

North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

Spring 2023

Regulatory Bulletin

Volume 7 Issue 1

About the Board

The North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board (NCVMB) has been regulating veterinary medicine in the State of North Carolina since 1903. The NCVMB is an agency whose mission is the protection of the public and their animals through the regulation of veterinary medicine. The mission is fulfilled by developing, maintaining, and enforcing professional standards including licensing veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians, investigating complaints, and conducting facility inspections.

An eight-member board serves as the decision-making body for the NCVMB that includes 6 veterinarians, one registered veterinary technician, and one public member. The NCVMB meets six times per year in meetings that are open to the public. The NCVMB staff handles day to day functions that include public outreach, licensing, enforcement, and veterinary facility inspections.

2017-2022 Accomplishments

- **Online ability for the public to verify a veterinarian's license and discipline history**
 - Online ability for the public to access veterinary facility inspection reports
 - **Online ability for the public to attend Board Meetings**
 - **Establishment of online State Board examinations which dramatically reduced the time from application to licensure for veterinarians and to registration for technicians.**
 - **Created the ability to file complaints online for the public**
 - **The significant reduction of the time from the filing of a complaint to an official decision being rendered.**
 - **Computerized the facility inspection process**
 - **Strengthened the Board's presence on social media.**
 - **The creation of a quarterly *Regulatory Bulletin* to inform licensees, registrants, and the public of important Board news.**
 - **Established a NCSU-CVM student liaison to the Board to increase communication with future licensees.**
 - **Legislative actions to define Telemedicine and to allow non-DVM ownership of veterinary facilities.**
 - **Strengthened the facility inspection process by the addition of 3 more inspectors, placed the process completely online, improved inspector training, and ensured that compliance issues are addressed and corrected rapidly.**
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Continuing Education Requirements

FYI: Entering Your Continuing Education for Renewal Purposes

Continuing Education can be entered 24/7 prior to renewal via the **Licensure Gateway** <https://portal.ncvmb.org/>. Our computer system retains the information/hours so when the renewal window opens, one's CE entries are available because they have been archived and less time is spent renewing. A licensee/registrant can either chose to wait and enter their CE during the actual renewal process or log their entries in as they obtain them. There is no requirement, the Board offers either option and both are acceptable.

For Your Renewal at the end of 2023

VETERINARIANS

Proof of twenty (20) hours required each year - Ten (10) **on-line** hours of training will be accepted during each renewal, however, five (5) of those hours will need to be 'interactive'. (live webinar) [Minimum CE Standards .0206](#)

TECHNICIANS

Proof of twelve (12) hours required every two (2) years - Six (6) **on-line** hours of training will be accepted during each renewal, however, three (3) of those hours will need to be 'interactive'. (live webinar) [Minimum CE Standards .0206](#)

Exception for RVTs: CE obtained in 2022 may all be on-line since it was approved at that time.

VETERINARIANS & TECHNICIANS

2 hours of CE on the 'abuse of controlled substances' will be required per renewal cycle; these 2 hours are included in the total number of CE hours.

For Future Renewals

The Board in February 2023 approved language (see below) to introduce into the Practice Act. This change will not take place until renewal at the end of 2024 at the earliest.

- (1) Continuing education credit hours shall relate to veterinary medicine.
- (2) A veterinarian shall earn 20 15 continuing education credit hours for the calendar year license renewal period. A maximum of 5 hours may be obtained pursuant to courses described in item 4.

- (3) A registered veterinary technician shall earn 12 continuing education credit hours for the two-calendar year registration renewal period. A maximum of 4 hours may be obtained pursuant to course described in item 4.
- (4) One continuing education hour may be earned for each hour of independent self-study courses, prerecorded webinars, audio conferences, and non-interactive on-line presentations approved by approved continuing education credit providers.
- (5) One continuing education credit hour may be earned for each hour of in-person attendance or live interactive attendance at courses presented or approved by approved continuing education credit providers.
- (6) A live interactive presentation shall:
 - (a) include instant or synchronous two-way communication;
 - (b) provide access to both technical personnel and professional faculty, as well as interactivity among participants for the exchange of questions and answers via instant messaging or a moderated teleconference, and
 - (c) document the level of participation by keeping a record of the participant's activity in asking or answering questions during the presentation and the score of any examination administered at the end of the presentation.

