

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014

Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine

Volume 21

President's Message - John Coplin, DVM

“The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”

Greetings from the Illustrious Potentate!



Dr. John Coplin,
Board President

Too often, when people think of the Board of Veterinary Medicine, they envision a group of bureaucrats sitting around waiting for a complaint to drop in their laps so they can punish some hard working veterinarian or technician. In reality, disciplinary cases take up only part of the Board's time. Although discipline is hugely important for keeping our professional standards high and everything running as it should, the Board has many other responsibilities that are equally compelling.

“The Good”

Over the past four years, the Board has accomplished many goals that benefit not only Idaho citizens, but Idaho veterinarians as well. Although it might be a lot less trouble to allow the Board of Veterinary Medicine to be absorbed into the much larger Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses, both the public and our licensees acknowledge that, simply put, veterinarians

President's Message continues on page 3

Inside This Issue

1	President's Message
1	License Renewal Season Is Here!
2	The Complaint Process
2	New Payment Option for License Renewals
2	The Lowdown on Continuing Education
5	Communication – AGAIN?
6	2014 Rule Changes
7	Meet The Office Staff
7	Musings From A Seasoned Veterinarian
8	A Message From The President of the ISVTA
9	A Different Perspective: The Board's Public Member
9	The Illegal Practice of Equine Dentistry
10	USDA APHIS: Veterinary Services Update

The Board of Veterinary Medicine

President	John Coplin, DVM
Liaison Officer	David Clark, DVM
Veterinary Members	Carol Eklund, DVM David Gerber, DVM Jody Rockett, DVM
Public Member	Kathy Simpson
Staff	Jodie Ellis (Executive Director) Carol Youtz (Technical Records Specialist)

The Board's office has moved! Please update your contact information (changes are bolded):

Physical address: **2230 Old Penitentiary Road**
Boise, ID 83712

Mailing address: P.O. Box 7249
Boise, ID 83707

Telephone: (208) 332-8588 Fax: (208) 332-8645

Email: bovminfo@agri.idaho.gov

Website: www.bovm.idaho.gov



License Renewal Season Is Here - What You Absolutely, Positively Must Know

-Jodie Ellis, Executive Director

On **May 1** of this year, the BOVM office will mail annual renewal forms to all of our licensees. You must fill yours out and return it to us on time to keep your active or inactive license (veterinarians) or certificate (certified technicians) in good standing for another year.



Jodie Ellis
Executive Director



If you have moved in the last year, please contact the office and let us know your correct mailing address right away. Your completed renewal form, along with all applicable fees, must be received by the BOVM office in an envelope **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM ON MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014**. Please be aware that mailing an envelope at a certain time **DOES NOT** guarantee that it will be postmarked at that time. Post offices often do not postmark mail on weekends or at night.

The Complaint Process: What You Can Expect From Someone Who Knows

- Dave Clark, DVM
Liaison Officer



Dave Clark, DVM
BOVM Liaison Officer

Every year, the Board members are asked to contribute an article to the spring newsletter. This year is no different; however, for me, it will be my last effort, as my five-year term ends this Fall. It has been an eventful appointment for me - a huge learning experience and a difficult task. I have a new found respect for all who volunteer their time and energy in the name of public service. From city councilmen to our elected representatives, every one of us should be thankful for folks who perform those difficult jobs, and remember that it is easy to be critical of a process about which most of us have no idea.

My personal goal as Liaison Officer has been one of education. I feel if our profession is educated and informed, then a lot of the issues we see at the Board office would be avoided. That being said, I'm going to take this opportunity to tell you how I would personally handle a complaint to the Board against me.

First of all, I believe prevention is always the best course of action. I feel as practitioners, we need to stay current on our medical and surgical skills. We should adequately document what we do on every case we see. We must review the Veterinary Practice Act annually to keep up with changes that occur in statute and rule. We must strive to communicate effectively with our clients, and try to figure out what their expectations are. We need to be willing to refer cases to specialists if they are beyond our personal skills, or if the patient isn't responding to treatment. We should all be active members of the Idaho Veterinary Medical Association, which keeps us up to date on concerns facing veterinarians, while promoting our profession. Lastly, we are all colleagues. As colleagues, we should be supportive of one another and work together as a profession. We are all in this together.

