

North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

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Regulatory Bulletin

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Renewals of Licenses, Registrations, Permits

The renewal window for licenses, registrations, facility permits, and professional entities will open October 13, 2025. All licenses, registrations, facility permits, and corporations that expire December 31, 2025 must be renewed prior to the expiration date.

Continuing Education Requirements

Veterinarians licensed by the Board shall earn 20 continuing education (CE) hours for the calendar year, prior to renewal, by approved CE providers, listed below. A maximum of 10 hours may be obtained for independent self-study courses, prerecorded webinars, audio conferences, and non-interactive on-line presentations. The remaining hours, to total a minimum of 10 hours, must be obtained by in-person attendance, live on-line interactive attendance, or a combination of the two.

Registered veterinary technicians shall earn 12 continuing education (CE) hours, prior to renewal, for the two-calendar year registration renewal period. Hours must be obtained through approved CE providers, listed below. A maximum of 6 hours may be obtained for independent self-study courses, prerecorded webinars, audio conferences, and non-interactive on-line presentations. The remaining hours, to total a minimum of 6 hours, must be obtained by in-person attendance, live on-line interactive attendance, or a combination of the two.

Two hours of CE on the abuse of controlled substance is required per renewal cycle for veterinarians and veterinary technicians. These 2 hours are included in the total number of CE hours required for the renewal period. The renewal window will open October 13, 2025.

Continuing education credits hours may be earned from courses, programs, or materials presented or approved by the following providers:

- (a) the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA);
- (b) the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA);
- (c) the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA);
- (d) the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;
- (e) the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' (AAVSB) Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE); and
- (f) academies, schools, or colleges of veterinary medicine. These providers are designated herein as "approved continuing education credit providers." The Board shall consider additional courses, presentations, or materials eligible for approval for continuing education credit hours, provided that the individual seeking the credit furnishes the Board with information to establish that the content of the

course, presentation, or material are sufficiently educational for veterinarians or registered veterinary technicians. Board approval for continuing education credits for such additional courses, presentations, or materials shall be obtained prior to attendance or participation; however, the Board shall waive the requirement of prior approval if illness, injury, or natural disaster prevented the individual from obtaining the prior approval.

CE Audits

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are required to maintain a record of the content of continuing education courses taken and submitted to the Board for the three most recent renewal periods. A percentage of renewal applicants are subject to an audit of their continuing education courses and will be asked to provide proof of completion for the courses submitted. Applicants will be notified that they have been selected for audit when at the beginning of their renewal application. If you are notified of a CE audit, you will need to provide proof of attendance for the CE courses listed on your application.

Veterinary Facility Permits

All Veterinary Facility Permits, regardless of when they were issued, expire on December 31, 2025 and require a yearly renewal as set forth in 21 NCAC 66. 0902(e) of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act. The filing fee for a veterinary facility permit is \$150.00 and \$225.00 for a veterinary facility permit with boarding kennel permit. Helpful renewal hints:

- When starting the application, be sure to check the “I Agree” box in the affirmation section.
- If your practice facility has multiple owners, you must enter each owner separately.
- If your practice facility is designating multiple supervising veterinarians, you must enter each one separately. Please be sure to have each veterinarian’s license number handy before starting this section.
- When you reach the “Verification Section,” please take the time to carefully review all the information you have entered. Once the application is submitted with payment, you cannot go back and make any edits.
- The application needs to be electronically signed by one (1) of the owners listed in the “Owner Information” section. Be sure to check the “I Agree” box.
- Before logging out of your licensure Gateway account, please go back to the home page; if there is a supervising veterinarian request pending in a red alert box, please click on the box and follow the instructions for the approval.

Corporate Entities

The renewal window for professional corporations and professional limited liability companies that are registered with NCVMB will close on December 31, 2025. Failure to renew will change the status of your corporate entity to ‘Revoked – Failed to Renew;’ corporate entities with this status will be reported to the N.C. Secretary of State. If you no longer need your corporate entity and wish to dissolve it, please see the Professionals tab on the NCVMB website for dissolution instructions.

Veterinary Telemedicine

Veterinary telemedicine means the use of electronic or telecommunication technologies to remotely provide medical information regarding a patient's clinical health status and to deliver veterinary medical services to a patient that resides in or is located in North Carolina. The delivery of veterinary medical services through telemedicine is the practice of veterinary medicine. A veterinarian may provide veterinary medical services via telemedicine to a patient only after establishing a Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR). A VCPR cannot be established by any electronic means or telecommunication technologies. Veterinarians practicing telemedicine shall be held to the same standard of care as veterinarians providing in-person medical care. Veterinarians shall use their professional judgement to determine whether telemedicine is appropriate and maintain a medical record of any telemedicine provided.

60-Day Temporary Permits for Non-Resident Veterinarians

North Carolina General Statute 90-187.4 authorizes the Board to issue a 60-day temporary permit to practice veterinary medicine for nonresidents validly licensed in another state, territory, or district of the United States or a foreign country. In order to be eligible for this 60-day temporary permit, Board rule 21 NCAC 66 .0305 requires that the applicant be a graduate of an accredited school of veterinary medicine as defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Communication is Essential for Clients and Staff

Communication is at the center of many complaints made to the Board. Clients often express frustrations over poor or absent communication with veterinarians, staff, and management; and correlate these lapses as having consequences for the quality of care received by their pet. During Investigative Committee meetings, Board members often observe that better communication might have prevented the complaint altogether.

Clear, timely, and factual communication with clients is essential for building trust and ensuring high-quality veterinary care. This is particularly critical when conveying diagnostic results, formulating treatment plans, and providing discharge instructions. As former Board President David Brooks, DVM, noted in a 1997 letter, many complaints could be avoided if clients understood the medical procedure, its risks, treatment alternatives, and had their questions fully addressed by the veterinarian—a principal that remains relevant today. Imagine that you or a loved one are confronting a serious illness or life-threatening condition and consider the type of communication you would find appropriate, as well as, from whom you would want to receive the information.

Effective communication within the veterinary team is also important. Strong internal communication can help prevent medical errors, incomplete tasks, and dissatisfied clients, while also boosting team morale. Staff communicating with clients on the veterinarian's behalf, should receive clear guidance on what information to convey to clients to ensure clients receive accurate instructions and directions.

In summary, good communication, both with clients and within the veterinary team, is foundational to excellent patient care, reduced errors, and improved client satisfaction. Clear communication can help prevent many of the issues that lead to complaints and most importantly, enhance patient care.