

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**Rules Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, August 5, 2024 - 12:00 p.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine, Rules Committee, met via WebEx on Monday, August 5, 2024. The following Committee members were present:

**Committee Members Present**

Dr. William Wright, DVM, Committee Chair  
Dr. Wendy Cuevas, DVM, Committee Vice Chair  
Ms. Jessica Sewell, LVT, Committee Member

**Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

**Committee Members Absent**

No Committee Members absent.

**Attorney General's Office**

No Assistant Attorney General present.

**Visitors Present**

Keri Riddick, DVM, Executive Director, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)

**Call to Order:** Dr. Wright called the Committee meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda** The Committee accepted the agenda as presented.

**Discussion – Radiological Safety**

Ms. Price provided the Committee with a refresher on the discussion concerning radiology that took place during the last Rules Committee meeting and the Memorandum of Advice provided by the Attorney General's Office regarding instituting random veterinary facility inspections for radiology equipment and the authority to add a question concerning the use of radiology to the renewal application. The AG's response was that the Board does have the authority to add the question to the renewal application, and if the response is affirmative, to require documentation of current inspection forms as well as proof of employee training on the radiology equipment. The Attorney General's Office also confirmed that the Board does have the authority to conduct random inspections on the radiological equipment for those practices who utilize the equipment. It was noted that the Board must provide resources for licensees to refer to as far as how to find persons and entities who can conduct the equipment inspections and where to find the training for the practice employees.

The Board requested that Ms. Sewell conduct a search for radiology training courses that would be available to the veterinary community. Ms. Sewell who provided information for an educational program who offers the training in their curriculum, in addition to the courses offered by Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA). Ms. Sewell underscored that there is a cost for such training but there should be several cost-effective options available to veterinary practices so that they can comply with future requirements. She shared that Gwinnett Technical College's veterinary technician program partners with entities in the community to provide radiology safety training and suggested finding partners to provide a mock demo as an option as well. This would reduce financial considerations by averting having to use live machines as well as decrease the need for logistical considerations that would be required in a physical training atmosphere, but rather offer something that demonstrates adequate instruction on PPE (personal protective equipment), positioning practices, and collimating, for example.

The Committee determined that the course could be a pre-recorded program with a posttest and certificate of completion for those using radiology equipment. Access to training should be available at least twice a year so interested parties could have access from all over the state, especially in rural settings, not just for those in urban areas. Dr. Wright noted that the Board cannot require this through a rule change until the resources are in place as the requirement would create an undue hardship on the veterinary practice.

Dr. Cuevas reiterated that GVMA provided the Board with a list of nuclear physicists who are able to perform the required inspections, so this resource sheet could be posted on the Board website for facilities so they can obtain the appropriate proof of inspection paperwork. She continued that these inspections are so important as they affect everyone's safety. The creation of a

radiology course may take more time, but she stated the inspection process should be put into the rules. Ms. Sewell shared that unless a veterinary hospital is AHAA (American Animal Hospital Association) accredited, the equipment may be sorely out of date and in need of calibration. Ms. Sewell continued that she would follow up with Gwinnett Technical College to find out what is required for the creation of a training program.

Ms. Price recommended that the Committee consider asking the Board to institute a phased process/education campaign for adding the requirements via a Board Rule to include developing a Radiology Information Page on the Board website that includes the radiology checklist and inspection form and a Position Statement concerning the importance of safe radiology practices and possibly an email blast that amendments to the rules will be coming. These actions will alert licensees to the upcoming requirements. A link to the Georgia DCH (Department of Community Health) rules on x-ray equipment could also be posted on the Board website, and a notice of course development, as well as GVMA's radiology course list resource could all be referenced on that page, all in an effort to provide education and information for licensees to meet the requirements and we can continue to add information as it becomes available prior to starting the rule promulgation process.

