

National Board Report

A Quarterly Newsletter of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

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Irregular Behavior Update

The NBVME conducted its third irregular behavior hearing in Minneapolis on December 14, 2006. One candidate attended, accompanied by an attorney. The candidate, who passed the NAVLE on the third attempt in December 2005, was associated with NAVLE content posted on two internet discussion groups. Following the hearing, the board voted to forward details of the case to the two licensing boards through which the candidate had applied to take the NAVLE. Another candidate, who was associated with NAVLE content posted to an internet discussion group, was invited to the hearing, but did not attend. The board subsequently invalidated the candidate's score and gave the candidate another opportunity to attend a hearing to explain their actions.

The board has scheduled a fourth hearing for September 17. Three candidates have been invited to attend, including two invited to previous hearings and one new one. All are associated with posting material that includes apparent NAVLE content on internet sites.

The board has now investigated 15 of these cases. A common thread in many of them is that the candidate claims they did not know it was wrong to share information about the examination, including examination content, and that they were only doing so to help others. This explanation is difficult to accept, given the clear statement that all NAVLE candidates must agree to before they begin their examination, that the examination is copyrighted and that any reproduction or dissemination of test materials, through any means, is strictly prohibited.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

NBVME Meets in Canada

On July 11, the NBVME met for the first time in Canada, during the annual meeting of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association in Ottawa. Members of the Canadian National Examining Board (NEB) and NEB staff had the opportunity to attend the NBVME meeting. The next day, NBVME members were guests at the annual meeting between the NEB and the provincial registrars and presidents. The board traveled to Ottawa at the invitation of the NEB's designee to the NBVME, Dr. Sylvie Latour, who also serves as chair of the NEB.

Main actions taken at the meeting, not reported elsewhere in this newsletter, include the following:

- The board formed a task force to look at the issues surrounding the generation and release of NAVLE score data, including the possibility of releasing individual candidate scores to veterinary schools. The task force includes NBVME members Drs. Linda Blythe, Fran Kallfelz, and Sylvie Latour. It will solicit input from other stake holders, including the Association of American

Veterinary Medical Colleges, the AVMA Council on Education, and the American Association of Veterinary State Boards. The task force will meet and prepare a report prior to the March 2008 AAVMC meeting.

- The NAVLE fee for the 2008-09 testing cycle was set at \$500 (increased from \$480 in 2007-08).

- The board reviewed progress made toward updating the NBVME's two species specific examinations. A review meeting will be held in Minneapolis in September. The fee for the revised examinations will be increased from \$250 to \$300.

- New officers for 2007-2008 were elected, including Dr. Meg Glattly of Richfield, MN as Chair, and Dr. Dennis Feinberg of Charleston, SC as Chair-Elect. Dr. Ben Franklin of Miami, FL continues as Secretary-Treasurer, and Dr. Mike Thomas of Indianapolis, IN moves to Immediate Past Chair.

- The NBVME's next meeting will be January 25-26 in San Antonio, TX.



NBVME in Ottawa (left to right): Mike Thomas, Ben Franklin, Fran Kallfelz, Tom Hairgrove, Jim Dalley, John Boyce, Sylvie Latour, Lila Miller, Meg Glattly, Ellen O'Connor, Dennis Feinberg, Linda Blythe, Dale Boyle, and Rick Tubbs.

New Practice NAVLE

Two new 200-item web-based practice versions of the NAVLE will be released in September. Watch the NBVME's web site for more information.

New EDAB Members Appointed

In July, the NBVME appointed successors to four of the original members of the Examination Development Advisory Board (EDAB) who had reached the maximum length of service. Dr. Julie Fixman of Holmes, NY will succeed Dr. Cheryl Dhein in one of the canine positions; Dr. Helen Tuzio of New York, NY will succeed Dr. David Rosen in one of the feline positions; Dr. Benjamin Darien of Madison, WI will succeed Dr. Christopher Brown in one of the equine positions; and Dr. Dale Boyle of Stafford, VA will succeed Dr. Gary Gackstetter in the public health content area. All four appointees have extensive experience as NAVLE item writers and/or reviewers.

The primary duties of EDAB members include selection of NAVLE item writers, participation in the annual NAVLE scoring key validation process, and assisting with the annual NAVLE form review.

It's a Girl!

