

National Board Report

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Fall NAVLE® Window

As this is being written, the fall NAVLE testing window (November 17 through December 13) is underway. In our office, Anita Casey-Reed and Debbie Larson processed and submitted a total of 3,286 applications and associated fees, a number up slightly from last fall.

Approximately 70% of this fall's candidates took advantage of the opportunity to complete the NAVLE application on-line and paid the fee by credit card.

We would like to thank the staff of the various licensing boards for their assistance and cooperation in providing information to candidates, approving candidates for the NAVLE, and, in some cases, for collecting applications and fees. Boards are also involved in approving requests for test accommodations for candidates with documented disabilities. This fall, 47 candidates were approved for accommodations, up from 25 last year.

NAVLE candidates from AVMA accredited schools outside the US and Canada may now take the examination at Prometric testing centers in England, The Netherlands, New Zealand, and Australia. Seventeen eligible candidates requested overseas testing this fall.

Anita, Debbie, and I would also like to thank the staff at the National Board of Medical Examiners for their help with the NAVLE administration.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

Executive Committee Visits Bismarck

Bismarck, North Dakota isn't exactly on everyone's travel itinerary. You have to make an effort to get here, but that's exactly what the NBVME Executive Committee members did when they came to Bismarck on October 19-20 to visit the office, meet the staff, and discuss several items of business.

The present three-year NBVME strategic plan was approved in 2001, and by next July the NBVME will have added six new members in two years. These factors led the Executive Committee to recommend scheduling a new strategic planning meeting in 2004. Plans call for a meeting in Philadelphia on April 14, prior to the scheduled NAVLE form review meeting. Mr. Jack Schlegel, who served as the facilitator for the 2001 meeting, has agreed to work with the NBVME again.

The members discussed several ideas for increasing the awareness of the NAVLE in the profession. Also discussed was the possible impact of species tracking in veterinary schools on candidate performance on the various content areas of the examination. The members also considered several ways

to continue to improve the quality of the examination. One of these is a new NAVLE item bank review process, beginning with a meeting in Philadelphia next month.

The members met via telephone with Dr. John Tait, the consultant working with the NBVME on development of the Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA). Tentative plans were made for a meeting in East Lansing in December to formulate a plan to implement the examination.

The Executive Committee reviewed the NBVME's financial records and investment policies, and discussed projections for future income and expenditures.

The meeting coincided with record warm weather for late October (upper 80's), making for a pleasant walk in downtown Bismarck on Monday for a visit to the NBVME's primary bank, and brief meetings with the NBVME's accountant and with staff at Northland Travel, which books air travel for NBVME meetings. Less than two weeks after the members left, Bismarck received its first snowfall of the season, some of which was still on the ground three weeks later.



(L to R): Drs. Norman LaFaunce (past chair), Mike Thomas (Secretary-Treasurer), James Dalley (Chair-Elect) and Jan Krehbiel (Chair) in the NBVME office in Bismarck.

NAVLE Item Writers Meet

Each year, the NBVME selects a panel of veterinarians to write questions for the NAVLE. Each writer is asked to submit 50 items. On November 3-4, 21 of this year's item writers met at the NBME office in Philadelphia to review and approve newly written items.

This year's NAVLE item writers included Drs. Trevor Bebhuk (Ottawa, ON), Benjamin Darien (Madison, WI), Cheryl Dhein (Pullman, WA), Patricia Dunn (State College, PA), Craig Embree (South Woodstock, CT), Julie Fixman (Mahopac, NY), Sherrill Fleming (Mississippi State, MS), Theresa Fossum (College Station, TX), Ned Gentz (Albuquerque, NM), Robert Hardy (St. Paul, MN), Kenneth Harkin (Manhattan, KS), Mark Hilton (West Lafayette, IN), James Johnson (College Station, TX), Manon Lécuyer (Saint-Hyacinthe, QU), Linda Lord (Waynesville, OH), Jeffrey Musser (College Station, TX), Astrid Nielssen (Vancouver, BC), Darryl Ragland (West Lafayette, IN), David Reeves (Athens, GA), James Riddle (Falls Church, VA), Margie Scherk (Vancouver, BC), Joe Taboada (Baton Rouge, LA), Ahmed Tibary (Pullman, WA), Helen Tuzio (Ridgewood, NY), Jeff Tyler (Columbia, MO), Ame Walesby (Baton Rouge, LA), and Colette Wheler (Saskatoon, SK).

