

National Board Report

A Quarterly Newsletter of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Volume 14 Issue 2

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May 2009

Irregular Behavior Updates

Unfortunately, there are some new irregular behavior cases to report.

On February 11, the NBVME held a hearing involving a NAVLE candidate who appeared, based on evidence received by the NBVME in late 2008, to have been involved in collecting and disseminating NAVLE test materials in 2006. Following the hearing, additional evidence was collected and reviewed. The Hearing Committee (members of the NBVME's Executive Committee) voted in April to invalidate the candidate's December 2006 passing score, and to prohibit him from taking the NAVLE again for a period of five years. Prior to being allowed to take the NAVLE again, the candidate will be required to pay a fine to cover exposure of test materials and costs associated with the hearing. In late April, the candidate notified the NBVME of his intent to appeal the decision of the Hearing Committee. The appeal will be considered by the full NBVME at its meeting in July.

A candidate who is thought to have received NAVLE test materials from the above candidate has been invited to attend a hearing in late May.

In early May, the NBVME wrote to a candidate who was observed making written notes during the April 2009 NAVLE administration, in apparent violation of the NBVME's policy on irregular behavior. The candidate's score report has been held, pending a resolution of the case.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

NAVLE® Job Analysis Underway

The NAVLE is based on a job analysis, which defines the knowledge and skills needed by competent entry-level practicing veterinarians. The job analysis is used as the basis for the NAVLE test blueprint. Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) is assisting with the development of an updated job analysis, to replace the one conducted in 2002.

The project began with the appointment of a Job Analysis Advisory Committee (AC), consisting of 14 veterinarians representing various segments of the profession (see below).

AMP has conducted telephone interviews with private practitioners, academicians, and key constituents to gain input on the current state of vet-

erinary practice. The AC reviewed the results of the interviews at its first meeting at the AMP office in Olathe, Kansas on April 28. At the meeting, the AC also reviewed and updated the list of activities and diagnoses from the present job analysis.

In June, approximately 5,000 veterinarians selected from the AVMA and CVMA member databases will receive e-mail invitations asking them to participate in an on-line survey to validate the list of activities and diagnoses. The survey results will be reviewed by the committee at its next meeting in October. At that time, the AC will approve a final job analysis document and a draft NAVLE test blueprint, for review and approval by the NBVME in January.

2009 NAVLE Job Analysis Advisory Committee

Nicole Azene, DVM (Missouri 2005), MS

Dr. Azene is a laboratory animal medicine fellow at Johns Hopkins University

Terri Clark, DVM (Oregon State 1991)

Dr. Clark is an anatomy faculty member at Oregon State University

Kerry Ann Collins, DVM (Virginia Tech 2007)

Dr. Collins is a small animal practitioner in Maine

Tom Graham, DVM (UC Davis 1984), MPVM, PhD

Dr. Graham is a dairy practitioner in California

Tom Hairgrove, DVM (Texas A&M 1974), DABVP (bovine practice)

Dr. Hairgrove is a former bovine practitioner in Texas and is a member of the NBVME

Daphne Hall, DVM (Iowa State 1989)

Dr. Hall is a small animal practitioner in Minnesota

Jay Hedrick, DVM (Kansas State 1972)

Dr. Hedrick is a small animal practitioner in Kansas and is a member of the NBVME

Jessica J. Hudak, DVM (Texas A&M 2008)

Dr. Hudak is a small animal practitioner in Virginia

Susan Little, DVM (Guelph 1988), DABVP (feline practice)

Dr. Little is a feline practitioner in Ontario and is a member of the NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board

Loren Schultz, DVM (Kansas State 1997), MS, DACVPM

Dr. Schultz is a food animal clinician at the University of Missouri

Leah Steinberg, DVM (Tufts 2008)

Dr. Steinberg is an equine practitioner in Massachusetts

Tonya Stewart, DVM (North Carolina State 1991)

Dr. Stewart operates the Community Practice Service at the Atlantic Veterinary College

Jack Wilson, DVM (Saskatchewan 1972)

Dr. Wilson is a retired small animal practitioner in Alberta, and is a member of the Canadian National Examining Board

NAVLE SCHOOL SCORE REPORTS GO ON-LINE

Every year, the NBVME prepares NAVLE school score reports for each AVMA accredited veterinary school. The reports show how that year's graduates performed on the NAVLE, compared to the performance of all criterion candidates. Schools can provide optional data on class and GRE rank (quartiles), and class focus (one of five categories). If they choose to provide this information, candidate performance is broken down by those categories.

The NBVME has developed a new web-based NAVLE School Score Portal that will facilitate the collection and distribution of this information. In late May, schools will be able to access the portal to verify the accuracy of their candidate rosters and to provide the optional information. Once the reports are prepared, schools will be able to access their reports on the score portal.