Regardless of how good a job I do as a veterinarian, in today's society, the odds of having a client file a complaint against me with the Board are high. I am imperfect, and veterinary medicine is a difficult

The Complaint Process continues on page 4

New Option: Online Payments Are Now Available for License Renewals!

As of May 1, 2014, you will be able to use a **credit card, debit card, or online check** to pay BOVM renewal fees, using services provided by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.



You will still need to mail or fax your completed renewal application to the Board office. The Board continues to search for a way to allow licensees to perform most functions online. Unfortunately, the licensing software update that we tried to implement before this year's renewal season was incompatible with our system.

Instructions on how to use the ISDA system to make online payments will be sent with your license/certification renewal application, including a **unique passphrase** that you will need to enter the site the first time you use it. Instructions will also be posted on the Board's web site at **www.bovm.idaho.gov**.

The Lowdown on Continuing Education

- Jodie Ellis, Executive Director

Every spring, phones at the Board's office ring steadily with calls from licensees unsure about what the rules are regarding CE credits. As a reminder:

- **Certified Veterinary Technicians (CVTs)** need to earn a total of **14 credit hours** per two-year CE cycle:
 - Four of the 14 credits may be earned in approved management courses.
 - Ten of the 14 credits may be earned from RACE-approved online courses.
- **Veterinarians** need to earn a total of **20 credit hours** per two-year CE cycle.
 - Six of the 20 credits may be earned in approved management courses
 - Fifteen of the 20 credits may be earned from RACE-approved online courses.

Course organizers **DO NOT** automatically notify the Board that you attended a class; it is the licensee's responsibility to send signed copies of certificates of attendance to the Board by fax (208-332-8645), mail, or email for each course attended. Although the

Continuing Education continues on page 8

should regulate veterinary professionals. The Board works hard to ensure that applicants are qualified. We set professional standards by proposing statutes and adopting administrative rules, and investigate complaints of unprofessional conduct, taking disciplinary action only when necessary to protect the Idaho public and their animals. Self-governance is not the easiest course, but we feel that is the soundest and most fair course for everyone. The licensing fee increase in 2012 ensures that the Board will be self-supporting for several years to come.

The *Veterinary Practice Act* (VPA) is a living document that can be improved as necessary. However, it literally takes an "act of Congress" to bring those changes about. I was blissfully unaware of the tremendous effort required to change or add a statute or rule; serving as President of the Board has been a real eye opener. During the last four years, many changes have been made that have helped make the VPA more relevant. For example, instead of having the Liaison Officer review complaints on his or her own, we changed our policy to allow the Board President to assist the Liaison Officer when necessary. This is a huge step forward for the Board, because it brings consistency and uniformity to disciplinary cases.

"The Bad"

Unfortunately, there are a few things the Board has been trying to accomplish that remain unfinished. It was the Board's goal to have online renewal available for this year. Unfortunately, because of problems with software, we are not going to make that goal in time for the 2014 renewal season. The software company we contracted was unable to deliver the product we agreed upon, so we are still working to resolve this important issue. We are currently in negotiations to work with the Department of Agriculture's Information Technology Division to get us up and running. The good news, though, is that it looks like that for the first time in the Board's history, we will be able to accept online payments.

The regulation of equine dentistry in Idaho is another topic that remains unfinished. Idaho is highly criticized by other states' veterinarians because we have two schools of equine dentistry here that train lay people to work as equine "dentists". Because of conflicting statute governing other Idaho agencies, the Board continues to struggle with the unlawful practice of veterinary medicine by lay people in this category. There is rarely a Board meeting where this topic is not on the agenda. Idaho statute clearly states that lay people performing equine dentistry have to be under

the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, who is responsible for examining animals, making diagnoses, creating appropriate treatment plans, administering sedatives, and properly documenting scheduled drugs. All of these activities have to be documented in the patients' records. As you know, lay dentists often bypass many or all of these requirements, endangering their patients and putting the owners at risk, both financially and emotionally, if the animal is injured. The Board will continue to analyze this problem until a viable solution is found.