Veterinary Facility Inspections...Know What to Expect

Get detailed information about Veterinary Facility Inspections on our website at:

<http://www.ncvmb.org/content/professional/documents/FACILITY%20Self%20Evaluation%20Checklist.pdf>

DEA Requirement-Employee Screening:

It is the position of DEA that the obtaining of certain information is a matter of business necessity for any employee who will have access to controlled substances. It is believed that conviction of crimes and unauthorized use of controlled substances are activities that are proper subjects for inquiry. In this regard, the DEA assumes that the following questions will become a part of an employer's comprehensive employee screening program (21 CFR §1301.90):

Question: *Within the past five years, have you been convicted of a felony, or within the past two years, of any misdemeanor or are you presently formally charged with committing any criminal offense? (Do not include any traffic violations, juvenile offenses or military convictions, except by general court martial.) If the answer is yes, furnish details of conviction, offense, location, date and sentence.*

Question: *In the past three years, have you ever knowingly used any narcotics, amphetamines or barbiturates, other than those prescribed to you by a physician? If the answer is yes, furnish details.*

Note: The stated intent is to prevent a DEA registrant from hiring anyone with access to controlled substances who probably would be denied a DEA registration due to risk of diversion. DEA can revoke DEA registration if such registration is inconsistent with the public interest (21 USC 823(f) & 824(a)(4)). Conduct that has led to consideration of criminal charges, as well as misdemeanor or felony drug convictions are sufficient to deny or revoke registration (Federal Register Vol. 56, No. 148, August 1, 1991).



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

NC Tick Identification Program Announcement

Date: March 20, 2023

To: NC Veterinarians

From: Alexis M. Barbarin, M.Ed., PhD., State Public Health Entomologist

Subject: NC Tick Identification Program

The North Carolina Division of Public Health, Communicable Disease (CD) Branch continues to offer a collaborative, statewide tick identification program with NC veterinarians to determine the diversity and distribution of tick species across the state. North Carolina is historically a high incidence state for reported human cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever; over the past five years, incidence of reported cases Lyme disease in NC residents has been on the rise. The 2018 discovery of the longhorned tick *Haemaphysalis longicornis* has increased the need for tick surveillance of both human and livestock importance. Active tick surveillance efforts have been limited to a handful of counties throughout the state. By using passive surveillance methods via soliciting ticks collected by veterinarians, we aim to clarify tick species abundance and distribution throughout North Carolina. The goal of this surveillance program is to create interactive maps of tick distribution in North Carolina and to make that information publicly available.

Participation in the *NC Veterinarian Tick Identification Program* is voluntary for North Carolina veterinarians, but highly encouraged. Veterinarians should remove any flat (unfed) or fed ticks from their animal patients, store ticks in a Ziploc bag or plastic vial with a cotton ball dipped in isopropyl alcohol and complete a short form outlining patient demographic information.

Participants will be provided prepaid mailing envelopes by the CD Branch. Ticks collected from separate animal patients should be placed in separate Ziplocs. Multiple Ziplocs can be shipped in the same envelope; however, each animal host should have its own submission form to accompany the clearly labeled corresponding sample. Tick species results will be provided to each veterinarian via email. Ticks **will not** be tested for pathogens. All submissions should be sent to the CD Branch at the address listed below.

If you are interested in participating or are currently enrolled and need more mailers, please contact Dr. Alexis M. Barbarin at NCTickID@dhhs.nc.gov Following receipt, prepaid envelopes and submission forms will be sent to your practice.

NC Tick Identification Program

c/o Dr. Alexis M. Barbarin

1902 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1902