

National Board Report

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Better Each Year

As I write this, Anita and Debbie are in the process of wrapping up the NAVLE application process for the fall 2005 administration. This will be the eleventh administration since the NAVLE was first offered in the fall of 2000. Those of us who have been doing this for several years can reflect on how the process has improved over time. For most candidates, however, the NAVLE administration is a one-time event, and few candidates are aware of the way things used to be, so to speak. Significant improvements have been made over the years in three main areas.

First, the NAVLE application process is much easier than it used to be. Most candidates now apply on-line and pay the fee by credit card. This greatly simplifies the process of data collection, and reduces errors associated with manual data entry. In the past, candidates completed paper applications and paid the fee by cashier's check. In addition, the NBVME office is now responsible for approving NAVLE candidates for six states. This simplifies the application process for candidates applying through these states, and also speeds up the reporting of examination results.

Second, the computer-based NAVLE administration at Prometric testing centers is a tremendous improvement over the previous paper and pencil test administration. NAVLE candidates take the examination at individual computer testing stations on a date and at a location that they, by and large, are able to choose. Today's candidates have no way of knowing how it used to be, when up to 100 or more candidates sat for the NBE and CCT in large lecture halls, all on the same day.

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New Practice NAVLE® to be Developed

At its meeting in Minneapolis on July 18, the NBVME voted to authorize the development of a full-length practice version of the NAVLE. The NBVME will work with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to construct the examination, which will be offered on the NBVME's web site for a fee. Questions to be used on the practice examination will be drawn from the NAVLE item bank. This will enable NAVLE candidates to gain experience with actual NAVLE items, administered in a computer based format. Presently, the NBVME publishes 60 sample items in the NAVLE candidate bulletin, and offers a computer-based practice NAVLE using the same 60 items.

The board approved revisions to the NAVLE school score reports, which are provided annually to accredited veterinary schools. The revised reports, which were issued this month, include the addition of a food animal focus category, a table showing the performance of candidates on the 12 organ system categories of the NAVLE, and, if the school provides the information, tables showing the performance of students ranked by GRE score

quartiles. A preliminary score report will also be issued to schools following the fall NAVLE administration. To ensure confidentiality, school score reports do not include any candidate names or other identifying information.

The board voted to hold an all day strategic planning session prior to its next meeting on January 21, 2006.

In Executive Session, the board reviewed an examination security situation that involves the posting of NAVLE content on an internet message board, in clear violation of the NAVLE statement of confidentiality and US copyright restrictions. An investigation is ongoing.

Dr. Jan Krehbiel was recognized for his six years of service on the board, including a term as chair in 2003-04. His successor as the NBVME member appointed by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges is Dr. Linda Blythe of Oregon State University.

Dr. Meg Glattly of Richfield, MN was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Other NBVME officers for 2005-06 are Dr. Mike Thomas, Chair; Dr. Don Draper, Chair-Elect, and Dr. Jim Dalley, Past Chair.



NBVME 2004-05 (l to r): Doug Aspros, Dale Boyle, Sylvie Latour, Don Draper, Jim Dalley, Ellen O'Connor, Ben Franklin, Lila Miller, Meg Glattly, Rick Tubbs, Mike Thomas, Jan Krehbiel, Tom Hairgrove, John Boyce.

McDonough Receives NBVME Award



Dr. Susan McDonough received the NBVME Award at the board's meeting in Minneapolis.

Dr. McDonough served for nearly 20 years as a member and co-chair of the Consultant Advisory Board of the Professional Examination Service. In that capacity, she coordinated development work for the National Board Examination and the Clinical Competency Test.

In presenting the award, Dr. James Dalley, NBVME Chair, expressed appreciation for Dr. McDonough's commitment to quality examinations. He also noted her ten years of service on the Pennsylvania Board of Veterinary Medicine.