"The Ugly"

The Board's stated mission is to "promote the public health, safety and welfare by safeguarding the people and animals of Idaho by establishing and enforcing professional standards in the licensure and regulation of veterinary health professionals". Without a doubt, the toughest part of being on the Board is handing down penalties and discipline. I truly believe that most veterinarians and technicians are highly professional, and do their best for every patient. Unfortunately, sometimes corners are cut, notes don't get recorded, and careless mistakes are made. When the Board receives a complaint from the public or from another veterinary professional, it must mete out discipline to bring the veterinary professional back in line with his or her colleagues. I believe that the objective of discipline by one's peers should be to correct inappropriate behaviors through education, while encouraging improved performance, so the same mistakes don't get repeated. After four years of serving on the Board, I can assure you that we constantly strive to be fair and consistent with discipline.

I have one year, seven months, and eight days left on the Board (but who's counting?). Serving on the Board has been an unbelievably intense and rewarding journey, and I would urge any veterinarian who has an interest in serving the profession to explore the possibility. If you want to see what the Board does, the meetings are open to the public - check the BOVM website for dates and come visit us! As an added bonus, Carol always brings amazing homemade goodies to snack on!

Sincerely,

John R. Coplin
President



The Complaint Process, continued from page 2

profession. I accept the fact that, at some point in my career, I will most likely have to respond to a complaint; therefore, I should be prepared for that circumstance. If I can't accept the fact that I will have a complaint against me, then I'd better find a job outside of private veterinary practice.

So, when the Board's office first contacts me of the complaint against me by mail, the first thing I am going to do is review the complaint thoroughly, reply to the specific allegations of the complaint in a respectful manner, and provide the Board with what is, hopefully, a well-documented set of medical records which the Liaison Officer and Board President can easily evaluate.



After receiving my response, the Liaison Officer will review the case with the Board President. They will decide whether the complaint is legitimate and under the Board's jurisdiction, and if it requires further investigation. If not, they could dismiss the complaint at that point. If they feel the complaint warrants further attention, I will then cooperate with the Board's investigator, giving my account of the circumstances to the best of my ability. After a thorough investigation, the Board's investigator sends his or her report to the Liaison Officer, who will then decide if I did indeed violate some portion of the Veterinary Practice Act. If so, the Liaison Officer will send my case to the Board's prosecuting attorney, who will determine in detail which parts of the Practice Act were violated, and what discipline is appropriate. The attorney will then draft a Stipulation and Consent Agreement, a document that sets forth the charges against me, and the Board's proposed resolution. After the Liaison Officer approves the agreement, the Board's Executive Director will send it to me for my consideration. At this time, I can either accept or reject the agreement.

If I accept the charges against me, and the terms

of the agreement, I will sign and abide by the stipulation order. I'll pay the fines and reimbursements indicated; I'll get the necessary continuing education required; and I'll improve the way I practice so I don't make mistakes in the future. By accepting the stipulations, I acknowledge that I was at fault, and that the stipulations against me are fair. I won't hold ill feelings against the Board and the Liaison Officer for performing their duties, because I am the one who messed up, and I am taking full responsibility for my actions.

However, if I disagree with the findings of the Liaison Officer and feel that I did not violate the Veterinary Practice Act, I will not sign the Stipulation Agreement as it has been presented to me. Instead, I will ask for a formal hearing before the Board, realizing that the Board may or may not rule in my favor. The hearing will allow me to present the facts as I see them to the Board, which is composed of five veterinarians and a public member. If the Board hears my case and rules in my favor, then the charges are dismissed. If the Board hears my case and rules against me, then I will accept that I did indeed make mistakes in the eyes of my peers. I will willingly abide by the findings of the Board, pay the additional costs associated with a full board hearing, and try to improve my practice.

At any point during this process, I have the option of hiring an attorney, at my expense, to defend me against the allegations.

