

# National Board Report

A Quarterly Newsletter of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Volume 11 Issue 3

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August, 2006

## Hearings

On June 22, the NBVME conducted its second hearing dealing with possible irregular behavior on the part of NAVLE candidates. The first hearing was in March, and involved four candidates, three of whom attended. These candidates were alleged to have exchanged files via e-mail that contained apparent NAVLE content.

Four candidates were invited to attend the June hearing. Two attended, both of whom were alleged to have posted information that appeared to contain NAVLE test materials on an internet discussion group. One of the candidates admitted posting the information, but said that they were not aware that doing so was considered irregular behavior. The case was settled as a copyright infringement for a fine. The other candidate denied posting the information, although the post included the candidate's name and e-mail address. The hearing was continued pending the collection of additional information. One of the candidates who did not attend the hearing was also associated with postings on the same discussion group. The hearing committee voted to prohibit the candidate from taking the NAVLE again until fall 2007. The fourth candidate was associated with the e-mail sharing considered at the March hearing, but denied any wrongdoing. Since the candidate has passed the NAVLE and is licensed, the case was referred to the state in which the candidate is licensed to practice.

The board agreed to hold a third hearing in October. Four more candidates associated with possible irregular behavior will be invited to attend.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD  
Executive Director

## Bylaws Reviewed at June Meeting

Proposed revisions to the NBVME's bylaws received careful consideration during the board's June 23 meeting in Rosemont, Illinois. Dr. Mike Thomas appointed a bylaws subcommittee at the January meeting, consisting of Drs. Don Draper, Doug Aspros and Ben Franklin. The subcommittee presented draft amendments to the full board at the June meeting. The amendments were discussed individually, and several were revised at the meeting. The board voted to distribute a final draft of the proposed amendments to all NBVME stake holders, before voting on them at the January 2007 meeting. The board approved one bylaws amendment at the June meeting, to allow the chair to serve in that office for a second year, in the absence of the chair-elect.

The board voted to hold an all-day strategic planning meeting prior to the January 2007 business meeting, using an outside facilitator.

The NBVME has made the Qualifying Examination (QE) available to the Western University College of Veterinary Medicine, where it has been used as an outside assessment of basic sciences for two years (May 2005 and 2006). At the June meeting, the board reviewed a proposal from Iowa State University to use the QE beginning in January 2007. With the AAVSB's concurrence, the board agreed to offer the QE to Iowa State. The board also voted to offer the QE to up to five additional accredited schools.

The ECFVG is developing its own examination to replace the NAVLE as the ECFVG step 3 requirement, and the new examination is expected to be available beginning in the fall of 2007. The NBVME voted to allow ECFVG candidates to continue to take the NAVLE as part of the ECFVG program through the April 2007 administration, but not after that.

Drs. Boyle, Dalley, Blythe, and Thomas were named to a task force to

look at enhancing the NAVLE, including the use of new technology and the possible administration of the examination at veterinary schools. Members of the task force met with NBVME staff in late August to review various options.

The board directed staff to develop a new NAVLE survey instrument. The survey will be sent to select NAVLE candidates at the time scores are reported, allowing these candidates the opportunity to provide feedback to the NBVME on their testing experience.

The board appointed three new members to its Examination Development Committee, to replace three members who have served the maximum term. Dr. Darcy Shaw of the University of Prince Edward Island will succeed Dr. Stan Rubin of the University of Saskatchewan as one of the canine content experts. Dr. Jeff Tyler of the University of Missouri will succeed his colleague Dr. James Thorne in the bovine content area, and Dr. Patricia Provost of Tufts University will succeed Dr. Claude Ragle of Washington State University in one of the equine positions.

The board recognized Dr. Aspros for his five years of service on the NBVME as the member appointed by the AVMA Council on Education. Dr. Aspros resigned from the NBVME in June, after he was elected to the AVMA Executive Board. Dr. Draper, one of two NBVME members designated by the American Animal Hospital Association, completed nine years of service on the NBVME in June, and was similarly recognized by his colleagues. In August, Dr. Dennis Feinberg was named by AAHA as Dr. Draper's successor.