The NBVME acknowledges these individuals for their service as NAVLE item writers, and the editorial staff at the NBME for their expertise and diligence in ensuring consistently high editorial standards for the examination.

From the Past: State Board Questions

Number 11 in a Series

The questions below come from the Theory and Practice of Medicine chapter of the 1917 book, *Veterinary State Board Questions and Answers* by V.G. Kimball. This book was donated to the NBVME by Dr. Don Hastings of Mandan, ND.

Questions

1. State the prevention and treatment of Johne's disease.
2. Give the treatment of actinomycosis in the cow.
3. What is dourine?
4. Where is the filaria immitis found? What condition does it produce?
5. Give the treatment of diabetes mellitus.
6. State the causes and treatment of nasal gleet.
7. What animals suffer from strongylus rufescens? Name the disease produced.
8. Give the cause and treatment of gapes in fowls.

Answers

1. Isolation and destruction of affected animals; thorough disinfection of premises; raise offspring on new or uninfected pastures. No satisfactory treatment is known.
2. Surgical removal of tumors; cauterize the wound formed and apply tincture of iodine freely. Internally, give potassium iodide in repeated doses until signs of iodism appear, then discontinue for a time and repeat until a cure is effected.
3. Dourine is a chronic, contagious affection of breeding horses,

transmitted by copulation, and is characterized first by local lesions on the external genitals, such as swellings, ulcers and scars, which is followed later by an affection of the nervous system, as shown by hyperaesthesia and paralysis.

4. The embryos of this parasite are found in the circulating blood and the mature worms in the right heart of dogs. Conditions produced are anaemia, emaciation, increased appetite, dropsical swellings due to emboli, heart disturbances, etc. It runs a course of several years.

5. Diabetes mellitus is practically incurable; treat by limiting the amount of carbohydrates and feed more fats and proteids. Carnivora may be fed fat meat, eggs, buttermilk. Opium and Carlsbad salts are said to be helpful.

6. Nasal gleet or chronic rhinitis may follow the acute form or it may be due to diseased teeth; infection or catarrh of the nasal sinuses. It is also seen in glanders. Treatment: Locally, apply astringent antiseptics, such as nasal douches with Dobell's solution. Internally, give tonics.

7. The sheep and goat. The disease is variously known as *verminous bronchitis*, *bronchial strongylosis*, *hoose*, *husk*, and *paper skin disease*.

8. This disease is due to the presence of the parasite, *syngamus trachealis*, in the trachea. Treatment: Remove the worm with forceps or a loop of horse hair.

Next issue: more Theory and Practice of Medicine.

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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, *Chair-Elect*; Donald D. Draper, DVM, PhD, MBA; Benjamin Franklin, DVM; Jan Krehbiel, DVM, PhD, DACVP, *Chair*; Norman LaFaunce, DVM, DACT, *Past Chair*; Sylvie Latour, DVM; Lila Miller, DVM; Ellen O'Connor, *Public Member*; Mike Thomas, DVM, *Secretary-Treasurer*. John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD, *Executive Director*

Qualifying Examination Update

The NBVME's Qualifying Examination is a basic science examination developed for use in the AAVSB's Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE), a certification program for licensure candidates who are graduates of veterinary schools not accredited by the AVMA Council on Education. PAVE certificates are presently accepted by 11 licensing boards. For more information on PAVE, see www.aavsb.org.

Eighteen candidates took the QE at Prometric testing centers on August 14, 2003. Scores were reported to the AAVSB in September; 16 of the 18 candidates achieved a passing score. A total of 31 candidates have applied to take the QE on January 2, 2004.

The NBVME recently signed a new contract with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) for

development of forms of the QE to be administered in August 2004 and January 2005. In response to a request from the PAVE board, the NBVME is working with the NBME on the possibility of offering the QE on a third testing date in late April, beginning in 2004. In addition, the NBVME is exploring options for administering the QE via the internet, beginning in August 2004.