What I have presented here is a simplified version of a complex process, but I hope it gives you some idea of the process and what your options are. It's been my pleasure to serve on the Board of Veterinary Medicine. I am proud of our profession and the work that we do.



License Renewal Season, continued from page 1

Attention, Procrastinators!

If you miss the June 30th deadline, your license or certificate will expire on July 1st. If you continue to practice after your license expires, you will be practicing illegally. You could be disciplined by the Board, your insurance will not cover you, and all health certificates you sign will be invalid. If you miss the June 30th deadline and your license expires, you must abstain from practice until your license or certificate is renewed.

Late renewals

When your renewal application is late, you will incur a mandatory late fee of **\$200 for veterinarians**, and **\$50 for certified veterinary technicians** which must be paid in addition to all regular fees. By 'late', we mean that the envelope that your renewal application arrives in is postmarked after 11:59 PM on June 30th.

The Board allows a "grace period" from *July 1st through July 31st* in which to complete late renewals. *As stated before, you may not legally practice during this period – your license or certification is still considered expired* - but if you renew during this period, you can prevent your license or certification from completely lapsing on **August 1st**. If you allow your license/certification to completely lapse, it will become "history", almost as though it never existed. To resume practice, you'll have to apply for a new license or certification, which involves going through a background check, passing the jurisprudence exam, submitting national score reports and school transcripts, etc., and payment of all accompanying fees.

Carol and I would be thrilled if every one of our licensees renewed before the June 30th deadline. Although no one wants to pay late fees, and no one wants to reapply for their license or certification from scratch, you would be shocked at the number of licensees who end up having to do just that. As always, you can contact the Board office with any questions about renewal, or visit the BOVM website at **www.bovm.idaho.gov**



Communication – AGAIN? - Dave Gerber, DVM

Board Member



What are the most common reasons that clients complain about their veterinarians? You probably guessed it - lack of communication or miscommunication with clients remains the most common reason behind complaints to the Board; inadequate record keeping of those communications runs a close second.



Dave Gerber, DVM
Board member

You might think that the topic of communication issues between veterinarians and clients has been beaten to death, but wait....there's more! Communication between *clinic staff and clients*, and between *clinic staff and veterinarians*, is just as important but not discussed nearly as much.

As the Board has often observed, when clients perceive that there is inconsistent or conflicting communication between clinic members, they'll eventually question the quality of care their pets are receiving. If clients come to believe that the clinic staff and their veterinarians are not working together in an organized, professional manner, they will become mistrustful if there is an unfavorable medical outcome for their pets, no matter what the cause. Unhappy clients who question the ability of the veterinarian to work with his or her own staff often take this uneasiness and dissatisfaction to the Board of Veterinary Medicine in the form of a formal complaint. Trust me – it happens all the time.

How can this be avoided? First, constant and close communication between all team members, from the kennel worker to the veterinarian, is critical; everyone must be "on the same page" at all times. Staff members must be taught to never assume that they know what a veterinarian is thinking or wants done. Well-intentioned team members often believe that they are doing a busy veterinarian a favor by stepping in, but the results can be disastrous for all concerned.

Veterinarians need to serve as teachers and mentors for all team members.

Communication – AGAIN? continues on page 6

Rule Changes Adopted During the 2014 Legislative Session

- Jodie Ellis, Executive Director

Adopted Rule changes that took effect on March 20 2014:

IDAPA 46.01.01 (103): Language was inserted to authorize Certified Veterinary Technicians (CVTs) to dispense and deliver certain previously-prescribed antibiotics and medications, under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian.

IDAPA 46.01.01.(154)(05): Amended to provide a time period of three business days (replacing fourteen calendar days) in which veterinarians must respond to requests for patient records from an animal owner or another treating veterinarian.

IDAPA 46.01.01(205)(03)(a-d): Specifies the three examinations that must be taken and successfully passed to earn certification as a Certified Euthanasia Technician (CET), and clarifies the order in which they may be taken; designates who will develop the exams and who will deliver them; and identifies passing scores for the CET written exam and jurisprudence exam.

