

North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

Fall 2024

Regulatory Bulletin

Volume 9 Issue 1

Practice of Veterinary Medicine by Out of State Veterinarians in Counties Affected by Tropical Storm Helene

Effective: September 30, 2024

Due to the emergency conditions resulting from Tropical Storm Helene, and the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board's desire to assist North Carolina residents in the affected counties and to protect the public by ensuring access to qualified veterinary practitioners, the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board states the following:

- Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 90-187.4(a)(2), the Board may issue, without examination, a permit to nonresident veterinarians validly licensed in another state, territory, or district of the United States or a foreign country, provided that such temporary permit shall be issued for a period of no more than 60 days.
- Accordingly, to facilitate and expedite the permitting of non-resident veterinarians who wish to practice veterinary medicine in the storm affected counties in North Carolina (set forth in the list below), and to allow for non-resident veterinarians to begin practicing in storm affected counties as soon as possible, the Board will require the permit application to be submitted within 10 days of the start of any non-resident veterinarian's practice of veterinary medicine in a storm affected area, provided that the individual has a good faith belief that they meet the requirements set forth in 21 NCAC Chapter 66.0305. Further, the Board will waive fees associated with any temporary permit application submitted.
- Notably, there is no temporary permit process for registered veterinary technicians or veterinary staff. Any resident or non-resident who wishes to provide registered veterinary technician or veterinary staff services may do so under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian or non-resident veterinarian who is practicing with a temporary permit obtained pursuant to the provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. 90-187.4(a)(2).
- Any temporary permits issued pursuant to the guidance set forth above will be for a period of time not to exceed 60 days and will limit non-resident veterinarians to practice in storm affected areas including Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Please visit our website for instructions on how to apply for a temporary permit, www.ncvmb.org.

Veterinary Facility Permits/Boarding Kennel Permits (Update)

The new Facility Permits/Boarding Kennel Permits will be available October 14, 2024. All facilities will need to complete the Facility Permit application. Facilities offering boarding as a service to the public will need to complete the Boarding Kennel Permit section of the application.

Effective January 1, 2025 - Any person who owns a business that operates a facility providing services that constitute the "practice of veterinary medicine" on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis shall have a veterinary facility permit issued by the Board prior to offering or delivering any veterinary medical services to the public. Veterinary or Veterinary Technician teaching programs offering services to the

public shall also have a veterinary facility permit. In addition, all Veterinary Facility Permittees that offer boarding services, will also be required to apply for, and obtain, a Boarding Kennel Permit.

All veterinary facilities currently registered with this office, and any new veterinary facilities will need to complete a Veterinary Facility Permit application, which will include the option of applying for a Boarding Kennel Permit. We anticipate having the application available online in September. Applications will be reviewed and approved, if acceptable, but would not be effective until January 1, 2025. Application fees will be waived through December 31, 2024 for all veterinary facilities currently registered.

Veterinary Facility Permit Information Requirements

- The owner's name, physical address, mailing address, email address, and telephone number;
- Proposed or existing name of the facility, as set forth in G.S. 90-181.1, physical address, mailing address, email address, and telephone number; and
- Designation of a supervising veterinarian of the facility subject to the provisions of Rules .0903 of this section.
- Each veterinary facility permit shall be renewed yearly. Renewal fee \$150.

Ownership of a veterinary facility will no longer be limited to veterinarians. To view the rules in their entirety please visit our website www.ncvmb.org.

Supervising Veterinarians

- Supervising veterinarians shall be responsible for informing veterinary facility owners regarding instances of non-compliance with 21 NCAC 66 .0207 and 21 NCAC 66 .0208 at the veterinary facility.
- Supervising veterinarians shall be currently licensed by and in good standing with the Board.
- A veterinarian may be a supervising veterinarian at more than one veterinary facility. At each veterinary facility that is open for 159 hours or less per month, the supervising veterinarian shall be physically onsite for a minimum of 25 percent of the total time a veterinary facility is open. At each veterinary facility that is open for 160 hours or more per month, the supervising veterinarian shall be physically onsite at each veterinary facility for a minimum of 40 hours per month. Electronic or handwritten documentation stating the dates and times that the supervising veterinarian was present at the veterinary facility shall be maintained by the supervising veterinarian at each individual facility and made available by the owner, supervising veterinarian, or the staff at each facility at the time of inspection or investigation by the Board.
- Owners may designate more than one supervising veterinarian.
- The new rules do not authorize the Board to discipline a supervising veterinarian for an owner's non-compliance with any Board Rules, including 21 NCAC 66.0207 and 21 NCAC 66.0208.

Boarding Kennels

A Boarding Kennel Permit will be required for a facility operating under a Veterinary Facility Permit and which regularly offers to the public the service of boarding dogs, cats or both for a fee. Such a facility or establishment may, in addition to providing shelter, food, and water, offer grooming or other services for dogs and/or cats. Inspections will be as stringent as boarding kennel inspections conducted by the Animal Welfare Section (AWS) of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS).

Veterinary Facility Permits that include a Boarding Kennel Permit will have an application fee and renewal fee of \$225. Application fees will be waived through December 31, 2024 for all veterinary facilities currently registered.

Boarding incidental to the practice of veterinary medicine does not require a Boarding Kennel Permit.

Inspections

Owners of facilities will be responsible to ensure any violations cited are corrected and plans are in place to prevent the violation from occurring again.

Types of inspections and their schedules

- **Routine** inspections occur every two years.
- **New** facilities are inspected prior to seeing clients and then a 1-year follow-up inspection is conducted before being placed on a routine inspection schedule.
- **Transfer of ownership** inspections are conducted within 90 days after the change of ownership with a 1-year follow-up inspection before being placed on a routine schedule.
- **Renovations** must be reported to the Board prior to the renovations being started to determine if an inspection is needed prior to utilization of the renovated area.
- **Moving**, the Board must be notified prior to the move and an inspection must be conducted at new location prior to seeing clients. There would be a 1-year follow-up inspection before being placed on a routine inspection schedule.
- **Serious Violation** inspections are conducted when serious violations are cited during a scheduled inspection. If serious violations are cited, then a follow up inspection will be conducted within 4 weeks to ensure the serious violations have been corrected. There would be a 1-year follow up inspection before being placed on a routine inspection schedule.

Applications

Applications will be available October 14, 2024. All applications must be submitted electronically via <https://portal.ncvmb.org>. All applications received prior to January 1, 2025 will have the application fee waived. Effective January 1, 2025, the application fees stated below will apply:

- Veterinary Facility Permit - \$150.00
- Veterinary Facility Permit w/ Boarding Kennel Permit - \$225.00

All permits will need to be renewed yearly beginning 12/31/2025. The renewal window for permits will open October 1, 2025.

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact our office at 919-854-5601 or via email at kwest@ncvmb.org.