NBVME officers for 2006-07 are Drs. Mike Thomas, chair; Meg Glattly, chair-elect; Ben Franklin, secretary-treasurer; and Jim Dalley, past chair.

Additional participants from the August 23-24 NAVLE item bank review meeting in Philadelphia:



Dr. Mike Thomas



Dr. Helen Tuzio



Dr. Jeff Tyler

## From the Past: State Board Questions

### Number 21 in a Series

Here are some more items from the *Materia Medica* chapter of *Veterinary State Board Questions and Answers*, published in 1917 by V.G. Kimball, and kindly given to the NBVME office by Bismarck veterinarian Dr. Don Hastings.

#### Questions

1. What is eserine? State the dose for (a) the horse, (b) the ox, (c) the dog.
2. What blistering agents are adapted to the different domestic animals?
3. What is chloral hydrate? Give the actions and uses of chloral hydrate.
4. Give the principal uses of *viburnum prunifolium*.
5. Name (a) one powdered diuretic, (b) one liquid diuretic, (c) a blood tonic, (d) a nerve tonic.
6. Give the actions and uses of heroin.
7. Give the properties of pepsin. How is pepsin prepared?
8. Name the active principle of three of the following: aconite; belladonna; ergot; digitalis; and opium.

#### Answers

1. Eserine is the principal alkaloid of physostigma, and is used in constipation due to torpor of the bowels, in impaction colic and parturient paresis. (a) 1 to 2 grains, (b) 1 to 3 grains, (c) 1/100 to 1/25 grain (hypodermically).
2. Cantharides for the horse, cantharides and red mercuric iodide for bovines, and mustard for dogs and sheep.
3. Chloral hydrate is a crystalline solid, occurring in colorless, transparent crystals, having an aromatic, penetrating, and slightly acid odor and a bitterish, caustic

taste. It is used to lessen irritability and produce sleep. Its principal use is in spasmodic conditions such as colics, coughs, chorea, tetanus, etc. It is one of the best antidotes to strychnine poisoning. Used by some as a general anesthetic, but is not as reliable as chloroform.

4. It is used as a tonic, antispasmodic, nerve sedative, and anti-abortion. It is principally used to prevent habitual abortion.
5. (a) nitrate of potassium, (b) spirits nitrous ether, (c) iron sulphate, (d) nux vomica.
6. Heroin increases the inspiratory and expiratory force and lessens the number of the respiratory movements. It is a general motor depressant and anodyne and exerts a special sedative influence on the respiratory mucous membranes.
7. Pepsin occurs as a fine, white or yellowish-white amorphous powder, or pale yellowish, transparent scales or grains, free from offensive odor, having a mildly acidulous and slightly saline taste, followed by a slight bitter taste. It is soluble in about 100 parts water, but more soluble if the water is acidulated with hydrochloric acid. It is used in indigestion in young animals. It is prepared by macerating the mucous membrane of a pig's stomach for several days in a weak aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid. The pepsin is precipitated by adding sodium chloride, and is then removed, pressed, and dried.
8. Aconitine; atropine; ergotene; digitoxin; morphine and codeine.

Next issue: More *Materia Medica*

The *National Board Report* is published quarterly by the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME®), PO Box 1356, Bismarck, ND 58502. Phone (701) 224-0332, fax (701) 224-0435, mail@nbvme.org, http://www.nbvme.org.

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## NAVLE Item Bank “Scrubbing”

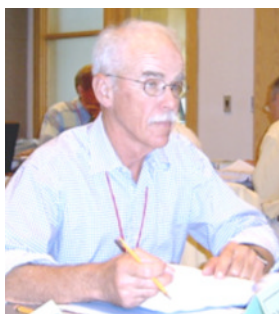
Nineteen veterinarians, working in teams by content area, reviewed nearly 3,000 items from the NAVLE item bank during a meeting at the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) office in Philadelphia August 23-24.

