

Winter-Spring 2026

Message from the Executive Director

“The District’s veterinarians play an essential role in safeguarding both animal and public health. Your commitment to excellence, compassion, and ethical care strengthens every household, shelter, and clinic in our community. The Board continues to advance standards that reflect emerging science and technology while maintaining our shared dedication to humane practice. I encourage licensees to stay engaged through continuing education, mentorship, and participation in Board discussions. Together, we ensure that animal health services in the District remain among the nation’s best. Thank you for your professionalism and your service to the people and pets of Washington, D.C.”

— Vito DelVento, DVM, Executive Director



Welcome & Introduction

The Health Systems and Preparedness Administration (HSPA) at the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) is committed to ensuring that all licensed health professionals meet the highest standards of competence, ethics, and public safety.

This newsletter serves as a communication pathway between DC Health, the professional licensing boards, and licensees. Each issue provides important regulatory updates, continuing education opportunities, public health initiatives, and professional achievements.

Through collaboration, transparency, and accountability, DC Health continues to advance its mission of protecting, promoting, and improving the health of all District residents.

About DC Health | HSPA

The Health Systems and Preparedness Administration (HSPA) is one of five administrations within DC Health. Within HSPA, the Office of Health Professional Licensing oversees 15 professional licensing boards, the Investigations Division, and the Pharmaceutical Control Division.

Each respective board falls under the Office of Health Professional Licensing within HSPA, ensuring that health professionals practice safely and effectively through:

- Licensing and renewals for health professionals
- Policy development and enforcement of laws and regulations
- Board support for disciplinary actions, rulemaking, and continuing education
- Public-health partnerships promoting safe, ethical, and quality care

HSPA also includes four additional offices:

- Office of Health Care Facilities
- Office of Operations
- Office of Emergency Preparedness and Resilience

Each professional board is composed of members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the DC Council, representing both professional expertise and public interests. Together, these boards uphold DC Health’s core values: integrity, excellence, accountability, and service.

HSPA Mission

HSPA coordinates public health and emergency healthcare preparedness, response, and recovery efforts by leveraging partnerships to ensure readiness to protect those who reside, visit, or do business in the District of Columbia.

About the Board

The Board of Veterinary Medicine regulates the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary technicians in the District of Columbia. The Board ensures that all practicing veterinarians meet educational, ethical, and professional standards while protecting animal welfare and public health.

The Board also reviews continuing education requirements, investigates complaints, and develops rules reflecting advances in veterinary science.

Current Focus Areas

- DC Health is thrilled to announce the launch of our *Online Licensing Application System for **veterinary technicians and veterinary euthanasia technicians***. For more details, please visit *DC Health website*.
- Beginning this new fiscal year, all health professional licensing boards in the District of Columbia transitioned to a birth month/birth year-based renewal cycle. This change was implemented to improve administrative efficiency and simplify license tracking for both the Board and licensees.
- DC Health entered a new partnership with Brandywine Valley SPCA, a Delaware-based non-profit organization that has been awarded the animal control contract from DC Health. Brandywine Valley SPCA replaced HRA and officially took over from January 1, 2025.

Board Updates & Priorities

Board – 5 members

- Three (3) veterinarians
- One (1) veterinary technician
- One (1) consumer member

Vacancies:

- Two (2) veterinarians
- One (1) veterinary technician

The Board of Veterinary Medicine continues to enhance standards that protect animal welfare and support public health. Recent priorities include:

- Reviewing policy guidance for **telemedicine in veterinary practice**, with a focus on privacy and ethical client care.
- Issuing permits for commercial animal facilities.

Board Members

- **Dr. Dan Teich**, Board Chair
- **Dr. Sophie Kindberg-Hanlon**, Board Member
- **Amy Haywood**, Veterinary Technician Board Member
- **Blair Zervos**, Consumer Member

Continuing Education Spotlight

DC veterinarians are reminded that all CE must be **RACE-approved** or reviewed by the Board for relevance and rigor.

- Total 36 CE hours are required to renew your license
 - 30.4 veterinary medicine credits
 - 3.6 public health credits
 - 2.0 LGBTQ credits

Please check out this [link](#) for approved public health categories:

Featured Opportunities:

- [Brave Space Certificate Program](#)
- For LGBTQ CE courses, please check out this [link](#)
- For public health CE courses, please check out this [link](#)

Public Health Connection

The Board supports the District's One Health Initiative, recognizing the interconnectedness of animal, human, and environmental health.

Veterinarians are key to disease surveillance, rabies control, and zoonotic disease prevention.

Board Chair Corner

“The Veterinary Board continues to advance animal health in the city. There are approximately 600 active veterinarian licenses and we are proud to begin licensing veterinary technicians, with an effective start date of October 1, 2025. Regulations pertinent to the profession have also been discussed and our board is proud to be advancing animal welfare across the District by ensuring that procedures such as ear cropping and tail docking are limited to true medical need and by addressing harmful training practices, including the use of shock and prong collars. We are implementing regulatory updates that support practical, stress-reducing medicine, including the one-time use of anti-anxiolytics prior to establishing the veterinary client patient relationship (VCPR), and clarifying the VCPR to provide a clear and consistent framework for veterinarians to work within. As the nation’s capital, we are committed to leading by example and setting a gold standard for compassionate, evidence-based veterinary care.”



— Dan Teich, DVM and the Members of the Board

Compliance & Licensing Tips

- Renew licenses at **least 30 days** before expiration.
- Maintain **current mailing and email addresses** in the licensing portal.
- Update us immediately about a new employment and your business contact
- Report any **disciplinary actions** or criminal convictions within 10 days.
- Display your **license certificate** at your practice location.

Closing Note

DC Health thanks all licensed professionals for their service and commitment to public health. Together, we advance to a stronger, healthier, and more resilient District.

[Board Website](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- January 15, 2026 (Virtual)
- March 19, 2026 (In-Person)
- May 21, 2026 (Virtual)
- July 16, 2026 (Virtual)
- September 17, 2026 (Virtual)
- November 19, 2026 (In-Person)

Contact Information

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