The NBVME Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the national licensing examination program. Previous award recipients have included Drs. Duane Albrecht, Samuel Strahm, Richard Hawe, Billy Hooper, Melvin Swenson, and George Wadley.

The award consisted of two pieces of raku pottery made by Brad Bachmeier of Fargo, North Dakota.

From the Past: State Board Questions

Number 17 in a Series

More questions from the Obstetrics chapter of *Veterinary State Board Questions and Answers*, published by V.G. Kimball in 1917.

Questions

1. Mention some of the causes of non-contagious abortion.
2. Discuss the etiology of infectious abortion in cows.
3. What are the disadvantages under which the veterinary obstetrician labors in case of dystocia?
4. Give the Schmidt treatment of parturient apoplexy.
5. Write a prescription for retained placenta in the cow.

Answers

1. Mechanical injuries, severe hemorrhage, castration, drugs, certain infectious diseases, such as foot-ant-mouth disease, hog cholera, etc.
2. (There are many conflicting opinions on all phases of this disease.) Infectious abortion in cows is due to a short bacillus (bacillus of Bang) which is carried from cow to cow by the bull, although other means of transmission are recognized. The foetus is usually born dead, or, if alive, it very rarely survives. In a great majority of cases, portions of the after-birth are retained and a mucopurulent, blood-tinged discharge follows for ten days or two weeks. After the second abortion, the infection seems to disappear, or at least the animal is immune to its effects.
3. He is frequently hampered by being called after some unskilled persons have complicated matters or done irreparable injury to the mother and foetus by their crude tactics.

Many times the quarters in which parturient animals are kept are poorly lighted, improperly ventilated, and dirty. Plenty of clean, warm water is not always to be had. Lastly, the severe straining of such large animals as cows and mares is fatiguing to the arm of the operator and impedes his necessary manipulations to a great extent.

4. The treatment, as originally introduced by Schmidt in 1897, consisted of the introduction into the udder of a solution of potassium iodide, mixed with atmospheric air. Later investigators found that the injection of air alone sufficed to bring about the same result. Observing the rules of asepsis, firmly distend the udder by inflating it with air forced in by a suitable instrument. The air should be filtered through sterile cotton or forced through an antiseptic solution to rid it of any contagion. As a rule, a few hours after this treatment the cow regains her feet and appears perfectly normal.

5. The handling of retained placenta is principally mechanical, although in cases accompanied by grave constitutional disturbances the following may be useful:
Tr. digitalis 3vj
Quininae sulphatis 3ij
(Ac. sulphurici qs.)
Spts. vini rect. qs. ad. 0j
M.
Sig. - Give one ounce every 4 hours.

Next issue: *Materia Medica and Therapeutics*.

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The purpose of the *National Board Report* is to educate, to inform, and to communicate information about the objectives and programs of the NBVME. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official opinions, views, or policies of the NBVME or any of its members, unless expressly so stated.

Douglas G. Aspros, DVM; Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD; Dale D. Boyle, DVM, MPH, DACVPM; James Dalley, DVM, MS, *Past Chair*; Donald D. Draper, DVM, PhD, MBA, *Chair-Elect*; Benjamin Franklin, Jr., DVM; Meg Glattly, DVM, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Thomas B. Hairgrove, DVM, DABVP; Sylvie Latour, DVM; Lila Miller, DVM; Ellen L. O'Connor, *Public Member*; Mike Thomas, DVM, *Chair*; Rick Tubbs, DVM, MS, MBA, DACT, DABVP. John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD, *Executive Director*

“Scrubbing” the Item Bank

Over the past two years, the NBVME has conducted four NAVLE item bank “scrubbing” sessions at the NBME office in Philadelphia. At these sessions, teams of experienced veterinarians spend two days reviewing questions selected from the NAVLE item bank, ensuring that they are current, properly coded, and appropriate for continued use on the NAVLE. Items that are not deemed to be suitable for future NAVLE forms are deleted from the item bank. Some of these items are moved to the Qualifying Examination item bank (if they are more appropriate for use on a

basic science examination), or sent to NAVLE item writers for revision.