Dr. Wright recommended that the information be posted on the website in summer 2025 in preparation for the 2026 renewal period and inspections and training be required for the 2028 biennium through the rule process. He wanted to underscore the importance of not waiting until the last minute in case calibrations and/or additional inspections may be required, especially if a practice has never had their radiology equipment inspected. Dr. Wright said this will allow ample time for businesses to look at their budgets and have everything in place since the information will have been posted for four years prior to instituting the requirements. Veterinary practices should be leveraging avenues throughout the process to get the work done. The Board will determine the timeline for eblast notices pending resource development and the rule promulgation process which may begin summer of 2025.

Ms. Price suggested to the Committee members to reach out to the physicists on the resource list provided by GVMA to see if they have recommendations on courses or if they themselves offer courses, and to determine which, if any of these courses would be accepted by the Board. The question will be added for the 2026 renewal biennium with the caveat that there will be no action required until the 2028 renewal biennium; that future renewal cycles (2028 biennium) will require proof of inspection according to the answer on the renewal form.

Dr. Cuevas also recommended that for those who receive a certificate of completion and may leave a practice, that they are able to take the certificate with them to their next position; that the training is not for the facility but for the individual licensee. Dr Cuevas also stated that she feels the employer should pay for the course because it is a requirement for their staff to be able to safely take radiographs for that practice, and to take the cost factor into consideration. Ms. Price countered that the Board's purpose is public safety and protection, and payment for the course would be between the employer and their employee.

**Discussion – Board Rule 700-6-.01. Application for Veterinary Technician License (Developing Rules for the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE®) for Veterinary Technicians)**

Ms. Sewell opened the discussion for having the Board to accept the PAVE for veterinary technicians. She is a member of the AAVSB (American Association of Veterinary State Boards) PAVE Committee for Vet Techs and recommends that accepting the PAVE credential for veterinary technician licensing in Georgia will break down barriers for the shortage in the state. The Board currently accepts PAVE for veterinarians. For background, Ms. Sewell shared this is a fairly new vet tech program for AAVSB (less than three years). To fill the need for veterinary technicians in the state of Georgia, the Board needs to remove barriers to licensing for foreign graduates. A species-specific exam for veterinary technicians was being considered by the Board in the past and now is available. There are only six states that do not currently accept PAVE for veterinarians. There are currently eight states who now accept PAVE for veterinary technician licensing. She explained that colleges are already participating with PAVE and are offering courses if there is an education gap and additional training is required.

The Committee agreed on going forward with the rule promulgation process to accept PAVE for veterinary technicians for it will allow for a greater number of licensed veterinary technicians in the state of Georgia and decrease the current shortage. The rule amendment will prohibit and prevent unsafe practices and/or fraud as it creates more VTNE licensed technicians as opposed to a total lack, or the use of unlicensed veterinary assistants. The inclusion of the PAVE will vet the applicants more effectively and decreases the potential for using veterinary assistants in lieu of licensed, regulated, and trained veterinary technicians. The amendment will expand access to care by identifying foreign credentialed persons who through PAVE will be eligible for licensure; thereby increasing access to qualified veterinary technicians and serves to identifying the credentials of the of the applicant.

The Committee considered what is occurring in other jurisdictions and noted that by offering PAVE as an alternative route to meeting the educational requirements, the Board would be reducing restrictions on those who might otherwise qualify for licensure. As a result, it is the best choice and only alternative pathway available to foreign educated veterinary technicians.

The Committee considered National Standards as established by AAVSB and the existence of peer-reviewed articles highlighting the shortage of qualified licensed veterinary technicians in the United States. The Committee also invited Dr. Riddick to weigh in on behalf of GVMA. Dr. Riddick thought well of the Committee's position.

The rule amendment affects those who may otherwise qualify to become licensed veterinary technicians but currently have no other pathway besides attending an accredited program based in the United States. The amendment also affects licensees and employers by increasing the hiring pool, and the public by increasing access to care by qualified professionals.

