



Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY

MONTANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

MONTANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
P.O. Box 200513
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CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

- Jean Lindley, DVM – President**
Miles City, MT – Term Ends 8/1/2020
- Rebecca Mattix, DVM – Vice President**
Bozeman, MT – Term Ends 8/1/2021
- Lance Hughes, DVM - Secretary**
Hobson, MT – Term Ends 7/31/2018
- Barbara Calm, DVM**
Kila, MT – Term Ends 7/31/2017
- Paul McCann, DVM**
Havre, MT – Term Ends 8/1/2019
- Kim Baker, Public Member**
Hot Springs, MT – Term Ends 8/1/2020

DEPARTMENT STAFF

- Lucy Richards** – Executive Officer
- Gene Allison** – Board Counsel
- Jennifer Stallkamp** – Department Counsel
- Rita Reichert** – Compliance Officer

BOARD MEETING DATES

- August 25, 2016 – HELENA (last meeting)**
- December 16, 2016 – HELENA (next meeting)**

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Executive Officer Report

By Lucy Richards, Executive Officer

Greetings everyone!

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine. As the current Executive Officer for the board, I hope you find this newsletter informative and direct. It will be e-mailed to all licensees with current e-mail addresses and posted to the board's website. The board is planning to publish these newsletters on a quarterly basis. Our goal is to help keep you, the licensees, up-to-date on board activities and other relevant information. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Current Active Licensee Numbers (as of 9/30/16)

- 9 Certified Euthanasia Agencies
- 21 Certified Euthanasia Technicians
- 11 Embryo Transfer Technicians
- 1,065 Veterinarians

2017 Legislative Session Update

- The board is not proposing any legislation for the 2017 Session.
- At its December 16 meeting the board will review any bill proposals put forward by other parties which relate to its regulatory authority. At that time the board will determine whether or not it would like to take a position on those bills.
- As of the date of this newsletter, the board has not taken a position on any proposed legislation.

Important Dates and Information

- **November 1, 2016** – license renewal for veterinarians and embryo transfer technicians ends (see article below for more details)
- **December 16, 2016** – end of grace period for veterinarian and embryo transfer technician license renewals (late fees apply)
- Remember that continuing education requirements for veterinarians must be completed prior to renewing a license.





Application Review & Issuing Licenses

By Lucy Richards, Executive
Officer

Right now per board administrative rules, all license applications are considered nonroutine and must be brought before the board (see [ARM 24.225.425](#)). This can slow the licensing process as the board only meets about once every three months.

The board recognizes that many applications are more routine in nature. So, the board is proposing to amend this rule. If adopted, this change would allow the Department of Labor and Industry's licensing staff to process and issue a majority of license applications as routine based on specific criteria determined by the board.

This proposal has been filed with the Secretary of State's Office as part of a larger rulemaking package.

- The notice will be published on October 14, 2016.
- A public hearing will be held on November 10, 2016. Comments can be submitted in writing or at the hearing.
- The public comment period will run through November 14, 2016. A copy of the notice will be posted on the board's website by October 14, 2016.

For more information, contact Lucy Richards at 406-841-2394 or visit dlibsdrvvet@mt.gov.

Annual Renewal for Veterinarians & Embryo Transfer Technicians

By Traci Collett, Licensing Bureau Chief, and Lucy Richards, Executive Officer

The 2016 renewal period for veterinarians and embryo transfer technicians began on September 2 and runs through November 1. Don't wait until the last minute to renew. A few tips to help you navigate the renewal process follow.

How to Renew

- Renew online at <https://ebiz.mt.gov/pol/>. The online system is available 24/7 (excluding maintenance and technical issues). You can print your license immediately after you renew online. If you choose not to renew online there is PDF form available for download at www.vet.mt.gov. Click on the "Forms" tab and then select "Renewal Forms".
- For questions regarding your username and password when renewing online, click on "I've forgotten my password link" on the renewal website. You may also request renewal assistance by emailing dlibsdrvvet@mt.gov.
- Make sure your e-mail, preferred mailing address, and other contact information is up-to-date. You can update your e-mail by clicking on the "Forms" tab and selecting "Address Change" in the sidebar.

Late Renewals, Lapsed & Expired Licenses, and Continuing Education

- Late renewal for lapsed licenses not renewed by November 1 ends on December 16. Late fees are 100% the renewal fee—no exceptions.
- Licenses not renewed by December 16 automatically expire. An expired license may be reactivated within two years of the renewal date by submitting renewal information and associated fees. However, any licensee who has not renewed by December 16, 2016, and continues to practice is practicing without a license.
- All required continuing education (CE) must be completed prior to renewing your license. Requirements for vets are found at [ARM 24.225.511](#). Requirements for embryo transfer technicians are found at [ARM 24.225.709](#).

Still Have Questions?

- For questions regarding the renewal process itself contact the Licensing Bureau at UnitA@mt.gov or 406-444-6880.
- For general questions not related to the renewal process contact the board office at dlibsdrvvet@mt.gov or 406-444-2300.





Administrator's Corner

Greetings,

It has been a busy summer and fall for the staff of the Business Standards Division. Staff have been busy all year, and with a significant increase in new applications over calendar year 2015, we have not seen some of the usual lulls in licensing activity.

We have made tremendous progress on several Accela projects and are also in the process of rolling out conversions of licensing board websites. This conversion will allow BSD staff to make routine changes to the website in lieu of submitting requests to IT programmers. The end result is expected to be more timely and frequent updates to our board websites.

Additionally, coordination of legislation and board budgets is taking place in anticipation of the 2017 Montana Legislative Session. Executive officers are working with the boards to ensure any necessary budget inputs have been received, and requests for legislation and/or permission to testify are being processed.

As always, thank you for the important work you do, and please don't hesitate to contact me with question and/or concerns. I look forward to seeing you at your next board meeting!

Todd Younkin
Business Standards Division Administrator

Recent Board Activities

By Lucy Richards, Executive Officer

- The board recently discussed and reiterated the importance of veterinarians creating and properly managing patient records per [ARM 24.225.410](#).
- The board does not have the authority to ask for veterinarians' work histories in license applications. That section is being removed from the application. Work history is no longer being considered as a requirement for licensure as a veterinarian in Montana.
- At its December 16 meeting the board will begin a review of all administrative rules which pertain directly to the initial licensing process. This is only the start of the process. The review process and any potential rulemaking will extend forward into Summer 2017.
- Between July 2015 and August 2016 the board has issued 12 new certified euthanasia technician licenses and 53 new veterinarian licenses. Look for a more in-depth article on the board's licensing history in the Winter 2017 newsletter.



2016 AAVSB Conference attendees in Scottsdale, Arizona, listening to AAVSB legal counsel Dale Atkins, Esq. present on top cases in regulatory law.

AAVSB Annual Meeting & Conference

By Lucy Richards, Executive Officer

The annual meeting of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) ran from September 22 through 24 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Nearly 200 people from 47 jurisdictions—state and provincial governments—attended. Included in that number were: Montana board members Kim Baker and Barbara Calm; and executive officer Lucy Richards. Topics discussed at the conference included: veterinary telemedicine; veterinary school students' understanding how to apply for state licenses; drug compounding; veterinary technicians; current regulatory laws and court cases concerning licensing boards; and licensee wellness.

All three Montana attendees—Baker, Calm, and Richards—found the conference very beneficial. They will report to the full board at its December 16 meeting on what they learned; and, how these larger North American issues might relate Montana licensees.