IDAPA 46.01.01(205)(15): Amended to allow presenters of approved courses to earn one (1) unit of continuing education credit for each 50 minutes of actual course instruction. Presenters will be limited to earning a maximum of eight (8) credit hours for presentation of any particular course, or a course with a closely related topic, during the two-year reporting period for continuing education credits.

View Idaho Veterinary Statutes, Administrative Rules, and Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics at www.bovm.idaho.gov or contact the Board office to request a hard copy of the document.



Communication – AGAIN?, continued from page 5

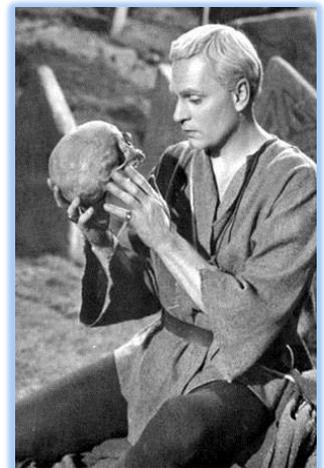
Remember that the techs, receptionists, and kennel workers are usually highly motivated to do and say the right things to clients, but they need mentoring and training from a strong leader who sets good examples and conveys clear expectations. Consistency and repetition are key when training staff to do things the way you need them done. Reacting negatively, or with irritation, to your staff's questions will undermine positive interactions, causing you to lose your role as their leader.

During staff training, role-playing can be fun, useful, and highly instructive, incorporating the concept of "active learning" into staff meetings. It is well documented that when learners are allowed to be active participants when addressing problems, they are much more likely to accept and implement the solutions.

Setting up short role-playing exercises during staff meetings, especially those based on actual situations that have occurred in the clinic, can work very well. It is both informative and interesting to have staff members and veterinarians assume the roles of clients and others at the clinic, which offers everyone a chance to consider things from different perspectives. Afterwards, team members can discuss the responses and agree on a clinic policy to handle the situation. If your staff is shy about participating, set the example yourself by acting as a client or staff member in a scenario. They'll love it! For more tips on using role playing at your staff meetings, visit:

<http://veterinaryteam.dvm360.com/firstline/Veterinary+team/Keep-role-playing-in-veterinary-staff-meetings-pro/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/788711>

Maintaining constant and positive communication amongst all team members leads to improved communication with clients and will result in fewer disgruntled clients making complaints to the Board. It also empowers everyone on the team, improving job satisfaction. Everyone wins in this scenario!



Inspire your staff by taking the first role yourself. Tights are optional.

Meet Carol, Support Staff at the BOVM Office
- Carol Youtz, Board Staff

Members of the Board of Veterinary Medicine are supported by two full-time State employees, an Executive Director (Jodie Ellis) and an assistant (me). I have been with the Board since 2009, and have been an Idaho State employee for nearly twenty years now.

The endless variety of questions we get over the phone and via email keep us hopping, but we like to take the opportunity to research our answers carefully. We refer to Idaho's Veterinary Practice Act exclusively for most regulatory questions, keeping the Board's Mission ("... to protect the people and animals of Idaho...") foremost in our thoughts.

Jodie and I have a few suggestions that will help us serve you to the best of our ability:

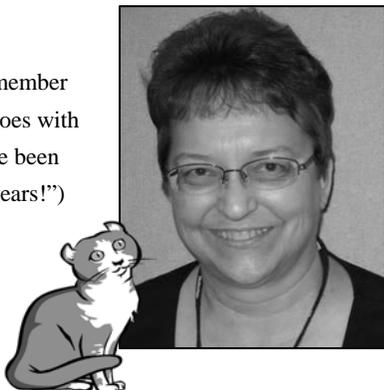
Voice mail

When leaving **voice mail** on the Board's phone system, please speak slowly and clearly. You can probably rattle off your phone number at the speed of light, but our ears (and fingers) aren't that fast! When leaving your message, spell your last name, also slowly and clearly, and, if you know it, provide your license or certificate number.

