

National Board Report

A Quarterly Newsletter of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

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November, 2001

Seasons

One thing about living in North Dakota is that each season brings something new. Believe it or not, we have some hot weather in the summer, with temperatures in the upper 90's and even low 100's not uncommon. The contrast between summer and winter is remarkable, with spring and fall offering dramatic transitions. Last week, we had highs in the mid 60's, while the lows this week will be near zero.

The NAVLE is also seasonal, with a large administration in the fall and a smaller one in the spring. As I write this, the second fall NAVLE administration is now underway.

A total of 3,207 candidates registered for the November 19-December 15, 2002 administration of the NAVLE, an increase of about 200 over last fall. This includes 43 candidates from countries outside the US and Canada. Twenty-six candidates were approved for various test accommodations.

The application process went well, with about half of the candidates choosing to apply on-line through the NBVME's web site and pay by credit card. Reconciling lists of approved candidates sent to us by licensing boards with NAVLE applications received in our office presented a few challenges, but our staff worked closely with staff in licensing board offices to reconcile any discrepancies.

Scores from the fall administration should be reported to licensing boards by late January, and then it will be time to start work on the April administration. Just in time for spring.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

Name Change Implemented

In July, the National Board Examination Committee for Veterinary Medicine (NBEC) voted to change its name to the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME). The change was filed with the Illinois Secretary of State in August, and it's now official. In late October, a new logo and letterhead were approved. The NBVME's web site was updated in early November, (see page 4). Our address and telephone numbers remain the same.



NATIONAL BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

The name change was made to reflect the fact that the organization no longer functions as a committee, as it did when it was part of the AVMA. Since 1995, the NBVME has operated as an independent organization, incorporated as a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation. Interestingly, National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners is the name the organization first had when it was created in the late 1940's.

AAVSB Suspends Qualifying Examination Administration

Just before this issue went to press, the NBVME received word that the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) has decided to suspend the first administration of the Qualifying Examination (QE), scheduled for January 3, 2002. Candidates who were scheduled to take the examination on that date have been notified of the decision by the AAVSB.

This development is a result of ongoing discussions between the AAVSB and the AVMA over the future of the foreign graduation certification process. The AVMA's Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) and the AAVSB's Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) are each

designed to certify the education equivalence of licensure candidates who are graduates of non-accredited foreign veterinary schools. The QE was developed by the NBVME for use in the PAVE program. It covers basic science or pre-clinical material covered in the first three years of veterinary school, but not addressed adequately on the NAVLE, which focuses on entry-level private clinical practice.

The QE was scheduled to be administered on January 3 and August 15, 2002. Plans for future administrations of the QE will be finalized next year.

The QE candidate information bulletin and a set of sample questions are posted on the NBVME's web site (www.nbvme.org).

NAVLE Item Writers Meet in Philadelphia

Nineteen of the 26 NAVLE item writers for 2001 gathered at the NBME offices in Philadelphia November 5-6 for an item review meeting. Over 1,000 new items were reviewed for addition to the NAVLE item bank.

This year's NAVLE item writers included Drs. Eric Anderson, Trevor Bechuk, Nicholas Chuff, Steve Crawford, Benjamin Darien, Cate Dewey, Cheryl Dhein, Patricia Dunn, Teresa Fossum, Gary Gackstetter, Joseph Harari, James Johnson, Michelle Kopcha, Ed Murphey, David Panciera, Patricia Provost, David Reeves, Stan Rubin, Jim Thorne, Helen Tuzio, Jeff Tyler, Ame Walesby, Colette Wheler, and Keith Wilson.

NAVLE item writers are selected by the members of the NBVME's Examination Development Subcommittee. EDS members, who are appointed by the NBVME to represent the various content areas of the NAVLE, include Drs. Cheryl Dhein and Stan Rubin (canine), Alice Wolf and David Rosen (feline), Jim Thorne and Frank Welcome (bovine), Christopher Brown and Claude Ragle (equine), David Reeves (swine) and Gary Gackstetter (public health).

The NBVME expresses its thanks and appreciation to each person who wrote or reviewed items for the NAVLE this year.

From the Past: State Board Questions

Number 3 in a Series

We are continuing a series looking at questions taken from the 1917 book, *Veterinary State Board Questions and Answers*, by V.G. Kimball. In this installment, we'll tackle anatomy questions dealing with internal organs.

1. Mention all the arteries given off from the posterior aorta.

2. Describe the corpora quadrigemina.

3. Give the length of the intestines of (a) the horse, (b) the cow, and (c) the dog.

4. State the difference between striped muscular tissue and unstriped muscular tissue.

5. Describe the composition of blood.

6. Many questions in the anatomy chapter ask the candidate to "describe" an anatomical structure. Here is an example: Describe the liver.

Answers:

1. Intercostals, phrenic, lumbar, middle sacral, broncho-oesophageal, coeliac axis, anterior mesenteric, posterior mesenteric, renal, spermatic, small testicular (uterine in females), external and internal iliacs.

2. These are four round eminences, placed in pairs, which lie above the cerebral peduncles. The two posterior, the smallest, are also named the *tubercula testes*, and the anterior pair, the *tubercula nates*. The nates are gray and the testes are white.

3. (a) 100 feet; (b) 180 feet; (c) 14 feet.

