

North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

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Regulatory Bulletin

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Inspection of Practice Facilities

The Board's inspection team works diligently to schedule quarterly routine inspections within their assigned territories, as well as inspections related to the establishment of new practice facilities, ownership transfers, relocations, and renovations.

While Section 90-187.17 of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act permits a veterinarian to request a rescheduled inspection – provided it occurs no later than one week after the originally scheduled date – such changes can create a cascading disruption to inspectors' schedules. Once an inspection has been scheduled, the Board asks that your practice facility make every effort to adhere to the assigned date. If your practice manager, medical director, or supervising veterinarian is unavailable on the scheduled date, the inspection should not be canceled; any staff member may escort the inspector through the facility.

The Board has also been made aware that some practice facilities have completed renovations to exam rooms, surgical suites, and other areas and have begun using these spaces without prior inspection. Please be reminded that all renovated areas must be inspected and approved before being used to provide veterinary medical services to the public. To request an inspection, the practice facility must submit Form FP-05 (Moving/Renovations/Change in Services Notification), which is available on our website in the Forms & Applications section. The completed and signed form should be submitted at least four (4) weeks prior to the requested inspection date.

Additionally, if relocating to a newly constructed building that requires a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) issued by the county, the CO must be obtained prior to inspection so the inspector can safely access and evaluate the premises.

VCPR

A veterinarian licensed in North Carolina may, using their professional judgment, choose to follow a treatment plan prescribed by another veterinarian who has an established Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) when authorizing a medication refill. This is permissible only if the original treatment plan remains unchanged and refills are still available.

If the veterinarian determines that changes to the treatment plan are necessary, or if no refills remain, they must first establish their own VCPR before providing further care.

For example, Dr. A establishes a VCPR and prescribes a medication with three authorized refills. While Dr. A is on vacation, the client requests a refill. Dr. B may review the medical record and approve the refill, provided that refills remain and Dr. B determines it is medically appropriate. However, if no refills remain or Dr. B believes the treatment plan should be modified, Dr. B must first establish their own VCPR, including performing an examination of the animal.

Continuing Education Requirements

Summer marks the midpoint of 2026. While license and registration renewals will not begin until October, now is an ideal time to start planning to ensure you meet all requirements. Below are a few reminders to help you prepare.

Veterinarians licensed by the Board shall earn 20 continuing education credit hours for the calendar year license renewal period. 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 require in-person attendance or live interactive attendance.

Registered veterinary technicians shall earn 12 continuing education credit hours for the two-calendar year registration renewal period. 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 require in-person attendance or live interactive attendance.

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.

Responsiveness to the Board

The Board routinely contacts licensees, registrants, facility permit holders, and corporate entities to ensure continued compliance with the Practice Act. Board staff may reach out by telephone, email, and mail (including certified mail).

Board rules require that contact information- telephone numbers, email address, and mailing address- be kept current in the Board's records. Updates should be made through the Licensure Gateway system or reported directly to Board staff via email.

Prompt responses to Board communications help maintain efficient and effective operations. Recent compliance efforts have revealed instances of certified mail being returned as "Unclaimed" or "Refused" and there were unanswered calls and emails. Timely and responsive communication supports the Board's mission to promote, preserve, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people and animals of North Carolina.

Contact information for Board staff is available on the Board website under **About Us** → **Contact**.

Veterinary Telemedicine

The Board office receives many calls about the use of telemedicine in North Carolina. Veterinary telemedicine is defined as 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.

USDA Continues to Lead Coordinated Response to New World Screwworm

June 9, 2026 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), alongside State partners in Texas and New Mexico, continues to lead an aggressive response to New World screwworm (NWS) in the United States.

USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories confirmed a new case of NWS in a calf in La Salle County, Texas, bringing the total cases of NWS in the United States to six. USDA is working closely with the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) to respond and further investigate the case. The joint federal-state field teams have already expanded surveillance and response measures in the area.

New World Screwworm is a parasitic fly that causes severe, potentially fatal infestations by feeding on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals. Quick detection, treatment, and reporting are vital to safeguarding livestock, wildlife, and pets.

USDA and TAHC are conducting a coordinated response that includes:

- Joint epidemiological investigations and case tracing
- Additional surveillance, testing, and trapping in the affected areas
- [Releasing sterile insects](#) and adjusting these operations as needed for the most effective coverage
- Conducting outreach to animal owners
- Ongoing coordination with local officials, veterinarians, ranchers, and community partners

Guidance for Animal Owners and Veterinarians: The MOST important thing animal owners can do is to know what to look for and how to report suspected cases of NWS. USDA urges everyone in the area to check animals for: draining or enlarging wounds, maggots or egg masses, signs of discomfort, lesions in body openings (nose, ears, genitalia, umbilical area).

Anyone who suspects a screwworm infestation should immediately contact their veterinarian, state animal health official, or [USDA](#). Early reporting is essential to ensure animals receive prompt treatment, so they fully recover.

Additional updates and resources are available at [Screwworm.gov](#).