Email

When contacting the Board office via **email**, it is very helpful if you use the group email address (**bovminfo@agri.idaho.gov**). Since email sent to this address is seen by both Jodie and me, this assures that your message will be answered by a staff member in a timely manner. If you do not receive a reply within three hours during normal business hours, or at least an acknowledgment that your email was delivered, please telephone our office. We may be having network issues with the email server.

Carol Youtz, Board staff member
(Carol says, "This photo goes with that annoying voice you've been enduring for the last few years!")



Musings from a Seasoned Veterinarian
- Carol Eklund, DVM, Board Member

As a new graduate, the first months in practice can be a scary time. Veterinary school has prepared you for the science of practice; now you must also learn the art of practice. Nearly 35 years ago, I was fortunate to go to work for an established practice where I was introduced to practice success. Having a good mentor is an essential part of the learning process. Over time, as you practice, you will develop your own art and unique approach to the practice of veterinary medicine.



Dr. Carol Eklund,
Board member



Effective communication is the most important non-medical skill you can develop. Most complaints we see at the Board could be avoided by talking with clients and addressing their concerns.

Listening, questioning, and answering questions cannot be overrated. If you are truly listening to your clients, they will be confident you care about them and their animals. This goes back to the old adage, "They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care". Sincerity and compassion are much appreciated.

People want to be involved in the decision making, not dictated to. Not every owner will be willing or able to do everything for his or her animals. However, you should never assume who will or will not accept all your recommendations, nor should you make people feel guilty for not accepting the "A" plan. A detailed history and thorough physical exam will give you an initial direction. Clients appreciate a logical, step-by-step approach with choices along the way regarding diagnostic and treatment options. Be open to consulting with colleagues and specialists.

Keep communication open, both medically and financially. Be honest about the expected outcomes and what the costs may be, so clients can make informed decisions. An outcome that was never discussed, or a bill much higher than anticipated leads to a lack of trust.

Listening to your clients, caring about them and their

Musings from a Seasoned Veterinarian continues on page 8

The Idaho Society of Veterinary Technicians and Assistants (ISVTA)

- Erica Mattox, CVT, President ISVTA

Spring is here, and the Idaho Society of Veterinary Technicians and Assistants (ISVTA) is growing like a weed. Membership reached over 100 members in 2011; 132 in 2012; and 144 in 2013. It looks like 2014 will also be a record breaking year!

One of the benefits that ISVTA offers its members is access to continuing education courses. During 2012 and 2013, ISVTA organized a combined total of 37 units of continuing education credit for CVTs, including programs in the Magic Valley and Eastern Idaho. We teamed up with the Idaho Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA) to present 14 units of continuing education credit for technicians at IVMA's 2012 summer conference.

I thank the entire membership of ISVTA, including the technicians and assistants who have been there since the beginning, as well as the new members, for our growing success as an organization. I also thank the IVMA and the Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine for their continued support and encouragement.

If you are a CVT in Idaho, you owe it to yourself to join the ISVTA today. We are especially in need of more officers to keep up with our rapidly growing group, something that not only looks great on your resume, but is fun and worthwhile. If you are interested in becoming an officer, please contact the ISVTA. We are always looking for new ideas to help expand and strengthen the ISVTA. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for new CE topics, please contact the ISVTA at ISVTA.org or at the Idaho Society of Veterinary Technicians and Assistants' page on Facebook.



Above: Erica Mattox and her cat "Mister"

Left: ISVTA Vet Tech Week

Idaho BOVM Stats

Statewide License Certificates as of April 3, 2013 and April 1, 2014

Category	2013	2014
Licensed Veterinarians (active)	971	970
Licensed Veterinarians (inactive)	143	144
Certified Veterinary Technicians	221	245
Certified Euthanasia Agencies	19	19
Certified Euthanasia Technicians	61	61
TOTAL	1,415	1,439

Musings from a Seasoned Veterinarian, continued from page 7

animals, involving them in the process, and keeping them informed all help build what Stephen Covey calls the "emotional bank account". As you build up this account, your client builds trust in you. This will serve you well when events fail to go as planned. People are willing to listen when a relationship has been established. When conflicts arise, often the best approach once all the facts are addressed, is to ask, "What do you think would be fair?". In most cases, people will be reasonable in resolving the problem.