Several veterinary schools have expressed interest in offering the QE to their students, as a way to assess the performance of their students on a standardized basic science examination. In addition, the NBVME has corresponded with the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) on several occasions regarding the possible use of the QE in the ECFVG program. These topics will be considered in detail at

the NBVME's January 10 meeting.

On December 4-5, QE item writers will meet in Philadelphia to review newly written items for addition to the QE item bank. This year's item writers include Drs. P.T. Purinton (Athens, GA; anatomy), Lola Hudson (Raleigh, NC; anatomy), Patricia Heine (Indianapolis, IN; histology), Earl Dixon (Tuskegee, AL; physiology), Walter Hsu (Ames, IA; pharmacology), John Boyce (Bismarck, ND; bacteriology), Paul Gibbs (Gainesville, FL; virology), Melissa Kennedy (Knoxville, TN; immunology), Cliff Monahan (Columbus, OH; parasitology), John VanVleet (West Lafayette, IN; pathology), and Amanda Fales-Williams (Ames, IA; pathology).

The NBVME thanks these item writers for their efforts.

NBVME Member Profile: Dr. Lila Miller

Dr. Lila Miller is one of three new NBVME members who began their terms at the close of the July 2003 NBVME meeting. Dr. Miller is one of four members appointed by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

A native of New York City, Dr. Miller completed her pre-veterinary work at Cornell University and at the University of Reading in England, graduating with a BS in animal science. She received her DVM degree from Cornell in 1977.

After graduation, Dr. Miller accepted a position as a shelter veterinarian with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), and later served as Director of the ASPCA's Brooklyn Clinic. Presently, she serves as Senior Director and Veterinary Advisor at the ASPCA. She teaches courses in shelter medicine at Cornell and on the Veterinary Information Network, and has given presentations on shelter medicine and animal welfare at numerous conferences. At the ASPCA, Dr. Miller established and administers an externship program in shelter medicine for veterinary students from around the country. Dr. Miller is presently completing work as



editor of the first veterinary textbook on shelter medicine, due to be published next spring.

Dr. Miller recently completed ten years of service on the New York State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, including two years as board chair. Through her work with the New York board, she became active in the AAVSB, where she served on the AAVSB Executive Committee, and chaired the task force that developed the AAVSB Practice

Act Model.

In 1999, Dr. Miller received the Outstanding Service to Veterinary Medicine award from the New York City Veterinary Medical Association, and she received the KC Faculty Award from the American Humane Association in 2001.

As a member of the NBVME, Dr. Miller intends to help ensure that the NBVME's examinations continue to reflect high standards of competence.

January NBVME Meeting

The next NBVME meeting will be on Saturday, January 10 at the Marriott Camelback Hotel in Scottsdale, Arizona. The General Session will begin at 1:00 pm, and guests are welcome to attend. Dr. Jan Krehbiel will chair the meeting. Anyone interested in attending the meeting should contact the NBVME office for more details.

Changes Coming for 2004-2005 NAVLE Administrations

The NBVME recently signed a new contract with the National Board of Medical Examiners for development of NAVLE forms to be administered during the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 testing windows. Provisions in the new contract require three important changes to the NAVLE application process, beginning with the fall 2004 testing window. These changes, which were described in a memo that the NBVME sent to all licensing boards on October 29, are summarized below.

Fee Increase

The NAVLE fee will increase to \$425 per candidate for the fall 2004 and spring 2005 administrations, and to \$450 for examinations given during the fall 2005 and spring 2006 testing windows. These fees were approved by the NBVME in Denver in July.

Deadlines

The NAVLE application deadlines will move up approximately

30 days, to allow additional processing time, and to allow candidates to receive their scheduling permits earlier. Licensing boards establish their own NAVLE application deadlines, but the latest deadline (and the deadline for candidates to submit their NAVLE application to the NBVME office) will be 92 days prior to the opening of the testing window, instead of 60 days prior, as it has been for the past four years.

Approval for Repeaters

Candidates who take the NAVLE in the fall and who do not pass will be considered automatically approved by the board through which they applied to retake the examination in April. This will make it easier for licensing boards and repeating candidates to comply with the new deadlines.

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

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