Participants included present and former NBVME members, members of the Examination Development Committee, and three NAVLE item writers. This year, several hundred items were selected from the bank to be used on a new practice version of

the NAVLE. Several hundred other items were moved to the QE item bank, because they were judged more appropriate for use on that examination than on the clinically-based NAVLE.



Drs. Dale Boyle and Michael Groves, Benjamin Darien and Nancy Collins, and Julie Fixman and Cheryl Dhein.



Drs. Norman LaFauce, Roger Magnusson, David Rosen and Stan Rubin, and Darcy Shaw and Alice Wolf.

## NBVME Member Profile: Dr. Francis A. Kallfelz

Dr. Francis A. Kallfelz, James Law Professor of Veterinary Nutrition at Cornell University, was appointed to the NBVME in June by the AVMA Council on Education. Dr. Kallfelz succeeded Dr. Douglas Aspros.

A native of Syracuse, Dr. Kallfelz received his DVM from Cornell in 1962 and his PhD degree from the same institution in 1966. After six years in the Department of Physical Biology, he moved to the Department of Clinical Sciences, where he has been a faculty member since 1973. His teaching and research responsibilities have been in the areas of clinical nutrition, metabolic diseases, and nuclear medicine. He has been a major advisor for seven PhD students, three MS students, and nine postdoctoral fellows.

Dr. Kallfelz chaired the

a charter diplomate of the college, and has served as the college's president, and as a member of its board of regents. He also represented the ACVN on the American Board of Veterinary Specialties.

Active in organized veterinary medicine, Dr. Kallfelz served on the Board and as president of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, and received its Veterinarian of the Year award in 2003. Dr. Kallfelz served as a member of the AVMA Council on Research, and in 2004, was elected to a six year term on the Council on Education.

Dr. Kallfelz has been a member of the New York State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners since 1998.

Dr. Kallfelz notes that organized veterinary medicine has



bodies, in protecting the public against professional misconduct. He looks forward to being involved in the work of the NBVME, which, through the NAVLE, helps assure the entry level competency of veterinarians seeking licensure.

## Update on PAVE Examinations

The NBVME develops and administers two examinations for use by the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

### **Qualifying Examination (QE)**

The QE is a 300-item web-based basic science examination used as PAVE step 3. To date, it has been given ten times to a total of 671 PAVE candidates. The QE will be administered next on September 14, and 92 candidates have registered to take the examination on that date, at six locations. Future QE administrations are scheduled for January 18 and May 10, 2007. A technical report on the 2005-06 QE

administrations was sent in September to the licensing boards that accept PAVE. A copy of the report is also available at [www.nbvme.org](http://www.nbvme.org).

### **Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA)**

The VCSA is a two day hands-on examination that tests clinical and communications skills required for competent practice. The VCSA was given as a pilot test in October 2005, and live administrations were completed in January and April 2006. To date, 12 PAVE candidates have taken the VCSA (including two repeating candidates), with seven passing (including one repeater). A total of 12 reference candidates (recent graduates and senior students from accredited schools) participated in the pilot test and the first administration.

The next VCSA administration is scheduled for January 5-6, 2007, at Cedar Valley College in Dallas, Texas. Future administrations will be held in 2007 to accommodate eligible candidates. PAVE candidates must pass the QE (PAVE step 3) before they are eligible to take the VCSA.

The VCSA is one of two options for PAVE step 4; candidates may also complete a year of evaluated clinical experience at an accredited school (pre- or post graduation) to meet the step 4 requirement. Therefore, the VCSA is required only for graduates of non-accredited schools who do not complete a clinical year at an accredited school, or for candidates who begin their senior year at an accredited school before they take and pass the QE.

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