

North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

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Regulatory
Bulletin

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Visit the NCVMB website: <http://www.ncvmb.org/>



Continuing Education Audits: Approximately 5% of all licensees and registrants will be audited for proof of obtaining their CE. This is a random audit and you will be informed at the time of your renewal if you need to submit proof of your CE. Your license/registration will not be renewed if you do not provide this requested information.

Continuing Education Requirement: Two (2) hours of CE on the abuse of controlled substances will be required per renewal cycle. *This includes both veterinarians and technicians.*

NCVMB FACEBOOK Page

<https://www.facebook.com/NCVetMedicalBoard>

The NCVMB Facebook page has a vast variety of information available for veterinarians, technicians, and pet owners. Examples of recent posting include the following topics:

- Christmas Plants: Hazards, History, and Holiday Dangers
- Top 5 Steps to Practice Evidence Based Vet Medicine
- What Does a Lambe Horse Feel Like?
- Antidotes in Veterinary Medicine
- New strain of canine distemper virus arrives in North America



You may be inspected by
the DEA, NC DHHS,
and/or NC Department of
Radiation

It has come to the attention of the NCVMB that a number of practices were recently inspected by either the DEA, NC DHHS, or the NC Department of Radiation.

These inspections are not linked to the NCVMB and are an independent function of these agencies.

It is important for all veterinary practices to be aware of the requirements of these agencies.

Information can be found at the following web sites:

DEA:

www.DeaDiversion.usdoj.gov

NC Department of Radiation:

<http://www.ncradiation.net/Xray/documents/healartsprog.pdf>

NC DHHS:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/ncdcu/nc-controlled-substances-regulatory>



Renewal: You may be audited!

CE AUDIT: Random CE audits are conducted each renewal cycle.

- Each veterinarian and veterinary technician shall keep a record (certificate of attendance) for the three (3) most recent renewal periods of the content of courses submitted to the Board for continuing education credit hours.
- CE records (certificates of attendance) must be provided to the Board upon request.
- If evidence of CE completion cannot be provided during an audit, the license cannot be renewed and faces revocation.

A 2015-2016 NC state budget provision required all regulatory agencies to adopt health profession continuing education requirements specific to the prescribing of controlled substances. Rules establishing the Controlled Substance Continuing Education requirement were in effect as of July 1, 2017. This requirement is ongoing and must be obtained for each renewal period by all veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians. There is not an exemption for licensees who practice outside of North Carolina.

Two (2) hours of CE on either; controlled substance prescribing practices, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, or controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management will be required per renewal cycle. These 2 hours are included in the total number of CE hours. (e.g. For technicians, CE needs to be obtained in 2018 or 2019 for the 2020/2021 renewal)

The North Carolina Professionals Health Program (NCPHP) has provided the Controlled Substance Online Seminar (2 on-line hours including the examination). This will allow you to complete your required CE rapidly and at no charge. The links to the online CE and the certificate for your records are:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhulGa6KA_w

https://ncphp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/NCVMB_CE_Certificate.pdf

NOTE: The directions at the end of the video states to download a copy of your certificate to the NCVMB website. This is not correct...you should print the certificate and keep a copy in your files.

In the event you are audited, you will be required to provide documentation (CE Certificate of Attendance) as proof that you completed the required hours of CE. **Your license/registration cannot be renewed until you have forwarded/provided this information.**



NCVMB Employment Opportunity (Facility Inspector for eastern NC)

The North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board is seeking a part time veterinarian or registered veterinary technician to serve as a Practice Facility Inspector for the eastern part of the state. Duties would include conducting routine biennial inspections of approximately 425 licensed facilities and mobile practices, as well as new practices and ownership changes. The employee will provide guidance and direction on all facility issues to licensees in the area. The area comprises the eastern 39 counties of the state.

Work load would be approximately 20 to 25 hours per week with about 12,000 miles driven per year. The employee is able to set up their own work schedule to meet their responsibilities. The NCVMB prefers that the potential inspector should reside within one of the following counties: Wake, Johnston, Wayne, Wilson, Nash, Franklin, Harnett, Greene, Pitt, or Edgecombe.

