



D.C. Board of Veterinary Medicine

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YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

Changing your mailing address? Send your name, mailing address, and license number to:

DC Board of Veterinary Medicine
Processing Department
Address/Name Change
899 N. Capitol Street, NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

☆☆☆ Government of the District of Columbia
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DOH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Promote. Prevent. Protect.
December 2014

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

I am honored to be writing to you for the first time as Board Chair. It has been a busy several months since I was appointed to the Board in January. Many things that our Board has been working toward have come to fruition and having done so, we have an even more exciting list of items to accomplish.

First, I want to thank the former Board Chair, Dr. Julie Garnier, who had to step down due to other pressing commitments. Dr. Garnier's service and dedication are greatly appreciated and I am grateful for her help with the transition. The current Board members are Dr. Ashley Gallagher, Dr. Leanne Lipton and Ms. Lisa LaFontaine; our Executive Director is Dr. Vito DelVento and the Board Staff include: Ms. Lakisha Thompson and Ms. Antoinette Stokes.

The Board is also assisted by Ms. Emilia Moran, Department of Health Investigator, and Ms. Panravee Vongjaroenrat, Assistant General Counsel who serves as attorney advisor for the Board.

In addition, the Board also receives regular information and updates from the Department's Animal Program staff, Ms. Shakira Richardson and Ms. Joy McFarlane. The Board's work has been greatly supported and facilitated by these staff members.

The most important news for our profession is the passage of legislation that updates the regulatory framework for veterinarians in the District. The Omnibus Health Regulations Amendment Act, which became effective on March 26, 2014, amended the Veterinary Practice Act by incorporating it into the general health professional law, the Health Occupations Revisions Act (HORA). Through this legislation, the practice of veterinary medicine is now regulated under the same robust framework as the other health professions such as medicine, dentistry, and nursing. The legislation also provides for the regulation of veterinary technicians and euthanasia technicians to ensure that all types of veterinary professionals provide animals with consistent, professional care.



Noon Kampani, MBA, DVM, with Hobbs, her 13 year old Dachshund.

(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Board Meetings

THE BOARD MEETS ON THE
**THIRD THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

899 N. Capitol Street, NE
Second Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Open Session Begins 9:30 am.

Verification of Licensure

Licensing authorities and some health facilities often require a letter of verification of the current or previously held licenses. These letters of verification are sometimes called “letter of good standing.” The District will issue this type of verification even though the District license may have expired.

To receive a letter of good standing: If the jurisdiction or institution provides a form, please forward the form, with a check or money order payable to “DC Treasurer” in the amount of \$34.00 to:

DC Board of
Veterinary Medicine
899 N. Capitol Street, NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Be sure to include name and return address where the form is to be sent.

If the jurisdiction or institution does not provide a form, please send a note requesting a letter of verification. The note should include both the name of the person requesting the verification and the name and address of the recipient. Please enclose a check or money order (for \$34.00) payable to “DC Treasurer.”

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR (continued from page 1)

All health professional boards were given the opportunity to testify before the DC Council’s Committee on Health, which provides oversight for the work of the Department of Health. It was my pleasure to testify before the Committee to discuss the importance of veterinary practice in the District and the role of the Board of Veterinary Medicine. I was especially happy to discover that Councilmember Yvette Alexander, Chair of the Committee, is a proud dachshund owner and animal lover.

The Board is currently working on drafting and revising new policy and regulations for veterinarians, veterinary technicians and euthanasia technicians to accompany the HORA and provide modern standards. This process is arduous but important, and our efforts will frame the laws governing veterinary practice in the District. Concurrently, the Department of Health is working on revising the rules and regulations governing veterinary facilities. This regulatory work will be discussed and reviewed during all the public sessions of the Board’s meetings over the next several months. All who are interested in the development of the District’s new rules governing veterinary practice and animal care are encouraged to attend the Board’s meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of every month from 9:30 am – 10:30 am at the Department of Health, 899 N. Capitol Street, NE, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20002.

We always welcome feedback from veterinarians and the public. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for the Board, please feel free to contact Board staff by e-mailing Dr. DelVento at vito.delvento@dc.gov with your questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Noon Kampani, MBA, DVM
Chairperson
DC Board of Veterinary Medicine

2014 MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

The 2014 Mosquito Surveillance Program included testing for West Nile Virus at three locations in each of the eight wards providing comprehensive surveillance throughout the District. Mosquitos infected with the West Nile Virus were identified in each of the Wards with the exception of Ward 2. One confirmed human West Nile positive case and two probable human West Nile cases were reported to CDC.

2014 RABIES VIRUS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

The 2014 Rabies Virus Surveillance Program is ongoing for the calendar year. The DOH reports that rabies continues to be present in the District mainly in the wildlife population. The majority of rabies positive specimen results were identified in raccoons and bats. In addition, to date for 2014, the rabies virus was identified in one dog and two cats. DOH continues to promote the administration of the rabies vaccine to all dogs and cats that reside in the District as an important component of an animal preventative wellness program.

