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Veterinary Medicine
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TTY: 1-800-627-3529
www.vetmed.state.mn.us
vet.med@state.mn.us
Veterinary Practice Act

NEW BOARD STAFF

Nikki Vink has joined the Board of Veterinary Medicine as the new Office Manager. Nikki has a degree in Communication from the University of North Dakota. From a young age, Nikki has been immersed in the world of veterinary medicine as her mother has been a certified veterinary technician for more than 20 years. Her love of animals led her to her first job at a veterinary clinic at the age of 17, where she worked her way up from maintaining the kennels to administration and reception. Prior to beginning this job, she worked for the MN Board of Social Work. When not in the office Nikki enjoys camping and spending time with her rescue dog, Nova.



CANNABIDIOL (CBD) PRODUCTS

Many clients are asking veterinarians about the use of CBD products for animals. The cannabidiol found in these products is derived from hemp plants (*Cannabis sativa*) that contain less than 0.3% THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) on a dry weight basis. THC is the primary psychoactive substance found in marijuana. The proliferation of CBD products has created a regulatory conundrum which has been described as the wild, wild, west for both humans and animals.

Anecdotes of efficacy for many health problems are readily available, but scientific evidence is sparse. CBD products are widely available for humans and animals, but undergo no regulatory oversight or testing to confirm the concentration or quality of the ingredients. This void creates risks of hidden ingredients that may be harmful, more THC than expected which could have marijuana-like effects, and unverifiable amounts of CBD. Federal and state laws regarding CBD products are not identical.

The 2018 **federal** Farm Bill exempted these industrial hemp products from the Controlled Substances Act. CBD derived



(Continued)

The mission of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine is to promote, preserve, and protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and animals through the effective control and regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine.



CBD PRODUCTS (continued)

from hemp is **not** a controlled substance under **Minnesota** law. CBD products that also contain THC might be considered controlled substances under both federal and state law, depending on the amount of THC present. Regardless of their controlled substance status, CBD products are not legal under current Minnesota law when the intent of their sale is to treat diseases or to alter the structure and function of human or animal bodies. When used for those purposes the products are considered to be misbranded and adulterated drugs. It is actually a crime (misdemeanor) to sell misbranded and adulterated drugs.

The federal change does not affect regulation of these products under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act, or the status of those products marketed with therapeutic label claims. The FDA is currently working on guidelines to scrutinize these products that could pose risks to consumers and take regulatory action. The regulations are discussed on the Board of Pharmacy's webpage:

https://mn.gov/boards/assets/2018_12_04_CBD_Advisory_Pharmacy_Board_tcm21-361597.pdf

Based on current federal and state regulations, veterinarians are encouraged to advise clients of the risks, lack of quality control and legal constraints. When new compelling scientific evidence is developed and both state and federal regulations are clarified, these guidelines may change.

Further information can also be found on the FDA's webpage:

https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm421168.htm#dietary_supplements

The American Veterinary Medical Association is another information resource for veterinarians interested in providing advice to clients on both marijuana and CBD products.

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Cannabis-Use-Pets.aspx>

FORGET TO RENEW YOUR LICENSE?

Licenses ending in an odd number had to be renewed by March 1, 2019. Multiple reminders were sent out to veterinarians that had not done so. If you failed to renew, your license has been suspended for non-payment. A late fee of \$100.00 and a reinstatement fee of \$50.00 must be paid to regain licensure. The suspension of your license is noted on the Board's public webpage which may be checked by clients, pharmacies and distributors.

Please contact the Board for further information on the process.

INPUT ON PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATION

The process of creating, amending, and passing Minnesota laws has many steps and may be a mystery to many veterinarians. Without awareness of the process and the content of proposed legislation, veterinarians may be blindsided when a new law is enacted that affects their practice of veterinary medicine.

The first step in the process is to craft a bill that contains the new language that is sought. This “first draft” is produced by the staff of the Office of the Revisor with input from the bill’s proponents. There are many types of proponents such as government agencies, organizations, or individuals. The proponents will seek legislators that agree to be the author(s) in either the House and/or Senate if none is already the author. The bill is then “jacketed”. More work on the language might occur at this point. Next, the bill is assigned a file number and is “introduced”. Now the bill is available for public review.