4. Voluntary muscle is made up of a great number of fibres which are marked by transverse furrows or striae, giving rise to the term striated or striped muscle. Unstriped muscular tissue has no transverse striae, and is found in the viscera. It is not under control of the will, hence is called involuntary.

5. Blood contains: liquor sanguinis or plasma, containing in solution proteids (serum-albumin, serum-globulin, fibrinogen), extractives, mineral matter and gases; corpuscles, red and white.

6. The liver is a glandular viscus, situated in the abdominal cavity to the right of the diaphragmatic region. Its average weight is eleven pounds. Flattened before and behind and indented at its borders, the organ is divided into three principal lobes and presents two surfaces and a border for study. The anterior face, applied against the diaphragm, is channelled by a deep fissure for the posterior cava. The posterior surface also has a fissure for the passage of the portal vein and vessels. In the superior border is a notch for the oesophagus. Several smaller fissures are observed, one dividing the right and left lobes and small ones dividing the middle lobe into lobules. The four lobes are left (the largest), right, spigelian or caudate, and middle.

Next month: Physiology.

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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.

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Test Accommodations: A Cooperative Effort

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) requires testing organizations to provide reasonable accommodations to candidates with documented disabilities. In order for this to happen, cooperation is necessary between all parties, including the candidate, the licensing board, the NBVME, our test vendor (the National Board of Medical Examiners), and the test administration company (Prometric).

The process begins with the candidate. As stated in the NAVLE candidate bulletin, candidates with documented disabilities should contact their chosen licensing board for information on accommodations prior to submitting their NAVLE application. The request for accommodation, with the required documentation, must be submitted at the time of application, to allow time for the approval and implementation steps to take place.

The licensing board has the primary responsibility for reviewing documentation provided by the

candidate and making an initial recommendation on an appropriate accommodation. The request should state the nature of the disability (the diagnosis), and what accommodation is desired. A history of prior accommodations (in veterinary school, for example) is also important. The NBVME office recently sent each licensing board a booklet prepared by the New York State Office of the Professions entitled "Reasonable Accommodations for Candidates Taking Professional Licensing Examinations." This booklet outlines the kind of documentation required and the various types of accommodations that can be provided.

The NBVME's role is to ensure that accommodations do not compromise the security of the NAVLE, or alter the examination to affect its validity, defensibility or ability to assess minimum competence. Once we agree on a reasonable accommodation, we notify the NBME, and they work

with Prometric to provide the accommodation. Candidates approved for accommodations receive a special scheduling permit with a special telephone number to call. Their file indicates the specific accommodation(s) that have been granted, so that when they make their appointment and subsequently report to the test center to take the NAVLE, Prometric staff are prepared to provide the accommodation.

Standard NAVLE accommodations include increased (double) time, with or without frequent breaks, and a separate testing room. Other accommodations are granted on a case by case basis. Because the NAVLE is a computer based examination, it is not possible to offer it in a paper version.

The goal of the process is, to quote from the New York publication, "to give the candidate with disabilities a fair and equal opportunity to demonstrate his/her attainment of knowledge in the examination."

NBVME Member Profile: Dr. Mike Thomas

Dr. R. Michael (Mike) Thomas of Indianapolis, Indiana has been appointed by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) to succeed Dr. Catherine Cross as one of the two AAHA representatives on the NBVME. Dr. Cross completed nine years of service on the NBVME in July. Dr. Thomas began his term at the close of the July meeting, and will attend his first NBVME meeting as a member in January.

A native of Shelbyville, Indiana, Dr. Thomas entered veterinary school at Auburn University with the goal of becoming a large animal practitioner. After graduation in 1968, he instead entered small animal practice. After an internship in Chicago and several years in private small animal practice in North Carolina and Florida, he

moved back to Indiana in 1982, where he established the first Noah's Animal Hospital. Now, there are seven Noah's Animal Hospitals, in and around Indianapolis, all of them AAHA member hospitals.

Dr. Thomas currently serves as President of AAHA. He has also served in several other leadership positions within the organization. He was instrumental in developing AAHA's DEIVA program, a distance learning program curriculum for veterinary assistants, affiliated with Cedar Valley College in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Thomas's professional interests are orthopedics, dermatology, and practice management. His personal and professional mission is "to make life better for people through their pets."



NBVME January Meeting

The NBVME will hold its next meeting on Saturday, January 19 at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas. The afternoon general session is open to all interested persons. Please contact the NBVME office for more information.



NBVME Chair, Dr. Norman LaFauce. Dr. LaFauce is a bovine practitioner in Turlock, California.

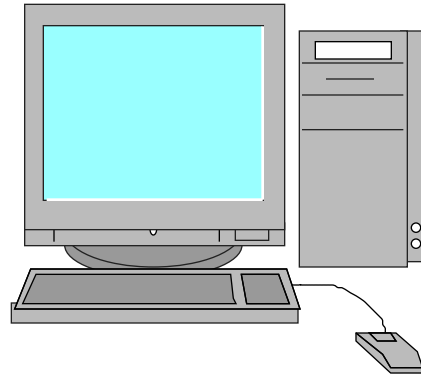
NBVME Web Site and E-mail Changes

The NBVME's name change has resulted in changes to our internet addresses. The new address for our web site is www.nbvme.org.

Staff e-mail addresses are as follows:

- General inquiries: mail@nbvme.org
- Tonee VanderVliet: tonee@nbvme.org
- Tiffany Thomas: tiffany@nbvme.org
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Please update your bookmark file and address book accordingly.



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