

National Board Report

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Records

The fall 2005 North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®) administration set a record for candidate numbers, but that record lasted only one year. This fall, our office received, processed, and submitted applications from 3,863 candidates, an increase of over 300 from fall 2005. In addition, we processed NAVLE approvals on behalf of seven licensing boards (FL, ME, MI, NJ, NY, PA, and VA), representing a total of 853 candidates, over 100 more than last year. The fall NAVLE testing window runs through December 9. At that time, we will begin accepting applications for the April 9-21, 2007 testing window.

Qualifying Examination (QE) candidate numbers are also up, especially when candidates taking the examination at Western University and, beginning in January, at Iowa State University are included (see page 3).

The Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA) is only in its first year. In 2006, the VCSA was given twice (in January and April), to six PAVE candidates and two reference candidates. The January 5-6 administration will involve four PAVE candidates and four reference candidates.

The NBVME's two species specific examinations were given 22 times in 2006 by three licensing boards, about the same numbers as 2005. The NBVME would like to increase the use of these examinations next year, and boards interested in using them should contact our office for more information.

Anita Casey-Reed, Debbie Larson, Tonee VanderVliet and I wish everyone a great 2007.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD

Bylaws, Retake Policy on January Agenda

The NBVME will meet in Orlando January 11-12. On Thursday, January 11, Mr. Michael Barrett will lead the board in a strategic planning session, after which the board will meet in executive session. The planning session will continue on Friday morning, followed by the NBVME's general session business meeting, which is open to all. Persons interested in attending the general session should contact the NBVME office for more information.

Bylaws Amendments

Concluding a process that began in 2005, the NBVME plans to vote on several amendments to the NBVME bylaws at the January meeting. A final draft of the proposed amendments was sent to the NBVME's constituent organizations on October 4, and comments were requested by December 15.

Earlier this month, the NBVME met via conference call and voted to withdraw two proposed amendments from consideration in January. One would have changed the way the NBVME's public member is appointed (the public member will continue to be appointed by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)), and the other would have removed the requirement that at least one member of the NBVME Executive Committee is one of the members appointed by the AAVSB.

The amendments to be considered in January include explicitly stating that an appointing organization can remove its appointee(s) at any time; clarifying how officers serve their terms; creating a Nominating Committee and specifying how it will function; making the Examination Development Committee the Examination Development Advisory Board and specifying how that board is appointed; and changing the fiscal year of the organization to July 1 - June 30.

NAVLE Retake Policy

Another item on the January agenda is the NAVLE retake policy. In January 2005, the board approved a recommendation to licensing boards that candidates be limited to five attempts to pass the NAVLE in a five year period, and that each of the final two attempts must be at least one year from the previous attempt. The recommendation was included in the 2005-06 state letter of agreement, and took effect beginning with the fall 2005 NAVLE administration.

After it was approved, the retake policy was impacted by the decision of the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) to create a new examination to replace the NAVLE as the ECFVG step 3 requirement. ECFVG candidates will be able to take the NAVLE as step 3 for the last time in April 2007; the new step 3 examination will be available later that year.

Removing the NAVLE from the ECFVG program, which the NBVME supports, creates problems for ECFVG candidates who do not pass the NAVLE by April 2007. These candidates will have to take and pass the new ECFVG step 3 examination before they will be able to sit for the NAVLE again, and this may affect their ability to comply with the five attempt in five year limit. Last month, the board sent a memo to the AAVSB and the ECFVG, outlining the situation, offering possible solutions, and seeking input. The board will make a decision in January, and that action will be incorporated into the 2007-08 state letter of agreement.

New Members

The January meeting will be the first regular NBVME meeting for new members Drs. Francis Kallfelz and Dennis Feinberg. They were appointed to the NBVME earlier this year by the AVMA Council on Education and the American Animal Hospital Association, respectively.

NAVLE New Item Review

A total of 24 veterinarians served as NAVLE item writers this year. Sixteen of them traveled to the office of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) in Philadelphia October 24-25 for the annual new item review meeting.