Your success as a veterinarian comes down to trust. People come to you because you have "Dr" in front of your name, but they will continue to see you because of that trust. Often you will be asked what you would do if this was your cat, dog, horse, etc. Always consider whether your recommendations will enhance this patient's life and also consider how the decisions made will affect the client. Your clients will be loyal when they believe in your abilities as a doctor and they believe you are doing things for the right reason—to help them and their animals. That is veterinary medicine. Enjoy!

Continuing Education, continued from page 2

Board office is happy to let you know how many CE credits you have on file, we strongly urge you to keep copies of all certificates of attendance for yourself, in case there is a discrepancy between our records and yours.

All CE courses must be RACE-approved or pre-approved in writing by the Board Staff. *You will not receive credit for courses that do not meet these criteria.* Both CVTs and veterinarians may find listings for online, RACE-approved courses on the American Association of Veterinary State Board's web site at:

www.aavsb.org/race/Search

As always, you are welcome to contact the Board office with any questions about continuing education.

A Different Perspective: The BOVM's
Public Member

- Kathy Simpson, Public Board Member

There are numerous boards, commissions, and councils in Idaho State government that require citizen representation in order to carry out their statutory obligations; the State Board of Veterinary Medicine is one of them.

Having grown up on a small family farm in Blackfoot, Idaho, I have always had a soft spot for anything with four legs. Consequently, I was excited for the opportunity to fulfill the term of the former public member, Joyceanne Fick, when she accepted the position as the American Association of Veterinary State Board's representative to the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

Throughout my professional career I have been very active in community service, and I've had the opportunity to serve on several boards including those of the Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, and the Idaho Travel Council. Of those experiences, none has been as rewarding to me personally as serving on the BOVM.



Kathy Simpson,
public member
of the BOVM



It's a privilege to work with the other board members that represent you. Their hard work and dedication in serving the State of Idaho and representing your profession is exemplary. These individuals, along with Jodie and Carol in the Board's office, are diligent in their efforts to constantly improve, streamline, and provide service to the veterinary community and the public.



The Illegal Practice of Equine Dentistry
by Lay Persons in Idaho

- John Copland, DVM
BOVM President

One important issue facing the BOVM is that of equine dentistry performed by lay people. By statute, lay "dentists" may not legally work in Idaho unless they are under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian - one who is on the premises where the animal is being treated, is quickly and easily available, and has examined the animal as acceptable veterinary medical practice requires.

There is no nationally recognized certification program for lay dentistry, so skill levels and knowledge vary widely between individuals. I have often seen work done by lay dentists where teeth are over-floated and the table angle of the cheek teeth is leveled. This not only makes mastication inefficient, but decreases the length of time the horse will have its limited supply of continuously-erupting tooth. Other problems frequently reported include exposed pulp chambers, overaggressive bit seats, fractured and impacted wolf teeth, and premature removal of caps, to name a few.

As part of a campaign to raise public awareness, the Board plans send the following letter to Idaho newspapers this spring:

"Dear Sir:

I am a licensed veterinarian and the president of the Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine (BOVM). I have seen several horses that have had their mouths damaged, some permanently, by lay equine "dentists". In Idaho, only licensed veterinarians and properly trained and supervised dental technicians may legally practice equine dentistry. Employing a lay dentist instead of a licensed veterinarian is risky. In Idaho, lay dentists are not licensed by any regulating agency so they are not held accountable by recognized professionals; they cannot purchase liability insurance; they cannot perform complete dental exams; and they cannot legally extract teeth. Lay dentists cannot legally purchase, prescribe, deliver or administer sedation drugs, nor are they trained to treat dangerous adverse reactions to these drugs. In short, lay dentists do not have the professional training necessary to ensure the safety and long term wellbeing of horses, many of which will never recover from poor dental work. I urge owners to choose the legal and safest course for their animals: dentistry by a licensed veterinarian. The BOVM needs your help in protecting Idaho's horses. If you know of anyone illegally practicing equine dentistry in Idaho, please let us know at bovminfo@agri.idaho.gov or call (208) 332-8588.

