

# National Board Report

A Quarterly Newsletter of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

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## Fall Application Cycle

This issue of the *National Board Report* coincides with the final submission of NAVLE candidate eligibility files and the opening of the four week fall testing window. Over the past three months, Tonee VanderVliet and Anita Casey-Reed in our office successfully processed 3,221 NAVLE applications and associated fees. All the scheduling permits have now been generated and mailed to eligible candidates.

This process represents a lot of hard work on the part of many people. This fall, most NAVLE candidates used the on-line application and paid the fee by credit card. While this simplifies the process somewhat, it still takes a great deal of effort to ensure that the data are entered correctly, verified, and submitted on time. There are also numerous problems to deal with along the way, including missed deadlines, misspelled names (sometimes candidates can manage to misspell their own name), lost and returned permits, and scheduling problems.

Providing appropriate accommodations to candidates with documented disabilities also takes a coordinated effort between the candidate, the licensing board, our office, the NBME, and Prometric. This fall, 25 candidates were approved for test accommodations.

We sincerely appreciate the support and cooperation of all the licensing boards in this important and occasionally challenging process.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD  
Executive Director

## NAVLE Job Analysis Update

In August, the NBVME entered into a contract with Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) of Lenexa, Kansas, for the development of a new job analysis for the NAVLE. A job analysis is necessary to ensure that licensing examinations are legally defensible and professionally sound. The NAVLE job analysis contains a comprehensive list of specific activities performed by practicing veterinarians, and extensive lists of important clinical diagnoses and problems, organized by animal species areas.

The present NAVLE job analysis was completed in 1997. As the first step in the development of the new job analysis, the NBVME convened a Job Analysis Advisory Committee, which met in Denver on September 23-24 (see below). The Advisory Committee revised and updated the list of veterinary practice roles and important issues and diagnoses in the present job analysis, and developed a survey instrument to collect ratings of practitioners on the activities and diagnoses. The Advisory Committee also reviewed job activity logs completed by a select group of individual practitioners, and responses to telephone surveys of key constituents conducted by AMP staff.

AMP mailed the validation survey this month to a random sample of 3,000 practicing veterinarians, selected from the membership databases of the American and Canadian Veterinary Medical Associations. Survey participants will be asked to rate the significance of each task statement and each clinical diagnosis or problem. They will also answer some demographic questions, to ensure that the survey participants represent the diversity within the profession.

The results of the survey will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee at a meeting in February, and AMP will prepare a final report for review by the NBVME in April. Once the job analysis is completed, a revised NAVLE test blueprint will be developed, to ensure that the examination continues to be relevant to entry-level private clinical practice.

The job analysis relates primarily to the NAVLE. However, the NBVME plans to use the results of the job analysis to help support development of the pre-clinical Qualifying Examination, as well as the hands-on Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment.

### The NAVLE Job Analysis Advisory Committee

Dr. Norman LaFaunce, NBVME member and dairy practitioner, California  
Dr. Mike Thomas, NBVME member and small animal practitioner, Indiana  
Dr. Jay Hedrick, licensing board member and mixed practitioner, Kansas  
Dr. Jeff Tyler, food animal clinician, University of Missouri  
Dr. Lorraine Jarboe, small animal practitioner, Maryland  
Dr. Ted Vlahos, equine practitioner, Wyoming  
Dr. John A. Wood, mixed practitioner, Texas  
Dr. Alice Marie Gerty, recent graduate and mixed practitioner, New York  
Dr. Mara Doughty, recent graduate and small animal practitioner, Wisconsin  
Dr. Cary Hashizume, recent graduate and small animal practitioner, Alberta

## NAVLE Item Writers Meet

Each November, NAVLE item writers meet at the office of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to review newly written items for addition to the item bank. On November 4-5, 21 of this year's 26 item writers participated in the review meeting, including Drs. Trevor Bebhuk, Nicholas Chuff, Cheryl Dhein, Patricia Dunn, Julie Fixman, Robert Hardy, Linda Lord, Susan McDonough, Ed Murphey, David Panciera, Patricia Provost, Darryl Ragland, David Reeves, James Riddle, David Rosen, James Thorne, Helen Tuzio, Jeff Tyler, Honor Ame Walesby, Colette Wheler, and Keith Wilson. Drs. Eric Anderson, Joe Taboada, James Johnson, Frank Welcome, and Gary Gackstetter also served as NAVLE item writers this year, but were unable to attend. Over 1,000 new items were reviewed at the meeting.

The NBVME thanks everyone who served as a NAVLE item writer or reviewer this year, and also the capable editorial staff at the NBME who ensure that NAVLE items meet professional standards for accuracy, clarity, and consistency.

## From the Past: State Board Questions

### Number 7 in a Series

This issue's questions from *Veterinary State Board Questions and Answers*, written by V.G. Kimball in 1917, deal with pathology. See how you do with these.

#### Questions

1. In what diseases does enlargement of the spleen occur?
2. Name the different varieties of urinary casts and state the conditions in which each is found.
3. What faulty conditions in the food tend to produce paralysis?
4. Name the pathologic conditions that may affect the equine foot.
5. What are the known lesions of rabies?
6. Name three characteristic lesions of each of the following diseases: hog cholera, anthrax, and glanders.
7. Name the stages of eczema.

#### Answers

1. Anthrax, Texas fever, piroplasmiasis of dogs, and leukæmia.
2. Casts are albuminous exudates from the blood, with the addition of transformed or destroyed epithelium. There are six varieties of true cases: hyaline, epithelial, blood, granular, fatty, and waxy. The first three are found in acute parenchymatous nephritis. Granular cases are found in chronic parenchymatous nephritis. Fatty and waxy cases are secondary products and only found in nephritis of long standing (chronic interstitial).
3. Moulds, rusts, smuts, and fermentation.