NBVME staff member Anita Casey-Reed gave birth to a daughter, Sofia Marie, on June 13.



From the Past: State Board Questions

Number 25 in a Series

Following is the final set of questions selected from the *Materia Medica* chapter of *Veterinary State Board Questions and Answers*, published in 1917 by V.G. Kimball.

Questions

1. Give the composition and the therapeutic uses of Dover's powder.
2. Describe croton oil as to derivation, physical properties, action, uses, dose, toxic dose, and antidote.
3. Give a method of treatment of haemoglobinuria.
4. In what infectious diseases is immunization of value?
5. What is (a) a vaccine, (b) a bacterin.

Answers

1. Dover's powder, or pulvis ipecacuanhae et opii, consists of ipecac 10 per cent., powdered opium 10 per cent., sugar of milk 80 per cent. Used as a diaphoretic and expectorant in colds, early stages of acute bronchitis, and pneumonia.
2. Croton oil is a fixed oil expressed from the seed of *Croton tiglium*. It is pale-yellow, viscid liquid, having a slight fatty odor and an oily, burning taste. Externally it is a powerful irritant, and internally it is an intense gastro-intestinal irritant, causing drastic purgation. It is used as a counterirritant (cautiously). Internally it is given for its drastic purgative action to horses and cattle, in obstinate constipation when other remedies fail.
3. Administer a ten-drachm aloes ball, followed by linseed oil if necessary. Provide plenty of bedding in a warm stable and roll patient over every four hours. If restless and violent, give chloral hydrate by the mouth, or can-

nabis indica intravenously. Evacuate the bladder and rectum several times daily. Avoid slings unless patient can stand, in which case they are unnecessary. Enforced standing is liable to produce muscle rupture and intramuscular hemorrhage. Feed bran-mashes and supply plenty of fresh water.

4. In rabies, tetanus, black-quarter, anthrax, and hog cholera, immunization is unquestionably of great value. Considerable experimental work has been done on immunization in the following diseases: hemorrhagic septicaemia, influenza, dog distemper, Texas fever, infectious abortion, glanders, tuberculosis, and foot-and-mouth disease, but the results have been far from uniform and their value is still *sub judice*.

5. These two terms are being used synonymously of late, although a distinction was formerly, and should now be, made. A vaccine is the modified and attenuated virus of a disease, incapable of producing a severe infection, but affording protection against the action of the unmodified virus. The term is also applied to emulsions of dead bacteria. Vaccines are designed to antagonize bacterial infection, either in advance of a disease (prophylactic, as in black-leg), or after the advent of the disease (therapeutic, as in the use of vaccines in wound infections). A bacterin is an emulsion of dead cultures of specific bacteria in water or a saline solution, administered hypodermically to produce an active immunity against the particular bacteria.

Next issue: Sanitary Science - Meat and Milk Hygiene

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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.

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

Board Approves Final Version of Strategic Plan

The NBVME began work on updating its strategic plan in January, when it set aside a day to meet with facilitator Michael Barrett. Prior to the January meeting, Mr. Barrett corresponded individually with board members and other leaders within the profession to solicit comments on the board's mission, vision, and values statements, and to identify possible strategic objectives and priorities to

address in the coming three years. During the January meeting, Mr. Barrett led the board in a thorough evaluation of the strategic objectives and priorities, and helped the board look at the ways in which it relates to other organizations in veterinary medicine.

In April, the board reviewed the results of the January meeting, and agreed to ask Mr. Barrett to provide

additional support for the development of the new Outreach objective. After gathering additional input from board members and others, he prepared a report for the board to review at the July meeting in Ottawa. At that meeting, he facilitated a detailed discussion of the Outreach objective. Subsequently, the board approved the final version of the strategic planning document.

National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners Strategic Plan 2007-2009

Vision: The NBVME will remain the recognized leader providing valid and reliable examinations for veterinary medicine.

Mission: The NBVME is a nonprofit, professional veterinary examination service that provides psychometrically sound, defensible examinations for use by governmental licensing agencies and other entities so that they can assure the protection of public and animal health and welfare by assessing professional competency.

