

North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

Fall 2026

Regulatory Bulletin

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Proposed Amendments to Administrative Rules

The Board has proposed amendments to the administrative code of the Practice Act. Most of the amendments involve updated language to reflect modern regulatory language and to incorporate changes to the Administrative Procedure Act (G.S. 150B). Other changes include removing the requirement to report all employment changes and reducing opioid training to one hour per renewal period. The full text of the proposed amendments is available on the Board's website ([NCVMB](#)) under the **"Important to Know"** column. Public comments will be accepted until October 16, 2026.

Renewals of Licenses, Registrations, Permits

The renewal window for licenses, registrations, facility permits, and professional entities will open October 1, 2026. All licenses, registrations, facility permits, and corporate registrations that expire December 31, 2026 must be renewed prior to the expiration date. License and registration renewals will request citizenship status (see section below).

SAVE Verification

Under Federal law (8 USC 1621), the Board is prohibited from issuing a professional license to any individual who is not a U.S. citizen unless the applicant qualifies as one of the following:

- A qualified alien as defined in 8 USC 1641,
- A nonimmigrant under the Immigration and Nationality Act, or
- An alien who is paroled in the United States under Section 212(d)(5).

The Board uses the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program, administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), to verify immigration status for license issuances and renewals.

Applicants who are not U.S. citizens will be required to provide documentation verifying their immigration or citizenship status. Acceptable documents include, but are not limited to:

- Permanent Resident Card (Green Card)
- Alien Registration Number (A-Number)
- Form I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record)
- Form I-766 (Employment Authorization Document)
- Valid foreign passport

Additional documentation may be requested as needed. Please contact the Board office if you any questions.

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. 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. 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 1, 2026.

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 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.

Facility Permits and Corporation Renewals

All Veterinary Facility Permits expire on December 31, 2026 and require renewal. The renewal fee for the facility permit is \$150 and the renewal fee for a facility permit with boarding kennel permit is \$225.

The renewal window for professional corporations and professional limited liability companies that are registered with NCVMB will close on December 31, 2026. 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.

New Board Members

Robin Lazaro, RVT and Ronald Komich, DVM ended their terms with the Board on June 30, 2026. Ms. Lazaro and Dr. Komich were recognized for their valuable contributions and dedicated service to the Board and veterinary community at the May meeting.

We are pleased to welcome Jonathan Brent Scarlett, DVM and Justin J. Pedley, RVT who were appointed to the Board for five-year terms. The Board and staff look forward to working with them.

Boarding Kennel Incident Reports

Administrative Rule 21 NCAC 66 .1001 requires operators of a boarding kennel to do the following:

- (5) an incident file shall be kept within each facility for animals sustaining injury or illness requiring veterinary care; animal death; and/or any animal escape. Each report shall include the date of the incident, the pet's name, breed or breed type/species, age, owner's name and contact information, description of incident and course of action taken; and
- (6) in the event of either an animal death or escape, while boarding not incidental to the practice of veterinary medicine, the licensee shall notify the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board within 48 hours.

Notifications to the Board of animal escape or death should be submitted via email to Deputy Director, Melissa Bowman (mbowman@ncvmb.org), and the incident file should be included with your report.

NC Professionals Health Program (NC PHP)

The NC PHP provides confidential support to veterinary professionals facing mental health issues, substance abuse, and chemical dependence. If you or someone you work with needs help, please reach out for assistance by calling 919-870-4480 or visiting www.NCPHP.org.

Practice Act Books

Bound copies of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act and Administrative Code are currently available for \$43.00 plus shipping while supplies last. To place an order, contact our office at 919-854-5601.