The employee is paid on an hourly rate commensurate with experience and qualifications. Mileage and meals are also reimbursed. Occasional trips to the Raleigh office will be expected (3x/year). State Statute prevents a NC licensee or registrant from practicing in North Carolina while employed as an inspector by the Board.

The employee is expected to be professional, possess good interpersonal communication skills, work efficiently without direct supervision, be well organized, a self-starter, and have good computer skills and technical competency. The qualified applicant needs to be either a DVM or RVT.

Questions regarding the position can be referred to the current Inspection Supervisor, Dr. David Marshall at dmarshall@ncvmb.org . Email a cover letter and resume to the NCVMB Executive Director, Dr. Schadler, at: tschadler@ncvmb.org. The NCVMB is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.



Stress and Substance Abuse in the Veterinary Profession

The North Carolina Professionals Health Program (NCPHP) provides North Carolina's veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians with identification, evaluation, monitoring, and advocacy support for substance abuse issues. This allows them to participate in a sustainable recovery program and serve the public in a safe manner.

With compassion for the welfare of veterinary professionals and concern for the integrity of the entire profession, the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board (NCVMB) collaborates with NCPHP. By evaluating, referring for assessment and/or treatment and monitoring veterinary professionals, NCPHP enables them to serve the public in a safe manner.

- Laser safety
- Controlled substances
- Hearing protection

The following is a list of some of the topics that you should be aware of:

Appropriate warning or identification signs

These signs should be posted at the exits, and in areas where hazardous situations more commonly occur, such as those that require hearing protection. Areas where radiation and chemotherapy equipment are used should be clearly identified.

Emergency action and fire prevention plans

While many practices have informal, verbal plans, a written plan is required in practices with 10 or more employees. Regardless of the number of employees, veterinary practices should be equipped with functional fire extinguishers and have clearly labeled escape routes.

Chemotherapy

If chemotherapy is performed in your practice, it must be in a single-purpose room. The room must follow these guidelines:

- Sign to clearly identify the room
- Access restricted to only authorized individuals
- Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC) to mix, dilute, or “draw up” chemotherapy drugs
- Spill clean-up procedures clearly posted
- Spill response kit readily available within the chemotherapy room
- Yellow sharps containers in both the BSC and the chemotherapy administration area
- Separate trash and laundry containers
- Eye wash

Keeping food and drinks out of work areas

Food should not be in any area of the hospital except the designated break room. As for drinks, OSHA allows only a closed container with a small opening; a coffee cup with a lid, a covered bottle or a cup with a straw is acceptable. Lab samples, medications and diagnostic chemical reagents should not be kept in the same refrigerator as human food or drinks.

Chemical hazards

Employees must be aware of all hazardous chemicals they use at work, as well as how to handle these chemicals safely. Practices must provide the following:

- Written Hazard Communication Plan, including a list of all hazardous products
- Safety Data Sheets for every chemical used in the practice
- Chemical containers (including secondary containers, such as smaller exam room bottles) that are labeled with the chemical name and the appropriate warnings
- Training for workers on the safety aspects of handling the chemicals

Radiation safety

Where radiation treatments are performed, inspectors validate the following points:

- Equipment receives regular maintenance
- Radiation areas labeled clearly: three-blade, radiation caution symbol (magenta or purple on a yellow background) and “CAUTION RADIATION AREA” posted in all radiation areas
- All exposed team members have dosimetry badges, with exposure measurements reported to employees at least once annually
- Appropriate protective equipment is used — lead gloves and aprons are required; thyroid protection is recommended but not required
- Written safety policies, operating instructions, and training programs are provided

Sharps and medical waste

Containers should be clearly labeled, used appropriately, and emptied regularly.

Anesthesia safety

Staff must be appropriately trained on anesthesia safety on topics such as; scavenging, adequate ventilation, and maintenance.

Eyewash

An eyewash station is an OSHA requirement. It should be located close to the area where there is the most risk of getting chemicals into your eyes. Most of the time, this means that your eyewash station should be located in the lab. Eyewash stations should be tested monthly.

Shoes

OSHA requires shoes that are completely enclosed and that are impermeable. They should be enclosed to prevent stabbing your foot with a sharp object, such as a needle on a syringe. And they should be impermeable to prevent foot contamination by chemicals, as well as contamination of skin by feces or urine containing zoonotic agents (think leptospirosis and hookworms).