NAVLE item writers for 2006 included Drs. Kevin Anderson (Raleigh, NC), Alex Bermudez (Columbia, MO), Tom Bohanon (Glenwood Springs, CO), Paul Coe (East Lansing, MI), Cate Dewey (Guelph, ON), Alison Eddy (Blacksburg, VA), Kevan Flaming (Ames, IA), Robert Froehlich (Grand Lake, CO), Ned Gentz (Albuquerque, NM), Johanna Heseltine (Stillwater, OK), Veronika Kiklevich (Boerne, TX), Michelle Kopcha (East Lansing, MI), Isabelle Langlois (St-Hyacinthe, QU), Jeanne Lofstedt (Charlottetown, PEI), Clayton MacKay (Mississauga, ON), Dianne Mawby (Knoxville, TN), Jeffrey Musser (College Station, TX), Elizabeth Pluhar (St. Paul, MN), Darryl Ragland (West Lafayette, IN), Margie Scherk (Vancouver, BC), Joel Schrader (Ashland, NE), Loren Schultz (Columbia, MO), Saralyn Smith-Carr (Auburn, AL), and Alice Wolf (Bryan, TX).

To date, a total of 84 individuals have served as NAVLE item writers, including faculty members from 29 different US and Canadian veterinary schools, and veterinarians from a variety of private and public practice settings. The NBVME appreciates these item writers and the NBME editorial staff who work to ensure the continuing quality of the examination.

From the Past: State Board Questions

Number 22 in a Series

We're getting closer to the end, but we're not there yet, so here are some more questions and answers from the *Materia Medica* chapter of the book, *Veterinary State Board Questions and Answers*, published in 1917 by V. G. Kimball.

Questions

1. Name the active principle of the following: aconite, belladonna, ergot, digitalis, and opium.
2. Give the name and the dose of a vermifuge for (a) the horse, (b) the cow, (c) the dog.
3. Name some economic antiseptics for veterinary use, internal and external.
4. Describe in detail the method by which you would administer a dose of Epsom salts to a cow.
5. Give the source, general action, and the dose of podophyllum.
6. Give the properties and the uses of lobelia.
7. State the dose and the general physiological action of cocaine.
8. What is cascara sagrada? Give its uses and state the dose for the dog.

Answers

- 1 aconite: aconitine; belladonna: atropine; ergot: ergotine; digitalis: digitaline, digitoxin, digitalein, digitin, and digitonin; opium: morphine and codeine.
2. (a) tartar emetic 3i; (b) ferri sulphas, 3iis; (c) areca nut, 2 grains per pound of body weight.
3. Internal: phenol, creolin, sodium hyposulphite, salicylic acid. External:

phenol, creolin, corrosive sublimate, potassium permanganate, and boric acid.

4. Dissolve salts in water and put the solution in a long-necked bottle. Raise the cow's head so that the nostrils are on a level with the eyes, but no higher. Gradually pour the solution into the mouth, watching carefully for faulty deglutition.

5. Obtained from the rhizome and roots of podophyllum pellatum Linne (mandrake or May apple). General action is a cholagogue cathartic. Dose for horse, 3i-ii.

6. Lobelia is obtained from the leaves and tops of *Lobelia inflata*. Its action depends on its alkaloid, lobeline. It has an acrid, nauseous taste and a very unpleasant odor; it is expectorant, diaphoretic, purgative, emetic, antispasmodic, and narcotic. Lobelia is very useful in asthma in dogs, heaves in horses, and dry coughs in general.

7. Dose for the horse, 5 to 10 grains. Not much used internally. In small doses it is a cerebral, cardiac, respiratory, and nervous stimulant and diuretic. It is a powerful local anæsthetic, and is used in this connection almost entirely.

8. Cascara sagrada is an active cathartic obtained from the bark of *Rhamnus purshiana* (California buckthorn). It is used in dogs in doses of 5 to 30 grains to overcome chronic constipation and as a stomachic.

Next issue: more *Materia Medica*

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Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD; Dale D. Boyle, DVM, MPH, DACVPM; James Dalley, DVM, MS, *Past Chair*; Dennis A. Feinberg, DVM; Benjamin Franklin, Jr., DVM, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Meg Glattly, DVM, *Chair-Elect*; 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, *Chair*; Rick Tubbs, DVM, MS, MBA, DACT, DABVP. John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD, *Executive Director*

Item Bank Scrubbing

Each summer, NBVME members, former members, EDC members, and item writers gather at the NBME office in Philadelphia to “scrub” the item bank. This ensures that items in the active bank are appropriate for continued use on NAVLE forms. Items that do not meet this standard are sent to item writers for revision, moved to the QE item bank, used for practice exams, or deleted.