4. Pododermatitis, including corns and canker, navicular bursitis, fracture of the navicular bone, ossification of the lateral cartilage (side-bone), necrosis of the lateral cartilage (quittor), laminitis, inflammation of the ligaments of the coronet joint, ringbone, etc.

5. Congestion of fauces, pharynx and larynx; cyanosis of the mucous membrane of the mouth; foreign bodies, but no food in the stomach, and the mucous membrane of the latter is congested or actively inflamed. The foregoing conditions are usually found in all cases of rabies, but cannot be called specific to the disease. The following are specific: brain congestion; Negri bodies in the ganglion cells of the hippocampus, and other brain cells; proliferation of the endothelial cells in the capsules of the Gasserian and plexiform ganglia.

6. Hog Cholera: button ulcers in the intestines, hemorrhagic areas and enlargement of the spleen and lymph-glands. Anthrax: enlarged spleen, hemorrhages, black tarry blood, showing little tendency to coagulate. Glanders: typical nodules in lungs, ulcers and star-shaped cicatrices on the nasal mucous membrane, hyperplasia of lymph-glands.

7. Erythematous, papular, vesicular, moist, pustular, and scaly.

Next issue: Bacteriology (now, we're talking!)

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Douglas Aspros, DVM; R.B. Baker, DVM; Dale D. Boyle, DVM, MPH, DACVPM; Nancy L. Collins, DVM; James Dalley, DVM, MS, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Donald D. Draper, DVM, PhD, MBA; Lynn Green, *Public Member*; Al Hopkins, DVM; Jan Krehbiel, DVM, PhD, DACVP, *Chair Elect*; Norman LaFauce, DVM, DACT, *Past Chair*; Roger A. Magnusson, DVM, DABVP, *Chair*; David Sandals, DVM, MSc; Mike Thomas, DVM. John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD, *Executive Director*

## Qualifying Examination Update

The NBVME's Qualifying Examination (QE) was administered for the first time on August 15, 2002 to 33 candidates enrolled in the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). On September 13, a standard setting panel met at the NBME office in Philadelphia to derive a recommended passing standard for the examination. The standard setting judges included eight of the 10 QE item writers for 2002, seven additional content experts, and four veterinary students. Guided by NBME staff, the judges used the modified Angoff method to rate the difficulty of the items on the examination. The results of the standard setting meeting were presented to the NBVME Executive

Committee, which approved a passing standard of 203 (on a scale where the mean is 250 and the standard deviation is 50). Using this passing standard, 28 of the 33 candidates passed the examination. Scores were reported to candidates by the AAVSB office in late September.

The next administration of the QE is scheduled for January 2, 2003. Thirty-eight candidates have applied to take the examination on that date. Future QE administrations are scheduled for August 14, 2003 and January 8, 2004.

Because the QE is used by PAVE to help determine educational equivalence for graduates of non-accredited schools, the NBVME was interested in gathering data on how students at accredited schools would do on the examination. On September 4-6, 331 student volunteers from six veterinary schools (Michigan State, Iowa State, Louisiana State, Washington State, Oregon State, and the University of

Pennsylvania) participated in a validation study. Each student answered 175 questions from the August 15 QE. To help motivate them to do their best, the NBVME paid \$50 to each participant, and an extra \$50 to those scoring in the top half of the total group. The NBVME reviewed a preliminary report from the study in late September; a final report is now being prepared.

On October 18, three members of the NBVME Executive Committee (Drs. Roger Magnusson, Jan Krehbiel, and James Dalley) met with members of the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) in Schaumburg, Illinois. ECFVG members and staff reviewed a copy of the QE, and discussed with the NBVME representatives the possibility of incorporating the QE, or an examination based on the QE, into the ECFVG program. These discussions are ongoing.



Top: NBVME members R.B. Baker, Don Draper, and Mike Thomas at the NBVME meeting in Nashville  
 Bottom left: NBVME members Jan Krehbiel, Jim Dalley and Doug Aspros at the NBME office in Philadelphia  
 Bottom right: NBVME member Al Hopkins with NBVME Award winner Billy Hooper in Nashville

## January NBVME Meeting

The next NBVME meeting will be on Saturday, January 18 in Kansas City. The General Session, which is open to all, will begin at 1:00 pm. NBVME members will have an Executive Session that morning. Dr. Roger Magnusson (right) will chair the meetings. Please contact the NBVME office for more information on the January meeting.

Other activities taking place in conjunction with the NBVME meetings will include review of the NBVME's species specific examinations on Friday (see right) and a meeting of the AAVSB's Executive Committee on Sunday.



NBVME Chair Dr. Roger Magnusson

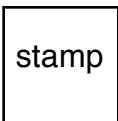
## Species Specific Examination Review

The NBVME has offered two species specific examinations to licensing boards for several years, one in small animal medicine and the other in equine medicine. Originally developed for use in disciplinary cases, these examinations may now be used by licensing boards for other purposes.

At its July meeting, the NBVME approved a plan to revise and update the species specific examinations. NBVME members and members of the AAVSB Executive Committee have reviewed the present examination forms, and their comments are now being compiled. The reviewers will meet with NBME staff in Kansas City on January 17 to prepare revised forms of the two examinations. The revised forms should be available for use by boards next spring.

National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
Post Office Box 1356  
Bismarck, ND 58502

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