The Committee entered into a discussion on the economic impact of the rule amendment and determined that there is none as the change will actually help businesses to hire qualified individuals. Whereas there will be some cost to the individual to complete the PAVE process, their earning potential will increase once they are eligible for/and obtain a license. The earning potential for their employer may also increase as they will be able to delegate some responsibilities to the licensed veterinary technician that they may have otherwise had to complete themselves.

### **Rule 700-6-.01. Application for Veterinary Technician License**

- (1) Application for licensure of Veterinary Technicians shall be made on forms furnished by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine.
- (2) All applicants shall meet the following requirements as provided in Code Section [43-50-52](#) of the Georgia Veterinary Practice Act:
  - (a) The applicant has attained the age of 18;
  - (b) The applicant is of good moral character; and
  - (c) The applicant is a graduate of a Veterinary Technician program approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association. ~~The veterinary technician program may provide the electronic submission of proof of graduation or an official transcript.~~
    - (i) ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~, however, ~~the~~ Board will review all other programs ~~based in the United States~~ on an individual basis. ~~The veterinary technician program may provide the electronic submission of proof of graduation or an official transcript.~~
    - ~~(ii)~~ Graduates of international, non-accredited veterinary technology programs must submit a certificate of completion of the Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE®) for Veterinary Technicians.
  - (d) If licensed in another state(s) with license requirements substantially the same as this state, which were in effect at the time the applicant was first admitted to practice in the other state(s), provide verification of licensure from that state(s);
  - (e) The applicant has paid all applicable fees.
- (3) All applicants for licensure must present proof of having obtained a passing scaled score of at least 425 where the scores range from 200-800 or a passing score of at least 75 when the range is from 0-100 on the National Veterinary Technician Examination or other examination similar in nature and scope as the Board from time to time will adopt.
  - (a) Such previous scores must be reported to the Georgia Board of Veterinary Medicine by the Interstate Reporting Service.
  - (b) Candidates desiring to transfer scores must pay all applicable fees.
- (4) Proof of a passing score on the Georgia Veterinary Technician Law Exam.

- (5) All applications for licensure expire one year from the date of receipt of the application and non-refundable fee.
- (6) Licenses shall be renewable biennially by December 31 of the year in which the license expires.
  - (a) Licenses must be renewed within one year after expiration date with the payment of the renewal and late fees.
  - (b) Failure to comply voids the license.

**Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 700-6-.01**

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-25](#), [43-50-21](#), [43-50-52\(2\)\(D\)](#), [43-50-110](#).

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Application for Registration of Animal Technician" adopted. F. Oct. 8, 1974; eff. Oct. 28, 1974.

**Amended:** F. Apr. 16, 1976; eff. May 6, 1976.

**Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Application for Registration of Veterinary Technicians" adopted. F. Aug. 31, 1984; eff. Sept. 20, 1984.

**Amended:** F. Nov. 10, 1998; eff. Nov. 30, 1998.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 8, 2002; eff. Apr. 28, 2002.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 3, 2003; eff. Apr. 23, 2003.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 8, 2004; eff. Apr. 28, 2004.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 5, 2004; eff. Aug. 25, 2004.

**Amended:** F. Feb. 4, 2010; eff. Feb. 24, 2010.

**Repealed:** New rule of same title adopted. F. Jun. 19, 2012; eff. July 9, 2012.

**Amended:** Mar. 1, 2023; eff. Mar. 21, 2013.

**Amended:** New title "Application for Veterinary Technician License." F. Mar. 24, 2021; eff. Apr. 13, 2021.

The Committee voted by acclamation to refer BR Rule 700-6-.01. Application for Veterinary Technician License to the full Board for their review during the October 9, 2024 WebEx meeting.

**Adjournment** No further business was discussed, and the Committee meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

**Minutes reviewed by:** Adrienne Price, Executive Director & Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor

**Minutes approved on:** October 9, 2024

WILLIAM WRIGHT, DVM  
**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

WILLIAM WRIGHT, DVM  
**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**