In late May or early June, individual NAVLE score reports will be provided to accredited schools, for senior student candidates who consented on their April NAVLE application to have their scores released to their veterinary school. Beginning in 2010, the NBVME plans to use the School Score Portal to distribute these reports to schools.

Update on Licensing Board Visits

In July 2008, the NBVME approved a plan for NBVME members to visit individual licensing boards. The goal was to visit about 20 boards by the July 2009 meeting. Visits are done by two-person teams, using a presentation that describes how the NBVME is organized and what it does. The visits help licensing board members understand the work that goes into the development of the national licensing examination, and provides them an opportunity to ask questions and provide direct input to the NBVME.

To date, visits have been made to boards in New Jersey, North Carolina, Missouri, Maine, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Tennessee, Georgia, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Nevada, and Ohio. Visits have been scheduled between now and July with Indiana, West Virginia, Washington, Idaho, and Virginia.

Boards interested in scheduling a visit should contact Bridget Whittey in the NBVME office.

Reference Materials at Prometric?

Last month, Prometric reported several instances in which NAVLE candidates attempted to access reference materials during the examination. The NBVME office also received a letter from a candidate from an accredited school who stated that her professors and classmates encouraged her to review reference materials during her NAVLE break time.

The NAVLE Bulletin of Information for Candidates lists several actions that can be considered irregular behavior, including "possessing unauthorized materials during an examination administration (e.g., recording devices, photographic equipment, electronic paging devices, cellular telephones, reference materials)."

Prometric staff cannot supervise all candidates during break periods, certainly not if they leave the testing center, which they are free to do. At those times, we have to trust that candidates know and follow the rules. The NAVLE is structured such that candidates can take breaks only between blocks of items, and they cannot go back after a break and review items in a previous block. Break time is intended to allow candidates time to take a break, not to study! No candidate should ever be advised or encouraged to take reference materials to a testing center, or to consult them during a NAVLE administration.

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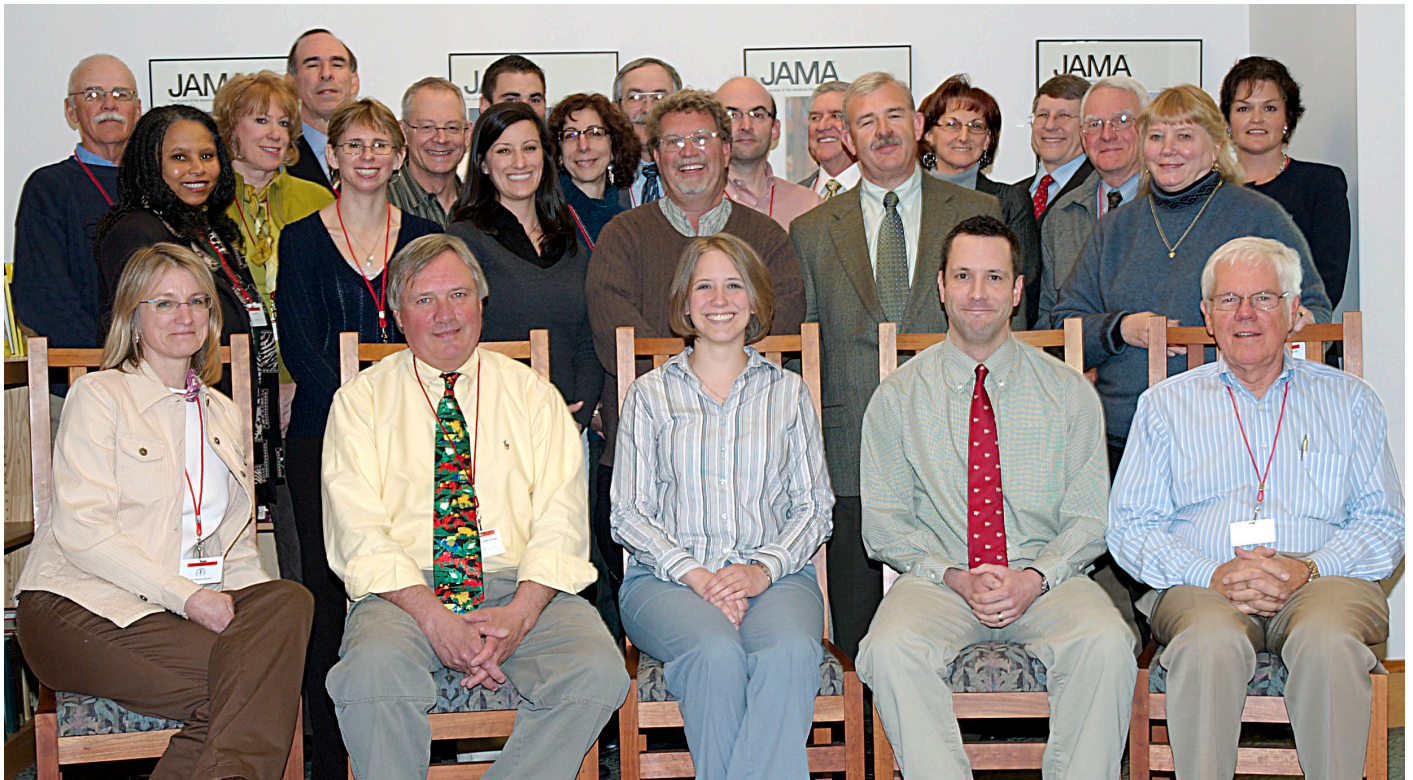
Dennis A. Feinberg, DVM, *Chair*; Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD, *Chair-Elect*; Benjamin Franklin, Jr., DVM, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Meg Glattly, DVM, *Past Chair*; Gary D. Gackstetter, DVM, MPH, PhD; Thomas B. Hairgrove, DVM, DABVP; Jay Hedrick, DVM; Francis A. Kallfelz, DVM, PhD, DACVN; Sylvie Latour, DVM;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

