling exam:
Window for taking the exam:

June 26, 2015
July 13–24, 2015
August 10–21, 2015

October 2015 (all exams)

Deadline for application to be received by TBVME:
Window for purchasing and scheduling exam:
Window for taking the exam:

August 28, 2015
September 14–25, 2015
October 12–23, 2015

December 2015 (all exams)

Deadline for application to be received by TBVME:
Window for purchasing and scheduling exam:
Window for taking the exam:

October 23, 2015
November 9–20, 2015
December 7–18, 2015

Continuing Education Offerings

Information on available CE may be obtained through the following sources. Additional offerings may be available through other sources. For information on what is considered “acceptable” CE, please refer to Board Rules [573.64](#) and [573.65](#).

RACE

(Registry of Approved Continuing Education)

Search for Available CE: <http://www.aavsb.org/RACE/Search>

RACE requires approved providers to issue signed certificates of completion, maintain attendance records for four years and provide qualification of instructors and CE personnel who develop and implement courses.

Texas A&M

Phone: (979) 845-9102
Fax: (979) 862-2832
Email: ceoffice@cvm.tamu.edu

Texas Veterinary Medical Association

www.tvma.org
8104 Exchange Dr.
Austin, TX 78754
Phone: (512) 452-4224
Fax: (512) 452-6633



In Memoriam...

“Let us hold our lives up to the light of those who walked before us, remembering the footprints they left behind and preserving the pathways they created.”

Jack Fritts, Texas A&M Class of '53

Name	City, State	Vet School/Grad Year	Date of Death
Billy Robert Mayse, DVM	Freeport, TX	TAMU/1950	July 2, 2014
David Elliott, DVM	Houston, TX	TAMU/1972	July 7, 2014
Warren Criswell, DVM	Bay City, TX	TAMU/1955	July 14, 2014
Ronald Orrell, DVM	College Station, TX	TAMU/1968	July 17, 2014
James Cates, DVM	Conroe, TX	TAMU/1953	July 30, 2014
Donald Clark, DVM	College Station, TX	TAMU/1960	August 14, 2014
George Beeler, Jr., DVM	Crockett, DVM	TAMU/1973	August 19, 2014
Robert Colvin, DVM	Boerne, TX	TAMU/1973	August 22, 2014
Ralph Engelmann, DVM	College Station, TX	TAMU/1969	August 25, 2014
George Roggendorff, DVM	Georgetown, TX	Kansas St./1958	September 7, 2014
James Sheldon, DVM	Mesquite, TX	Iowa St./1961	September 16, 2014
James Sousares, DVM	College Station, TX	TAMU/1948	September 23, 2014
Fred Hartman, DVM	Austin, TX	TAMU/1958	October 9, 2014
Richard Moreland, DVM	Gatesville, TX	TAMU/1973	October 12, 2014
Clifton Pfeil, DVM	Refugio, TX	TAMU/1951	October 17, 2014
Bill Ellsworth, DVM	Seattle, WA	TAMU/1952	October 24, 2014
Charles Farrell Wilson, DVM	Houston, TX	TAMU/1958	November 13, 2014



NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) now offers electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (eCVI).

The eCVI is available on the TAHC website at www.tahc.texas.gov/apps/ecvi/login.php.

Benefits of eCVI's include the following:

- 24 hour availability
- Automatic forwarding of eCVI to TAHC and state of destination
- Automatic compliance with federal requirements to forward copy of interstate certificate of Veterinary inspection to destination states within seven days of issuance
- Improved legibility
- Allows entry or importation of multiple identification numbers (official and unofficial)
- Ability to import eCVI information from a spreadsheet
- Saves time and cost by eliminating need to mail certificates

The TAHC continues to offer paper certificates of veterinary inspection for the same price as the electronic version. Each certificate costs seven dollars.

Proposed Rules Continued...

§573.81 Mandatory Report by Licensee. This new rule would require that licensees report when they have reasonable cause to suspect that another licensee poses a threat to the general public or is impaired due to chemical dependency.

§575.30 Contested Case Hearing at SOAH. This proposed amendment clarifies the Board's current practice. Once an investigation has concluded, such that it is turned over to the legal department to prepare a filing for the State Office of Administrative Hearings, the file is no longer an investigation file but rather a legal file.

§575.35 Temporary License Suspension Proceedings. This proposed amendment clarifies the Board's current practice, which is in accordance with statute. Specifically, it clarifies that the second required hearing is the formal hearing at SOAH.

§575.60 Alternative Dispute Resolution. This proposed amendment adopts the Government Code's alternative dispute laws with regard to contractual disputes. This is required by Chapter 2260 of the Government Code.

Rule Review of Chapter 571. As required by the Texas Government Code, §201.039, TBVME must propose the rule review and publish in the *Texas Register* the rule review and accept comments as to whether the reasons for adopting Chapter 571 continue to exist. Contemporaneously with this proposal, there are proposed amendment to Rules 571.15 and 571.52 which will be published in the *Texas Register*.

Did You Know???

Unless you owe for more than the current year, all veterinary licensees can renew their license online through our website.

Peer Assistance

If you or someone you know has a substance abuse problem, it is far better to voluntarily participate in the Peer Assistance Program than to run the risk of disciplinary action, up to and including license revocation. The toll free hotline number is (800) 727-5152.

ADA Accommodations

The TBVME does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in employment or in the provision of services, programs, or activities. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations should contact the Board's ADA



Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
333 Guadalupe, Ste. 3-810
Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 512-305-7555

Fax: 512-305-7556

E-mail: vet.board@veterinary.texas.gov

Website: tbvme.state.tx.us

Our Mission:

The mission of the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners is to establish and enforce policies to ensure the best possible quality of veterinary services for the people of Texas.

Our Philosophy:

The Board and its staff will act in accordance with the highest standards of ethics, accountability, efficiency and openness. We affirm that protection from less than quality veterinary and equine dental provider services is a public and private trust. We approach our activities with a deep sense of purpose and responsibility. The public and regulated community alike can be assured of a balanced and sensible approach to regulation.

Our Goals:

The Board and its staff will ensure that Texans are effectively and efficiently served by quality veterinary professionals by setting clear standards for professional conduct, by assuring compliance with the rules of professional conduct and the community standard of care, and seeking solutions to issues that strengthen the profession and protect the public.