Drs. Dale Boyle and Mike Groves



Dr. Mike Thomas



Drs. Julie Fixman and Cheryl Dhein



Drs. Benjamin Darien and Nancy Collins



Dr. Jeff Tyler



Dr. Norm LaFaunce



Drs. David Rosen and Stan Rubin



Drs. Darcy Shaw and Alice Wolf



Dr. Roger Magnusson



Dr. Helen Tuzio

NBVME Member Profile: Dr. Dennis Feinberg

Dr. Dennis A. Feinberg of Charleston, South Carolina, was appointed to the NBVME this summer by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) for a term beginning in July 2006. Dr. Feinberg succeeded Dr. Donald Draper, who served on the board for nine years as one of AAHA's two appointees.

Dr. Feinberg graduated from veterinary school at Auburn University, where he also received a bachelor's degree in pharmacy. Since 1976, he has operated the Charles Towne Veterinary Clinic in Charleston, which is presently a four doctor small animal practice.

On a state level, Dr. Feinberg has been active with the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians, where he served as chair of the ethics committee, chair of the small animal academy, secretary, and treasurer. He has also served as president of his lo-

cal veterinary medical association and as founder and president of the Greater Charleston Emergency Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Feinberg was honored by the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians with the Distinguished Veterinarian of the Year award in 1999.

In 1996, Dr. Feinberg was appointed to the South Carolina State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, where he served for six years, including three years as Chair.

Dr. Feinberg was president of AAHA in 2004-05, and has also served various other leadership positions with AAHA, including regional director and chair of the AAHA Foundation.

Dr. Feinberg is an active member of Synagogue Emmanu-El, and is a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. He and his wife Sharon have two daughters.



Dr. Feinberg states that he is honored to be part of an organization that helps to maintain the high standards of the veterinary medical profession.

Qualifying Examination Update

September Administration

A total of 91 candidates took the NBVME's Qualifying Examination on September 14, 2006. The QE is a 300-item multiple choice basic science examination developed for use by the AAVSB's PAVE program in assessing the educational equivalence of graduates of foreign, non-accredited veterinary schools.

September candidates took the QE at two sites in the Caribbean (St. Kitts and Grenada), in Puerto Rico, and at three locations in the US. The NBVME Executive Committee met via conference call on October 6 to review examination statistics and approve a passing standard for the September QE. The failure rate for criterion candidates (first time test takers) was 20.8%.

The QE is a web-based examination, administered three times per year at proctored testing sites. Upcoming administrations are scheduled for January 18 and May 10, 2007. Candidates apply for the QE through the AAVSB office, www.aavsb.org.

Use By Accredited Schools

Western University's College of Veterinary Medicine required its second year students to take the QE in May 2005 and 2006, and plans to do so again next May. Iowa State University will administer the QE for the first time in January 2007. Several additional accredited schools are considering an offer from the NBVME to use the QE as an outside assessment of basic science knowledge.

QE Item Writers

QE item development follows a process similar to that used for the NAVLE. Item writers are selected to represent the various content areas of the examination, and newly written items are reviewed each fall for addition to the item bank. On September 26-27, 13 of this year's 14 item writers participated in the item review meeting.

QE item writers for 2006 included Drs. Linda Blythe, Corvallis, OR (anatomy); Thomas Caceci, Blacksburg, VA (histology); Jérôme

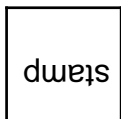
Del Castillo, St-Hyacinthe, QU (pharmacology); Ronald Green, Dallas, TX (radiology); Gayle Johnson, Columbia, MO (pathology); Lynne Kushner, Philadelphia, PA (pharmacology); Phillip Nelson, Pomona, CA (immunology); Tom Phillips, Pomona, CA (virology); Marc Ratzlaff, Pullman, WA (anatomy); Dean Schwartz, Auburn, AL (physiology); Jean Whichard, Atlanta, GA (bacteriology); Lee Wilke, Ft. Collins, Co (physiology), and Anne Zajac, Blacksburg, VA (parasitology).

Item writer contracts for 2007 are being finalized. New item writers will meet in Philadelphia March 1-2 for an item writing workshop, and to review QE forms to be administered in the 2007-08 testing cycle.

More Information

To date, the QE has been administered to a total of 762 PAVE candidates. Additional information on the QE can be found at www.nbvme.org/examinations.html.

Mailing Label



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