

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2010

BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

July 2010



**DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**

This Annual Performance Report is presented in accordance with Alaska Statute 08.01.070(1) and Alaska Statute 37.07.080(b). Its purpose is to report the accomplishments, activities, and the past and present needs of the licensing program.

**ALASKA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
FY 2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

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**ALASKA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
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IDENTIFICATION OF BOARD**

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Teresa Beck Veterinarian 1150 S Colony Way Ste 3 PMB 133 Palmer, AK 99645	March 1, 2010	March 1, 2014
John E. Tuomi Veterinarian PO Box 3329 Palmer, AK 99645	July 24, 2009	March 1, 2012
Martin Buser Public Member PO Box 520997 Big Lake, AK 99652	January 29, 2008	March 1, 2012
Margaret J. Eastman Veterinarian 900 Nordic St. North Pole, AK 99705	October 16, 2008	March 1, 2012
David J. Hunt Veterinarian Sitka Animal Hospital PO Box 1774 Sitka, AK 99835	March 1, 2007	March 1, 2011

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IDENTIFICATION OF STAFF

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ALASKA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
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NARRATIVE STATEMENT

The Board of Veterinary Examiners met on three occasions during fiscal year 2010: September 18, 2009 Fairbanks, January 8, 2010 Anchorage and May 7th, 2010 Teleconference

Present Board members are David J Hunt DVM, Chairperson Sitka, Teresa Beckman DVM Palmer, John E. Tuomi DVM Palmer, Margaret J. Eastman DVM North Pole and Martin Buser of Big Lake as public member. Brenda Donahue continues as the Veterinary Licensing Examiner and is doing an outstanding job. Dawn Bundick is our investigator.

The Board would like to thank Steven Torrence DVM for his past 8 years of service to the State of Alaska and to the veterinary profession.

The board continues to rotate its quarterly meetings among the state's three largest cities in order to increase access of veterinarians and citizens interested in meeting content or public testimony.

The Board continues their work with the Division of Occupational licensing and State investigators to monitor compliance with Alaska statutes and regulations regarding veterinary medicine in the interest of the public health and animal welfare. The Board also continues to review and comment upon legislation relevant to veterinary medical issues and regards the Board's public protection mission as its guide when doing so.

Inquiries concerning alcohol or drug impaired practitioners continue to be referred to the Alaska State Medical Association's Physician Assistance Committee (PAC) which provides and monitors a program for impaired doctors for the Medical Board.

The Board reviews applications for State licensure of Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and Licensed Veterinary Technicians (LVT), then approve, disapprove them with comment, or table them for further discussion based upon the qualifying information provided to them. The board oversaw courtesy licensing of veterinarians for special events such as the Iditarod and Yukon Quest sled dog races and specialty medical clinics.

The Alaska veterinarian's hand book was revised with no significant updates being necessary this year. The veterinary jurisprudence exam was edited with new questions devised to replace any that were ambiguous or in any way questionable or outdated in order to make it as clear and fair as possible to the test taker.

Audits of continuing education credits for LVTs and DVMs were performed.

Requirements and programs for continuing education continue to be reviewed and the Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) continues to be the standard by which courses of study are approved by the Board.

The Board will continue to support the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) and any legislation that will allow foreign graduates to practice in our state by this method of approval.

The Board will continue to send a member to the annual AAVSB meeting each year.

The meeting dates for Fiscal year 2011 are proposed to occur in October 2010 in Fairbanks, January 2011 in Anchorage, and May 2011 in Juneau.

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
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BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2011

Hold three Board meetings per year at approximately \$3,500 each	\$10,500
Travel, conference fee and per diem for one Board member to attend the American Association of Veterinary State Boards Annual Meeting	\$2,220
TOTAL COSTS	\$12,720

The Board of Veterinary Examiners continues to express the desire to continue meeting in the same format as in previous years. This involves the scheduling of three meetings per year, to be rotated between three major cities in Alaska. The board feels very strongly that a member of the board attend the American Association of Veterinary State Boards Annual Meeting or a national regulatory meeting on a consistent basis.

The board expects no significant changes in current costs for other budget line items (communications, memberships, advertising/printing, etc.) Continued membership in the American Association of Veterinary State Boards is essential.

The following budget request for travel is based on July 2010 travel costs and per diem rates. It assumes attendance at each meeting by one board member from Big Lake, one member from North Pole, one member from Sitka, two members from Palmer and one licensing examiner from Juneau. Each meeting will be scheduled for a minimum of one day.