Lobbyists are very active throughout the life of a bill, seeking appointments with key legislators to explain the position of the organization or individuals that hired them. A lobbyist may represent multiple organizations or individuals at the same time. Their efforts may result in additional authors, ideally from both political parties. Input from a legislator’s constituents is also influential at this stage. For example, veterinarians may write, phone or ask for a meeting with their senator or representative. The MVMA Day at the Capitol is a great opportunity to set up these in-person meetings.

Depending on the nature of the bill’s content, it is referred to the most appropriate Committee with the request for a hearing. (i.e. Agriculture, Health finance) to discuss the bill’s merits. Committees in both the House and Senate. (A Committee’s Chair does not have to consent to “hear” the bill.) When a hearing is scheduled for the bill, the author presents the bill, and answers questions. Other testifiers can speak for or against it briefly. Amendments to the bill language can be made and voted upon by the Committee. If deemed necessary, the bill is sent to the next pertinent Committee where the same process occurs. A Committee hearing includes discussion of many bills and can be hours long.

Agendas are usually available before the meeting. Often multiple bills may be introduced to address the same issue. The Committee may vote to approve it and refer it to another Committee, kill the bill, or “table it” or other actions. Committee deadlines must be met for it to move forward. The goal is to make it to the floor for a final vote or be folded into another bill. If there are differences in the House and Senate versions due to amendments, the bills are sent to a conference committee to iron out the differences.

INPUT ON PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATION (Continued)

Three regulatory boards are most likely to propose or weigh in on bills affecting the practice of veterinary medicine that come before the legislature: **Veterinary Medicine, Animal Health, and Pharmacy**. Examples of bill topics for the 2019 legislative session include veterinary immunity, dangerous dogs, and controlled substances prescription monitoring programs. These agencies may be asked by a Committee to estimate the cost of proposed legislation, which is termed a fiscal note. If the sum is significant, the Committee must authorize spending current agency funds or appropriate money for that purpose.

Keeping track of new bills, progression of introduced bills and amendments is challenging. Bills of interest can be flagged on the Revisor’s website (My Bills) and key words such as “animal” or veterinary” can be used to check for new bills: <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/>



Criminal Background Check Update

Since the inception of the requirement of a criminal background check (CBC) for applicants for a veterinary license, a few procedural changes have been made. Once an application has been submitted, a packet of information about the CBC and how to submit fingerprints is emailed to the applicant. The fingerprints must be submitted within 90 days or the CBC is cancelled. The fee for the CBC has risen slightly to \$33.25 because of the increased charge from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). If a CBC is cancelled, the applicant must pay the fee again. Veterinarians that seek to reinstate their license are now also required to complete a CBC. A plan to require a CBC for veterinarians that are already licensed has yet to be created. At present, the BCA does not have sufficient capacity for fingerprinting the huge numbers of currently licensed health professionals.



Board Member Contact Information

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Tips: Who Else to Call?

Board of Animal Health: reportable diseases, rabies certificates, MN health certificates, animal identification

Board of Chiropractic Examiners: human chiropractors working on animals

Board of Pharmacy: compounding, drug label requirements, pharmacy or pharmacist complaints, license verification

DEA: controlled substances, DEA registration

MVMA: veterinary technician credentials and CE

USDA/APHIS: federal accreditation, health certificate requirements

DNR: wildlife questions

FDA: Veterinary feed directives, AMDUCA

MN Pollution Control Agency: disposal of medications and other substances from a veterinary practice

Contact Information for Related Agencies

Minnesota Board of Animal Health:

625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55155

<http://mn.gov/bah/>

Phone: (651) 296-2942 Fax: (651) 296-7417

Drug Enforcement Agency:

100 Washington Avenue South, Suite 800 Minneapolis, MN 55401

www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/index.html

DEA Regional Field Office at (612) 344-4136

National office toll free 1-800-882-9539

Minnesota Board of Pharmacy:

2829 University Avenue SE, Suite 530, Minneapolis, MN 55414

<http://www.pharmacy.state.mn.us/>

Phone: (651) 201-2825 Fax: (651) 210-2837

Minnesota Department of Health:

Joni Scheftel, DVM, MPH, DACVPM State Public Health Veterinarian, 625 Robert St. North St. Paul, MN 55155-2538 651-201-5107 joni.scheftel@state.mn.us

FDA Minneapolis State Liaison:

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USDA APHIS Veterinary Services:

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Minnesota DNR:

500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>

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MN Pollution Control Agency:

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