2009 NAVLE Form Review

Each year, the NBVME conducts a review of draft forms of the NAVLE to be administered in the coming year. The review ensures that the forms are balanced with regard to content, and allows reviewers to evaluate the quality of the images associated with many of the items. On April 6-7, 25 veterinarians met at the offices of the Na-

tional Board of Medical Examiners in Philadelphia to review and approve NAVLE forms to be administered in the November-December 2009 and April 2010 testing windows. Participants included 11 of the 13 NBVME members, 8 of the 10 members of the NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board, two veterinarians

designated by the AAVSB, and four recent veterinary graduates. This year's recent graduates were Drs. Jeff Dill (Missouri 2008), Meghan Herron (Ohio State 2005), Curt Rehling (Washington State 2008), and Brea Smith (Kansas State 2007).



2009 NAVLE Form Reviewers

Standing: Drs. Norman LaFaunce, Lila Miller, Meg Glattly, Dennis Feinberg, Susan Little, Benjamin Darien, Meghan Herron, Jeff Dill, Helen Tuzio, Jay Hedrick, Jeff Tyler, Darcy Shaw, Ben Franklin, Rick Tubbs, Sylvie Latour, Gary Gackstetter, Fran Kallfelz, Linda Blythe, and Karen Lehe. Seated: Drs. Patricia Provost, John Lawrence, Brea Smith, Curt Rehling, and Mike Thomas.

NBVME Summer Meeting

The next NBVME meeting will be in La Jolla, California on Saturday, July 25. The afternoon General Session is open to guests. Dr. Dennis Feinberg will chair the meeting.

On Friday afternoon, representatives of the NBVME and the National Board

of Medical Examiners will meet to discuss ideas for possible future collaboration.

Contact the NBVME office for more information on the meeting.



NBVME Examination Updates

NAVLE®

A total of 762 candidates took the NAVLE during the April 13-25, 2009 testing window, an increase of 160 from April 2008. Scores were reported to licensing boards on May 13.

Applications for the fall 2009 NAVLE testing window will be accepted beginning in June, and the application receipt deadline is August 1. The 2009-2010 edition of the NAVLE Bulletin of Information for Candidates is now available on the NBVME's web site, www.nbvme.org. The NAVLE fee for the 2009-10 testing windows is \$525, an increase of \$25 over last year.

All NAVLE candidates must be approved by a licensing board. For the 2009-10 testing cycle, the NBVME office will be responsible for approving candidates applying through 15 states, including Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Ne-

braska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Virginia. Candidates applying through these states can access their pass/fail result using the NAVLE Score Portal on the NBVME's web site.

Qualifying Examination (QE)

The QE is a 300-item web-based basic science examination, and is the step three requirement of the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). The QE is also used by several accredited veterinary schools as an outside measure of basic science competence.

The QE was administered to 156 PAVE candidates on May 14. The examination was offered in St. Kitts, Grenada, Grand Cayman, Guam, and at 11 sites in the US. The May QE was also administered to 94 students at the Western University College of Veterinary

Medicine. Scores will be reported in early June.

Future QE administrations are planned for September 17, 2009, and January 21 and May 13, 2010. The 2009-2010 QE Bulletin of Information for Candidates will be available on the NBVME's web site in June.

Veterinary Clinical Skills

Assessment (VCSA)

The VCSA is a two day hands-on examination of clinical and communication skills, and is used as an option for step four of the PAVE program. It is scheduled to be administered next on January 9-10, 2010 at Cedar Valley College in Dallas, Texas. The veterinary technology program at Cedar Valley College is moving into a new building on campus, and the new facilities will be used for the VCSA for the first time in January. Candidates apply for the VCSA through the AAVSB office.