

# North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

June 2020

*Regulatory  
Bulletin*

Volume 4 Issue 2

## Important: the use of the term Veterinary Technician

The North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act defines the term "Veterinary Technician" as the following:

### **90-181. Definitions.**

(11) *"Veterinary technician" means either of the following persons:*

- a. A person who has successfully completed a post-high school course in the care and treatment of animals that conforms to the standards required for accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association and who is registered with the Board as a veterinary technician*
- b. A person who holds a degree in veterinary medicine from a college of veterinary medicine recognized by the Board for licensure of veterinarians and who is registered with the Board as a veterinary technician*

The North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board (NCVMB) believes that Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs) play an important role in the profession and provide enhanced patient care for the public and their pets. Unfortunately, many Veterinary practices are referring to veterinary assistants and other staff members as Veterinary Technicians or Technicians. This action creates confusion and misrepresentation to the public.

The NCVMB acknowledges that there are individuals without veterinary technician credentials who are highly competent and provide essential services to the profession. However, a Registered Veterinary Technician has a title (that is associated with specific credentials) that is granted and protected by law under the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.

It is essential for each practice to educate their staff on the proper use of titles and the regulations of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act. Practices that improperly refer to non-registered individuals as Registered Veterinary Technicians or Veterinary Technicians will be cited upon inspection by the NCVMB and face the possibility of discipline.





## Facility Inspection results will be available to the public on-line!

Starting the summer of 2020, the most recent facility inspection results will be available on-line for the public to view. This will allow the public to search and review information on the veterinary facilities to allow them to make an informed decision on where to take their animals. This information is public record and has been available previously from the NCVMB office.

The public will be able to see citations that occurred during the inspection and also when the deficiencies were corrected. Only your hospital's most recent inspection will be listed for review.

## Facility Inspections: Covid 19

Veterinary Facility Inspections are routinely conducted unannounced. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the following changes are in effect until it is safe to return to normal protocols:

- Inspections will be scheduled in advance
- NCVMB Inspectors will utilize PPEs for their inspections
- Inspections will strive to minimize contact with staff, maintain safe distances, and maximize safety

## NCVMB Inspector's Territory



*Please visit the NCVMB FACEBOOK Page*

<https://www.facebook.com/NCVetMedicalBoard>



## FAQs: Veterinary Facilities and Corporations

Some of the most common questions concerning facilities are, when should I submit my application for a new facility? Do I have to notify the board of an expansion or renovation? When should I notify the board concerning a change in ownership? What are the requirements for naming a facility?

When should I submit my application for a new facility?

- Please submit your application for a new facility 4-6 weeks prior to the targeted opening date. This will allow adequate time for processing that paperwork and give the inspector enough time to plan and talk with you about the inspection and answer any questions or concerns you might have. A new facility must be inspected and approved prior to seeing any clients. New facility applications may be submitted online via the NCVMB Portal.

Do I have to notify the board of an expansion or renovation?

- Yes, we will need to inspect any expansions or major renovations prior to utilizing the space.

When should I notify the board concerning a change in ownership?

- Change in ownership paperwork needs to be submitted 2-3 weeks prior to the anticipated date of the change. A change in ownership inspection will occur within 90 days after the change in ownership.

What are the requirements for naming a facility?

- These requirements are stated in NCGS 90-181.1. These requirements are in place to accurately inform the public of the level of service the facility can provide. By reading the statute you will be able to determine which descriptive term you should use when naming your facility.

### **Professional Corporations and Professional LLC's**

All professional articles of incorporation and organization must be approved by the board prior to submission to the NC Secretary of State. The board is required by NCGS 55B to certify that the proposed business entity is in

compliance with NCGS 55B. The certification that is required by the NC Secretary of State is not a copy of your veterinary license or your college diploma. The certification issued by the board approves the name, this ensures there is no conflict with another name on record with the board and that all shareholders/members are licensees of the board.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call Keith West at 919-854-5601 ext. 103.

## North Carolina Veterinary Response Corps

As we enter the official hurricane season in North Carolina, all veterinarians and veterinary technicians are encouraged to reach out to their county Emergency Manager and animal shelter to get engaged in planning to respond. If you are interested in deploying to help in the hardest hit areas, please contact Dr. Anna Allen, [anna.allen@ncagr.gov](mailto:anna.allen@ncagr.gov).

### Mission

The North Carolina Veterinary Response Corps (NCVRC) is a North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services initiative to train and prepare professionals in the animal care community to respond to disaster events that affect livestock and companion animals.

### Membership

Membership is open to North Carolina veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary and veterinary technician students, animal shelter employees, animal control officers, and Cooperative Extension agents.

### Requirements for deployment

- ICS 100, 200, and 700 (online)
- Biosecurity/PPE and Animal Sheltering Training - provided by NCDA&CS
- Basic awareness of NC Emergency Management concepts and the NC Emergency Operations Plan, Emergency Support Functions (specifically ESF-11)
- Sign a Code of Conduct

<http://www.ncagr.gov/oep/veterinary/VetCorps.htm>

NC VRC Coordinator: Dr. Anna Allen [anna.allen@ncagr.gov](mailto:anna.allen@ncagr.gov)

