

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 4, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.**  
**Professional Licensing Boards**  
**237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA**

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine met on Wednesday, June 4, 2025. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Ms. Jessica Sewell, LVT, Chair  
Dr. Wendy Cuevas, DACVPM, Vice Chair  
Dr. William Wright, DVM, Board Member  
Dr. Seth Stowers, DVM, Board Member  
Dr. John Tarabula, DVM, Board Member

**Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor (via WebEx)  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
Arin Holder, Complaint/Compliance Analyst

**Board Members Absent**

Dr. Matthew Bradley, DVM, Board Member

**Attorney General's Office**

Elizabeth Simpson, Assistant Attorney General (via WebEx)

**Visitors Present**

Don Riddick, JD, Legal Counsel, Georgia Veterinary Medicine Association (GVMA)

**Call to Order:** Ms. Sewell established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**9:30 a.m. Public Rules Hearing**

- 1. Board Rule 700-2-.02 Application for Licensure for Veterinarians**
- 2. Board Rule 700-6-.01 Application for Veterinary Technician License**
- 3. Board Rule 700-7-.03 Continuing Veterinary Education**
- 4. Board Rule 700-7-.04 Veterinary Technician Continuing Education**
- 5. Board Rule 700-8-.01 Unprofessional Conduct**

Ms. Sewell called the hearing in the matter of proposed Board Rule 700-2-.02 Application for Licensure for Veterinarians, Board Rule 700-6-.01 Application for Veterinary Technician License, Board Rule 700-7-.03 Continuing Veterinary Education, Board Rule 700-7-.04 Veterinary Technician Continuing Education, and Board Rule 700-8-.01 Unprofessional Conduct to order at 9:46 a.m. Members of the Board introduced themselves for the record and Ms. Sewell established that there was a quorum of the Board and members of the general public present.

**1. Board Rule 700-2-.02 Application for Licensure for Veterinarians**

Dr. Wright motioned, Dr. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to table the Public Hearing for Board Rule 700-2-.02 Application for Licensure for Veterinarians, as the correct version of the rule was not posted on the Board website as required by law. The Public Rules Hearing for Rule 700-2-.02 Application for Licensure for Veterinarians will be during the August 20, 2025 Board meeting

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

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE**  
**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**BOARD RULES CHAPTER 700-6 REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY TECHNICIANS**

## **BOARD RULE 700-6-.01. APPLICATION FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN LICENSE**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the proposed amendment is to add a provision that proof of graduation from a Veterinary Technician program approved by the American Veterinary Medicine Association may be provided electronically or by an official transcript. This language already existed in the rule but was moved from another section and therefore has no substantive impact on the Rules. The amendments also clarify that it is Joint Secretary Rule or Policy which dictates when an application for licensure expires as well as the steps an applicant will need to take if the application is withdrawn due to expiration. The changes proposed within the rule carry out the policy objectives that are expressed in Georgia Veterinary Practice Act and the General Provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated are consistent with that which is stated within those statutes.

### **Board 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. The Board will review all other programs on an individual basis.
- (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 must be complete within the timeframe indicated in the Joint Secretary rules and/or policies. All applications not completed within the designated timeframe shall be considered “expired” and there shall be no refund of the application fee. Following expiration of an application, a new application in its entirety, to include all required fees, shall be required for consideration of licensure.
- (6) Licenses shall be renewable biennially by December 31 of the year in which the license expires.
  - (a) Licenses must be renewed within the period established by the division director with the payment of the renewal and late fees.
  - (b) Failure to comply voids the license.

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-50-21, 43-50-52 and 43-50-110.

#### **Written Comments Received**

No written comments were received.

#### **Verbal Comments Received**

No verbal comments received.

Dr. Cuevas motioned, Dr. Wright seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to adopt Board Rule 700-6-.01. Application for Veterinary Technician License as proposed.

The Board discussed the economic impact of Board Rule 700-6-.01. Application for Veterinary Technician License upon licensees. Dr. Wright motioned, Dr. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that the formulation and adoption of these rules do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative.

Dr. Stowers motioned, Dr. Wright seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Veterinary Medicine.

### **3. Board Rule 700-7-.03 Continuing Veterinary Education**

#### **SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE BOARD RULES CHAPTER 700-7 RENEWAL OF LICENSE, BOARD RULE 700-7-.03. CONTINUING VETERINARY EDUCATION**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the proposed amendment is to state the requirements for continuing education required of licensed veterinarians and veterinary faculty for each biennial period. It also provides additional details regarding options available for obtaining credit from online webinars. As revised, the rule additionally states that certain educational programs for required credits on Georgia laws, rules, and professionalism (“LEAP”) serve to meet said requirements. Finally, the proposed changes to the rule add a section assessing penalties, including escalating fines, for continuing education providers who fail to obtain Board approval of a proposed program at least 60 days before the program is offered.

