

**NORTH CAROLINA VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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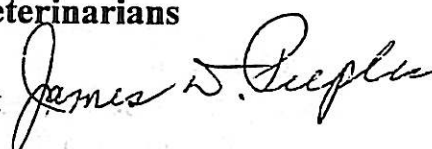
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Executive Director
George G. Hearn
Board Attorney

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

DATE: May 24, 1994

TO: All North Carolina Licensed Veterinarians

FROM: Dr. James D. Peebles, President 

SUBJECT: Activities of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

DR. RYAN RETIRES

Dr. Terrell B. Ryan retired as Executive Director of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board on January 31, 1994. Prior to becoming Executive Director on July 1, 1990, Dr. Ryan was Director of the Rollins Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Raleigh, which is a part of the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

During his tenure, he supervised the administration of the National Board Examination (NBE), the Clinical Competency Test (CCT), and the State Examination seven times, which resulted in 586 Veterinarians becoming licensed. During this time, both the NBE and CCT changed from a "Norm Referencing" method of determining a passing point to the current "criterion referencing" method.

Ninety new veterinary technicians were registered using the North Carolina written examination which was implemented by Dr. Ryan. Previously this had been an oral-practical examination.

The number of professional corporations registered with the Board nearly doubled during Dr. Ryan's term. In addition, 122 new practice facilities

opened and 230 written complaints were received and processed by the Board Office.

The Board is very grateful to Dr. Ryan for the outstanding manner in which he served. We wish him the very best of everything in his retirement.

MR. THOMAS M. MICKEY IS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board has employed Mr. Thomas M. Mickey as its new Executive Director, effective March 1, 1994. Tom is a native of Dearborn, Michigan and has lived in North Carolina for 14 years. He is a graduate of North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science. Prior to becoming Executive Director he worked for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in the Information Resource Management Division. He has been a part-time employee of the Board for the past seven years and under the direction of Dr. Ryan was largely responsible and very instrumental in the design and implementation of the current computer system in the Board office.

EXTENDED OFFICE HOURS

In order to better serve the general public and the ever increasing numbers of veterinarians and technicians in North Carolina, the new office hours are 8 AM - 12 NOON and 1 PM - 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

PRESCRIPTION RELEASE REQUIRED

At the July, 1993 meeting of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), the issue of releasing veterinary prescriptions was discussed. Attorneys general from a number of states advised the AAVSB that once a patient has been examined and the veterinarian determines that a prescribed drug is appropriate for treatment or prevention, the client has the right to request the written prescription in order to have it filled elsewhere. Opinions were offered that the veterinarian may have no legally defensible

grounds for withholding the prescription so as to have it filled at his or her own facility.

The Board advises each licensee to be aware of this information as it continues to develop.

The Board notes with appreciation that the Virginia Board of Veterinarian Medicine alerted the Board to this issue by an article in its most recent newsletter.

CONSENT ORDERS/IMPAIRED VETERINARIANS

During the past four years, the Board has dealt with increasing frequency with disciplinary investigations of veterinarians abusing controlled substances. Further, the Board is aware of the significant number of alcohol-related impairments among veterinarians, as reflected by national statistics. The Board is aware of the need for intervention and treatment of impaired veterinarians at the earliest possible date. In recognition of this need, the Board has determined an informal policy of not publishing in the President's Letter Consent Orders involving discipline of veterinarians arising from impairment caused by drugs, medicines or alcohol. These types of Consent Orders are entered in appropriate cases where the impaired licensee cooperates promptly and completely with a Board investigation and begins a rehabilitation program. The Board can impose strict screening and reporting requirements during the period covered by these orders. The present policy of the Board is to encourage veterinarians to cooperate with the Board in dealing with the impairment problem. Should a Consent Order be violated, however, that discipline will be published in the President's Letter if it results in a license revocation or suspension, or a Letter of Reprimand.