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR FY 2011

1. Amend AS 08.98.165(a)(2) to read “has, within the [60] **72** months preceding application for the license, passed a national examination for veterinarians approved by the board. This will eliminate the need to retake the NAVLE for an applicant who has taken the exam prior to graduation and falls into a situation where they passed the exam more than 60 months prior to application, but have not been in practice for the five years required to apply by credentials.
2. The Board wishes to pursue wording to define Standards of Practice in statutes. If these Standards were defined it would allow for a more objective approach to potential violations of the Act. Defining standards of practice would also give both practitioners and the public a clearer idea of what constitutes a violation of standards.
3. Current language leaves little flexibility for the rapidly changing fields and nature of the practice of veterinary medicine. In the future much more specialized testing may be necessary to reflect those changes. Revised language would allow for more timely updates to reflect these changes.
4. The current use of the word ‘compensation’ in our act creates both a loophole for the untrained and confusion as to what constitutes ‘compensation’.

Also some things, such as major surgery or diagnosing complex medical cases should only be done by those with adequate training even if no compensation changes hands.

The new Act would eliminate these loopholes to create an enforceable document that could be utilized by state attorneys in prosecuting offenders. It is the opinion of the board that the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine should not be based on the fact compensation was exchanged. It is noted that the Board of Veterinary Examiners does not police the veterinary industry; it is a complaint-based board. Concerns have been voiced about the inclusion of friendly advice in regard to pets, or de-worming your own pet being considered the practice of veterinary medicine. This board investigates only written complaints made to the investigator’s office. The board feels that a process should be made available for the public to voice their concerns in regard to anyone considered practicing veterinary medicine with or without a license, regardless of who is accused. Discrimination should not be made on the exchange of compensation.

**ALASKA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
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REGULATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2011**

The Board continues to pursue regulation changes as needed to refine the regulations for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

The Board currently has no regulation projects.

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY 2011

1. Continue membership in the American Association of Veterinary State Boards and send one member to a national regulatory board meeting.
2. Continue to implement, monitor, and develop the jurisprudence mail-out state examination. The jurisprudence exam will be reviewed for accuracy annually at the Jan/Feb. meeting.
3. Continue licensing veterinarians and veterinary technicians and continue monitoring continuing education hours.
4. Continue to review and evaluate current statutes and legislative proposals and develop new proposals as needed.
5. Monitor investigations and continue to support alternate methods to expedite the investigative process.
6. Monitor current probation cases.
7. Resolve ongoing investigations/litigation in a timely fashion through direct involvement of the board in the early review process.
8. Continue to update the Veterinary Handbook annually at the October meeting. A mailing of the Handbook will occur following a major revision.
9. Continue to review and evaluate current regulations and regulatory fees and develop new regulations as needed.
10. Continue to monitor continuing education programs and requirements.
11. Continue to monitor budget as it pertains to the self-supporting fees.
12. Continue to pursue the mission and vision statements of the board.
13. Investigate AVMA (ECVFG) and AAVSB (PAVE) guidelines for licensing foreign educated veterinarians.
14. Promote on-line license renewal.
15. Review issues and update veterinary technician regulations.

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
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SUNSET AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Division of Legislative Audit conducted a sunset performance review of the Board of Veterinary Examiners on Sept. 22, 2008. This performance review covered the fiscal years FY2005 through FY2008.

During the FY2009 the legislature extended the termination date of the Board of Veterinary Examiners until June 30, 2017. While the extension until June 30, 2017 exceeds the maximum period suggested in statute, it is within the legislative discretion according to AS 08.03.020(c).

The regulation and licensing of veterinarians and veterinary technicians benefits the public. The Board has demonstrated an ability to conduct its affairs in an efficient manner. The Board continues to propose changes to regulations to improve the effectiveness of the Board and ensure that veterinarians and veterinary technicians licensed in the State of Alaska are competent and capable of maintaining the integrity of the profession.

The Board satisfactorily carries out its responsibilities in a manner consistent with statutes, regulations, good administrative practice, and the public's interest.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1:

The Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing,, in conjunction with the Board of Veterinary Examiners, should review licensing fees as provided by statute and consider reducing fees.

The veterinarian licensing fees were reduced from \$490 to \$325, effective 12/12/08.

Recommendation No. 2:

The Office of the Governor should fill vacant seats on the Board of Veterinary Examiners in a timely manner.

Dr. Margaret Eastman was appointed to the Board 10/16/2008, filling all seats.

FISCAL YEAR 20____ STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Program: _____

AS 08. _____

12 AAC _____

Name of Individual Completing Report: _____

Date: _____

CATEGORY	NEW – ISSUED DURING FY 20____	TOTAL AS OF 6/30/____	EXAMINATION/ CREDENTIAL
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A. Current Active Licenses, Endorsements, Permits

(student, locum tenens, limited, courtesy licenses)

List type and if issued by examination or credential, as applicable

(Do not list “temporary permits” or “temporary licenses”)

Example: License Type	10	250	Exam: 6 Credentials: 4
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
TOTAL			

B. Current Inactive Licenses (not lapsed licenses)

(Only Medical, Chiropractic, CPA, and Real Estate)

CATEGORY	TOTAL AS OF 6/30/____
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
TOTAL	