Reviewers work in teams of two or three people, by content area. NBME editorial staff work closely with the teams during the review process. Items that have been used on previous NAVLE forms are accompanied by statistics that indicate how the item performed. Over 2,000 items were reviewed at each of the four meetings.

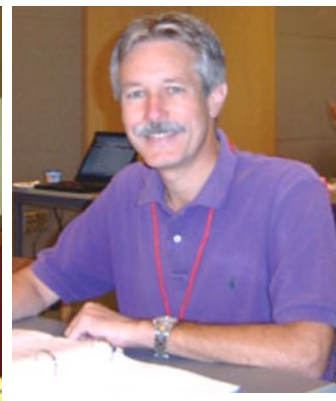
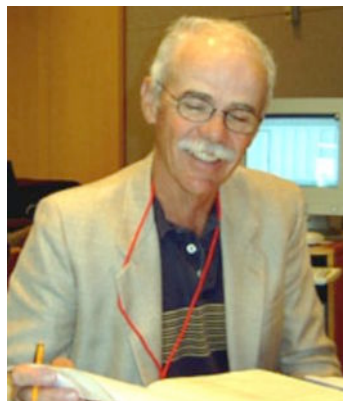
Participants in the item bank review meetings have included present and former NBVME members, members of the NBVME’s

Examination Development Committee, and present and former NAVLE item writers. At the most recent meeting, held in Philadelphia August 17-18, six former NBVME chairs participated in the review, including Drs. Dean Frey, Catherine Cross, R.B. Baker, Nancy Collins, Norman LaFaunce, and the current Past Chair, Jim Dalley.

From now on, one NAVLE item bank review meeting will be held each year, as a means of ongoing examination quality assurance.



Participants in the August NAVLE item bank “scrubbing” meeting in Philadelphia. Left: R.B. Baker and Gary Gackstetter. Middle row: Nancy Collins and Ben Franklin; Cat Cross and Alice Wolf. Bottom row: Dale Boyle, Tom Hairgrove, Norm LaFaunce, and Doug Aspros.



Qualifying Examination Update

The September 15, 2005 administration of the Qualifying Examination (QE) marks the beginning of the fourth year the basic science examination has been offered to candidates enrolled in the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). A total of 140 candidates plan to take the web-based examination on September 15, at nine locations.

A technical report summarizing the 2004-05 QE administrations was sent to licensing boards that accept PAVE certificates earlier this month. The report is also available on the NBVME's web site.

Future QE administrations are scheduled for January 19 and May 11, 2006.

The QE is a 300 item computer based multiple choice examination, covering five broad basic science content areas: anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, microbiology, and pathology.

VCSA Pilot Test Planned

In October, the NBVME will conduct a pilot test of the new Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA) at Cedar Valley College in Dallas. Participants in the pilot test will include six PAVE candidates who are graduates of six different non-accredited schools, and approximately 12 recent graduates and senior students from US veterinary schools, whose performance on the examination will help to establish a valid passing standard for the examination.

The VCSA is a hands-on clinical skills examination, developed for use in the PAVE program. The examination will include physical examination, laboratory, radiology, anesthesia, and surgery modules, and will also include several evaluations of communication skills, using individuals trained to portray clients.

The first VCSA administration is planned for early 2006.

Better Each Year

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Finally, candidates owe a debt of gratitude to the leaders of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, who were largely responsible for the fact that all licensing boards in North America now accept the same passing standard on the NAVLE. Previously, different boards had different passing standards, so it was possible for a candidate to achieve a score that was passing in one state and not passing in other states. The common passing standard is a significant benefit to today's licensure candidate.

The NBVME office is committed to making the NAVLE application, approval, and test administration process as easy and efficient as possible. Each year, we try to improve the system a little more, for the benefit of candidates and licensing boards.

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