UPDATES IN THE DISTRICT VETERINARY LAWS

By Panravee Vongjaroenrat, Esq., Assistant Attorney General
Board Attorney Advisor

On February 5, 2014, the Council of the District of Columbia passed and the Mayor signed into law the Omnibus Health Regulations Amendment Act of 2014, D.C. Law 20-273 (“OHRA”). The primary effect of the OHRA is to amend the Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985 (“HORA”), D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.01 et seq., in many different areas. The HORA is the comprehensive law governing the licensure of health professions, such as physicians, dentists, nurses, etc., through their respective licensing boards. The HORA entrusts the Department of Health (DOH) with the function of enforcing the law and supporting the work of the health professional licensing boards.

Although Mayor Adrian Fenty issued an order on May 16, 2007 assigning the enforcement and support functions relating to veterinary medicine to DOH, the profession has not been fully incorporated into the HORA and the regulation of the profession has not enjoyed the full benefit of the robust legal tools available under the HORA. With the enactment of OHRA, the practice of veterinary medicine is now incorporated into the HORA and the profession is regulated similarly to the other health professions such as physicians, dentists, and nurses.

The OHRA repeals the Veterinary Practice Act of 1982 (“VPA”), renames the Board of Veterinary Examiners, created by the VPA, “Board of Veterinary Medicine,” and mandates the regulation of two new veterinary professions – veterinary technicians and veterinary euthanasia technicians. In addition, the OHRA also revises the laws governing “animal facilities.” Under the new law, animal facilities will now be regulated as “veterinary facilities” and the relevant regulations will be revised and updated to meet the current needs of the District.

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CONSEQUENCES OF THE NEW LAWS GOVERNING VETERINARY PRACTICE

This section outlines the changes to the veterinary practice laws based on the amendments under OHRA. However, this section does not address the effects of the new veterinary facility laws.

The practice of veterinary will be regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”), which will still consist of five members but with a slightly changed composition. Instead of being composed of four veterinarians and one consumer member, the **Board will be composed of three veterinarians, one veterinary technician, and one consumer member.**

Under both the old and the new laws, the licensing of veterinarians will remain the same. Applicants for veterinary license are still required to have graduated from an institution accredited by the American Veterinary

Medical Association (AVMA) and passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). **New to the licensing requirements will be a criminal background check for all veterinarians both new to the District and those renewing their license at the next cycle in 2015.** Additionally, the continuing education requirement will remain the same.

The inclusion of veterinary medicine into the HORA will bring the regulation of veterinary medicine into line with other health professions which maintain standards of professional practice and acceptable conduct specific to each individual profession. Other notable new standards for veterinary medicine, available under the HORA, include **maintenance of adequate patient/client record, obligation to provide record at client’s request, and prohibition against fee splitting.** In addition, the old laws provided for

criminal prosecution of several acts such as providing false statements. Under the HORA, the Board is authorized to initiate civil disciplinary actions against veterinarians for false statements and other violations of the law.

Another notable change in the law is the **requirement for certification of veterinary technicians and veterinary euthanasia technicians.** Regulations will be promulgated within the coming year to implement this legal requirement. Similarly, veterinary regulations will be updated and revised during the same time. Practitioners and members of the public interested in the regulatory development may consider visiting the D.C. Register website, www.dcregs.org to watch for the publication of proposed new rules. As required by law, the proposed new rules will be published and open for public comments for 30 days before they can be finalized and become effective.

PRESCRIPTION FRAUD REPORTING



PCD Investigator Derek V. Brooks, Sr., MSA, CFE, introduces members of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and staff to the new Prescription Fraud Reporting website.

The Pharmaceutical Control Division (PCD) has developed and launched a website for 'Prescription Fraud Reporting' for reporting lost, stolen, and fraudulent prescriptions. This website provides an accessible way for licensed practitioners and pharmacies to notify HRLA of incidents of fraudulent prescriptions. The HRLA website includes **links to documents to report fraudulent prescriptions, tips for safeguarding prescriptions and helpful resources** for prescribers, pharmacists and other health care professionals. This brings us one step closer to tackling a pervasive public health problem.

The link can be found on the HRLA/Pharmaceutical Control Division website at <http://doh.dc.gov/pcd>, or you may access it directly at <http://doh.dc.gov/page/prescription-fraud-reporting>.

Health Regulation and Licensing Administration Senior Deputy Director Dr. Rikin Mehta would like to recognize the efforts of PCD Program Manager Patricia D'Antonio and her pharmaceutical investigator, Derek Brooks, in researching and launching this webpage.

APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

Veterinarians licensed in the District must complete 36 hours of continuing education units (CEUs) each renewal cycle (every 2 years). Veterinarians may choose from any on-line or in-person course offered by: an AVMA accredited College of Veterinary Medicine, the AVMA, the DCVMA, the DC Academy of Veterinary Medicine, or the Board. In addition to these courses, the Board has granted automatic approval for all courses that receive CEU credit through the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' (AAVSB) Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE). For information on RACE, visit <https://www.aavsb.org/race/>.

Licensees who take courses not approved through any of these means may petition the Board on a course by course basis to request that hours be approved. Licensees should be prepared to provide course and provider information to the Board. The Board may request that the licensee attend a Board Meeting to further discuss the information prior to a decision being rendered.

Course providers who are seeking approval of continuing education courses will be referred to RACE for approval, except in cases where RACE has denied CEUs and would like the Board to reconsider.

SPOTLIGHT ON: FRIENDSHIP HOSPITAL FOR ANIMALS

Established in 1936, Friendship Hospital for Animals provides quality primary, specialty, and emergency care to DC pet-owners. In addition to providing compassionate and individualized health care 24 hours a day, Friendship's team of specialists offers comprehensive referral services to Washington area veterinarians. This year, Friendship is expanding its physical facilities to include an entirely new, state of the art second floor and freshly renovated ground and first floors. The addition of this space will double the size of the hospital and allow Friendship to offer more comprehensive services to the veterinary and pet-owning community. The new space will also allow for continuing education events for area veterinarians.

Current services provided by board-certified specialists include surgery, critical care, internal medicine, radiology, oncology and clinical pathology. With the completion of the expansion, Friendship will offer boarded referrals in neurology, cardiology, and dermatology. A full-time board-certified anesthesiologist will launch a pain management clinic including acupuncture, massage, and physical therapy/rehab. Advanced imaging services will include a 16 slice CT scanner (the only 16 slice CT in the area) and a 1.5 Tesla MR both by GE.

The depth and breadth of Friendship's specialty services means pets owners will not have to go all around town – or even out of town – for advanced care. They will always be within an arm's reach of their regular DC veterinarian. Friendship understands and respects their referring partners and believes that a highly collaborative process is extremely beneficial to area practices, their clients and most of all, the patients. Referring veterinarians are welcome to stop by



the hospital anytime to consult with specialists regarding patients they have referred. Friendship's convenient location benefits the referring vet, the client and the patient. A redesigned website (www.friendshiphospital.com) will offer a robust referral section to ensure veterinarians can easily submit cases and communicate with Friendship's specialists. Friendship is making every effort to truly partner with referring vets and add value to their clients' experience.

The second floor, devoted primarily to specialty/referral care, will be completed by the end of the year. Renovations on the first floor and ground level (CT and MR) are expected to be completed shortly thereafter. Friendship will remain fully functional throughout construction. As new services launch, more detailed information will be provided.



Disclaimer: The above article was written by and on behalf of the facility being spotlighted and does not reflect Board or the Department of Health endorsement or agreement.

SECURETECH360: HRLA TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

The Health Regulation and Licensing Administration board room will soon get an extensive technology upgrade. Below, SecureTech360 project manager **Danielle Webb**, answers questions about our new multi-media Smart Board:

How will our new SecureTech360 unit differ from the Smart Board we currently have in the board room? What new features and functions will be available?

SecureTech360 will install a wireless integrated system that is tied into the data center. These rooms become part of an enterprise wide solution. Board Room 216 and Room 213 (off the receptionist area) will have video conferencing, live streaming, recording, and digital play out capabilities on any device, anywhere, anytime.

What will be the dimensions of our new system?

This is a full enterprise solution; there is no one dimension available. Part of your install will include a 4-panel Video Wall, which is 110" x 110", and a 65" Smart Board.



Our new unit will have a multi-panel screen. What is the advantage of this for staff and Board members who are holding meetings?

This solution allows you to view multiple content simultaneously.

SecureTech360 team members have done work in the Board Room and in Room 213. Why are you working in there when the unit will be in the Board room?

The HRLA executive install package includes both the Board Room (216) and Room 213. Both rooms will be upgraded to include Smart Technologies. The

room packages include wireless ceiling mounted mics, speakers and lights that are all also controlled by a mounted panel on the wall. These Smart Conference spaces also have full wifi capabilities, and digital inputs for laptops, desktops, and HDMI devices.

For those of us who are technologically-challenged, could you briefly explain what "teleconferencing," "smart conferencing," and "streaming media" mean?

Our smart solution provides anytime, anywhere, any device connectivity for wireless, audio, and end to end video collaborative functions.

When will the wiring be complete and our SecureTech360 unit be installed?

Your conference rooms are estimated to be completed by the end of January 2015.

Once the installation is complete, will SecureTech360 team members be on-site to help us learn how to use our new system?