Sincerely,
Dr. John Coplin, President
Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine"



The Board welcomes your comments on this matter.
Please send yours to: bovminfo@agri.idaho.gov

The annual one-day **Idaho Veterinary Accreditation Seminar** in Boise will be held this summer at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) building. The date has not yet been set. Information about the **National Veterinary Accreditation Program** (NVAP) can be found on the new APHIS website at:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a/APHIS_Content_Library/SA_Our_Focus/SA_Animal_Health/SA_Vet_Accreditation.

On January 9, 2013, the USDA published a final rule establishing general regulations for improving the traceability of U.S. livestock moving INTERSTATE. The rule became effective on March 11, 2013, and created **Part 86 – Animal Disease Traceability in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations**. Under the final rule, unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate have to be officially identified and accompanied by an **interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI)** or other approved documentation. The ICVI must list the official identification number of each animal, with some exceptions for certain species or types of movement. For more information, call the ISDA or VS offices, or access the APHIS website at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a/APHIS_Content_Library/SA_Our_Focus/SA_Animal_Health/SA_Traceability . Below are some bulleted points for veterinarians writing ICVIs on livestock and/or applying official identification (ID) devices.

ID Information Required on ICVI

- Official ID of each animal except:
 - If Group/lot ID number (GIN) is allowed.
 - If sending and receiving states have agreed on alternate ID.
 - If class of animal is exempt from recording ID –include a statement that all animals are officially identified.
 - If class of animals is exempt from ID – record applicable exemption on ICVI.
- Other information required on ICVI
 - Species
 - Number of animals
 - Purpose of movement
 - Ship-from & destination addresses
 - Names of consignor & consignee
 - Consignor & consignee addresses if different than ship-from & destination



If ID is recorded on an alternative document, such as a State/APHIS form requiring individual official ID or a computer/other printout of official IDs, this document can be attached to the ICVI if the receiving state is in agreement:

- Examples of alternative documents: Official TB test record, computer printed inventory.
- On the alternative document, the animals moved are completely identified, and any info pertaining to other animals or any unused space for recording animal ID are crossed out in ink.
- A legible copy is stapled to original and each copy of ICVI.
- Info not on alternate document is included in ink in ID column on original and each copy of ICVI and circled or boxed so other information can't be added.
- The ICVI should reference the name of alternate document and its unique serial number; or if no number, the name of the person preparing document & date document was signed.
- The alternative document should reference the ICVI number and be signed by the person signing the ICVI.

ICVI or Other Movement Document Requirements

- Forward copy to State/Tribe of origin within 7 calendar days from issuance.
 - That official forwards documents to destination state officials within 7 days of receipt.
 - Keep copy of ICVI/document 5 years for cattle, bison, sheep, goats, cervids & equines, 2 years for poultry and swine.

USDA APHIS continues on page 10

Official ID Devices

- No more than one official ear tag may be applied to an animals except:
 - Tag with same ID number
 - In specific cases with permission from State/Tribal/Federal animal health official
 - 840 tag can be applied to animals with NUES and/or vaccination tags
 - Brucellosis vaccination tag to animals already officially identified
- Record keeping for additional tag exceptions
 - Must keep record for 5 years of date tag added & both ID numbers
 - For specific cases - reason for adding
- Replacement of official ID Devices due to loss
 - Apply tag with different official ID number
 - Keep record of date tag was added, old (if known) & new official ID numbers for 5 years
- Removal of ID devices
 - Remove only at death
 - Remove & replacement with approval by State/Tribal/Federal health official
- Replacement of ID devices for reasons other than loss requires records be kept for 5 years of:
 - Date of & reason for removal
 - Contact info for where device removed
 - Old and new ID number, and type of replacement device
- Sale or transfer of official ID from the premises where they were originally issued to another premise requires authorization by State/Tribal/Federal animal health official.

To All 2014 Graduates...

CONGRATULATIONS!

*...from the Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine.
Best Wishes for a Long and Successful Career!*