Values: The NBVME values:

- Transparency - in testing procedures, materials, and content
- Reliability - in relevant test design, implementation, and scoring
- Service - to candidates, licensing boards, and society at large
- Collegiality - towards stake holders, board members, and the veterinary profession
- Integrity - in all actions and business relationships
- Fiscal Responsibility - to assure continuing improvements in our testing products and a viable future for our organization

Goals:

1. Continuous Improvement: Assure continued improvement of assessment instruments.
2. Organization Effectiveness: Build and maintain an efficient, effective, and contemporary organization that will ensure and sustain the NBVME mission.
3. Financial Stability: Maintain a financially stable organization that will ensure and sustain the NBVME mission.
4. Outreach: Explore opportunities with other organizations to develop products that will enable NBVME to increase its impact on public and animal health and welfare.

At the Ottawa meeting, Dr. Glattly appointed Drs. Franklin and Tubbs and Ms. O'Connor to a committee to work with Dr. Boyce to fine tune the priority areas listed under each of the above four goals. The committee will seek to develop a specific list of priorities, to enable the board to assess efforts made to address each of them in the coming three years. The board also agreed to add "develop new examinations" as a new priority under goal 1.

The first three goals listed were essentially carried over from the previous strategic plan, though several new priorities were identified. At the July meeting, the board devoted most of its time to discussion of the new Outreach goal and its listed priorities.

Board members first identified organizations that could be considered possible targets for outreach efforts, and then ranked them to identify the ones to receive highest priority. Three were clearly ranked higher than the others: individual licensing boards, the AAVSB, and the AVMA. Drs. Franklin, Feinberg, and Boyle will serve as chairs for the three priority areas, respectively. Drs. Glattly and Thomas will serve as overall coordinators for the outreach effort.

Outreach to licensing boards will be designed to ensure awareness of the NBVME and its programs on the part of board executive officers and individual board members. Initial efforts will be directed to the boards represented at the AAVSB Annual

Meeting in Charleston in September. This will be followed by visits to individual licensing boards, targeting those that were not present in Charleston.

Outreach to the AAVSB will seek to reestablish credibility and resolve some outstanding issues between the two groups. The initial action will be a "summit" meeting between leaders of the NBVME and AAVSB. Plans are being made to hold the meeting in late October.

Outreach to the AVMA will strive to build credibility by establishing clear lines of responsibility and accountability with regard to examinations used in veterinary medicine. These efforts will begin later this fall.

Examination Updates

North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®)

The application deadline for the November 12 - December 8, 2007 NAVLE testing window was August 10. NBVME staff are now working hard to process these applications and licensing board approvals, so that the eligibility files can be submitted to the National Board of Medical Examiners later this month. Scheduling permits will be mailed to candidates by early October.

On August 1, the NBVME sent a memo to all licensing boards concerning the approval of ECFVG candidates to take the fall 2007 NAVLE. ECFVG candidates who took the ECFVG's new step 3 Basic and Clinical Sciences Examination (BCSE) in early July were allowed to submit a provisional application to take the NAVLE in the fall, pending release of scores from the BCSE in early September. Licensing boards will have until September 20 to submit NAVLE approvals for ECFVG

candidates who pass the BCSE. Candidates who do not pass the BCSE will receive a refund of the NAVLE fee.

A copy of the 2006-07 NAVLE Technical Report was mailed to the NBVME's constituent organizations and to all veterinary schools and licensing boards on July 31. The report is also available on the NBVME's web site.

Qualifying Examination (QE)

The Qualifying Examination, a 300-item web-based basic science examination, is used as the step 3 examination requirement for the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE).

The QE will be given at 11 locations on September 13, 2007; 135 candidates have applied. Future administrations are scheduled for January 17 and May 8, 2008.

The NBVME has made the QE available to accredited veterinary schools, to use as a standardized as-

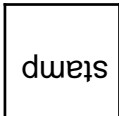
essment of basic science knowledge. To date, two schools have used the examination, and several others have expressed interest in doing so.

The 2007-08 QE Bulletin of Information for Candidates is available on the NBVME web site, as is a copy of the 2006-07 QE Technical Report.

Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA)

The next administration of the VCSA is scheduled for January 5-6 at Cedar Valley College in Dallas. The VCSA is a two day hands-on practical examination, offered as an option for step 4 of the PAVE program. It involves multiple stations where candidates must demonstrate proficiency in a variety of clinical skills, using live animals, cadavers, models, and clinical equipment. It also includes stations where candidates are assessed on their ability to communicate with individuals trained to portray clients.

Mailing Label



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