YES! After the install our staff will be onsite to provide training to your key staff, and we will also provide one year of maintenance support.

FILING A COMPLAINT WITH THE BOARD

To file a complaint against a licensed DC Veterinarian, submit a letter of complaint that includes copies of the pertinent documents. The letter must also include the complainant's address and other contact information so that the complainant may be contacted as necessary and notified of any findings.

PLEASE NOTE: THE COMPLAINT FORM IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE AT
<http://doh.dc.gov/node/192802>

Mail the complaint to:

DC Board of Veterinary Medicine
 899 N. Capitol Street, NE
 First Floor
 Washington, DC 20002

If the complaint alleges unlicensed activity, mail the complaint to:

Supervisory Investigator
 899 N. Capitol Street, NE
 First Floor
 Washington DC 20002

Or fax the complaint about unlicensed activity to (202) 442-4924.

Please be advised that the health professional licensing boards do not have jurisdiction over fee disputes, except for billing for services that were not provided. If there is a fee dispute with a health professional, seek redress through the civil courts.

BOARD ORDERS

**There were no public
 Board Actions
 against licensees
 May 2013 - October 2014.**

To verify a license,
 go to:
www.doh.dc.gov

PLEASE NOTE:

**The business addresses of all
 veterinarians with a DC license
 will be public information.**

OPEN SESSION

THE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
 cordially encourages veterinarians to attend **Open Session!**
 The Board meets on the third Thursday of every month, at 9:30 am,
 on the second floor of 899 N. Capitol Street, NE, Washington DC 20002
 (a few blocks from the Union Station metro stop)
 For further information, please contact Lakisha Thompson at (202) 535-2323.

WHEN YOU MOVE...OR CHANGE YOUR NAME

Licensees sometimes forget to inform the Board of Veterinary Medicine of a move or name change. If the correct address is not on file, the renewal form may not be received. **All name and address changes must be submitted in writing to our office within 30 days of the change.** Please include name, address, email address, Social Security number, and license number. For a name change, please enclose a copy of the certificate of marriage, divorce decree, or court order that authorizes the change. Fax the request to (202) 724-5145, or mail the request to:

DC Board of Veterinary Medicine
 Attn: Address/Name Change
 899 N. Capitol Street, NE, First Floor
 Washington, DC 20002

BOARD OF VET MEDICINE WELCOMES NEW CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Noon Kampani earned her undergraduate degree from Cornell University in Biology and Business Management, has a graduate degree from Georgetown University and attended Virginia Tech for Veterinary School. Dr. Kampani has been practicing veterinary medicine in the DC area since 2008. She has served on the boards of the DC Academy of Veterinary Medicine and the DC Veterinary Medical Association. She volunteers one Sunday a month at the Washington Humane Society. Prior to Veterinary School, Dr. Kampani led tour groups at the National Zoo as part of the FONZ (Friends of the National Zoo) program. Her professional interests include pain management, geriatric care, dermatology and internal medicine. She enjoys hiking, playing tennis, golf and traveling. She lives in Washington with her dog, Hobbs.

Don't miss the fun! Go online and check out some cool pics from the District's 2014 Doggy Swim Day at three DC municipal pools: <https://www.pictage.com/user/photos.jsf?eventId=1620860>

(Photos by Karine Aigne, top animal and pet photographer.)

Health Professional
Licensing Administration

Address
DC Board of
Veterinary Medicine
899 N. Capitol Street, NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Phone
(202) 535-2323

Fax number
(202) 442-4817

Webpage
www.doh.dc.gov

DC Government website
www.dc.gov

Director, Department of Health
Joxel Garcia, MD, MBA

Senior Deputy Director
Rikin S. Mehta, PharmD, JD, LLM

Board Staff

**Board Executive Director/
Veterinary Medical Officer**
Vito R. DelVento, DVM, MS
Phone: (202) 724-8813
Email: vito.delvento@dc.gov

Health Licensing Specialist
Lakisha J. Thompson
Phone: (202) 535-2323
Email: lakisha.thompson@dc.gov

Health Licensing Specialist
Antoinette Stokes
Phone: (202) 535-2508
Email: antoinette.stokes@dc.gov

Program Specialist
Joy McFarlane-Mills
Phone: (202) 442-4932
Email: joy.mcfarlane@dc.gov

Current Members of The District of Columbia Board of Veterinary Medicine

Noon Kampani, MBA, DVM
Chairperson

Ashley Gallagher, DVM
Board Member

Leanne J. Lipton, BS, DVM, CVA,
CVSMT, CVC, CVTN, CVFT
Board Member

Lisa La Fontaine
Consumer Member

Assistant Attorney General
Panavee Vongjaroenrat

Investigators
Emilia Moran
Shakira Richardson

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Nancy Kofie