#### **Board Rule 700-7-.03 Continuing Veterinary Education**

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine in accordance with the provisions of State Law and for the purpose of establishing certain minimum standards for continuing education in the best interest of and for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare hereby adopts the following rule:

(a) General Requirements:

1. Each veterinarian and veterinary faculty member licensed to practice in the State of Georgia must obtain thirty (30) hours of Board approved continuing education per biennium for license renewal.
  - (i) Of the thirty (30) hours required, two (2) per renewal period must be acquired in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism (LEAP). Continuing education hours may be acquired in person, by live, interactive webinars, or pre-recorded, non-interactive webinars that incorporate measures to ensure active participation throughout the course, to include, but not limited to, content-based, post-course test with a minimum of five questions per CE credit. Georgia licensees that do not practice in the State of Georgia are not required to meet the two (2) hour requirement in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism; and
  - (ii) Eighteen (18) of the thirty (30) hours must include scientific subject matter. Scientific subject matter includes all conventional medical and surgical sub-categories that are evidence based in addition to

the science of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease as it relates directly to patients and includes a comprehensive range of the practice of veterinary medicine.

2. At the time of license renewal, each veterinarian shall certify to the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine that he/she has completed the continuing education required for license renewal.
  3. Veterinarians and veterinary faculty members licensed during the first year of a biennium must obtain fifteen (15) hours of continuing education and are not required to meet the two (2) hour requirement in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism. Veterinarians and veterinary faculty members licensed during the second year of a biennium are exempt from obtaining continuing education for that renewal period. After this time period, the entire thirty (30) hours is required for each renewal.
  4. In the event that a veterinarian or a veterinary faculty member fails to verify or submit documentation of continuing education credits at the same time of renewal of his/her license, the Board will not process his/her renewal until continuing education requirements have been met and proof of such has been received and approved by the Board.
  5. If documentation of continuing education is requested in conjunction with any audit and not received by the Board on or before the deadline date provided, the licensee will be subject to disciplinary action.
  6. A veterinarian or veterinary faculty member may not carry over continuing education credits from one biennium license renewal period to the next.
  7. Each veterinarian or veterinary faculty member must maintain a record of credit hours earned and proof of attendance of such hours for a period of three years from the date of the preceding renewal period and must provide the Board with said documentation upon request.
  8. Veterinarians or veterinary faculty members who attend programs where more than one course is taught must maintain proof of the courses attended and the number of hours awarded for each course.
- (b) Approved Continuing Education Programs and Hours:
1. Blanket approval is awarded to any National, State and International veterinary association meetings, United States Department of Agriculture and Georgia Department of Agriculture sponsored meeting, Board Certified Specialties programs recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association, all AVMA accredited veterinary college or school sponsored classes and programs, all AAVSB RACE approved programs, any GVMA constituent organization programs, AAHA programs, programs sponsored by the United States or Southern Animal Health Association and any course approved by another state board.
  2. Blanket approval does not apply to any continuing education programs on Georgia laws, rules and professionalism (LEAP).
    - (i) All LEAP courses and any other (non-LEAP) continuing education course which is not offered by a blanket approved organization must be awarded Board approval before the course is offered.
      - (I) Veterinarians who provide proof of completion of Level 1 accreditation of the USDA-APHIS modules may be awarded 1 hour to meet the LEAP requirement.

- (II) Veterinarians who provide proof of completion of Level 2 accreditation of the USDA-APHIS modules may be awarded 2 hours to meet the LEAP requirement.
  - (ii) If the LEAP course is a pre-recorded, non-interactive webinar, the provider must ensure that a passing score of 80% is achieved on the content-based post course test before awarding credit for the course.
3. Providers may be awarded Board approval for a continuing education course by submitting the following for consideration by the Board:
- (i) A continuing education application form;
  - (ii) A detailed course outline or syllabus;
  - (iii) A current curriculum vitae or resume must be provided for each speaker or lecturer;
  - (iv) The procedure to be used for recording attendance; and,
  - (v) The number of continuing education hours for which the course sponsor requests approval.
4. In addition to the LEAP requirements, the remaining credit hours may be earned as follows:
- (i) One (1) hour may be given for each 50 minutes of contact time. Seminars are composed of lectures or labs; welcoming remarks, business sessions, unstructured demonstrations or degree programs are not considered seminars.
  - (ii) Three (3) hours can be for journal studies where follow-up testing is required. Fifteen (15) hours of non-interactive computer-generated courses will be allowed. Follow-up testing is required.
  - (iii) A maximum of twelve (12) hours will be allowed per calendar day.
  - (iv) A maximum of six (6) hours for veterinarians can be acquired through in-house training at the licensees' place of employment.
  - (v) A maximum of ten (10) hours can be acquired through in-house training for veterinary faculty at AVMA accredited institutions. For the purposes of this rule, "in-house training" refers to programs that are only offered to employees of the institution.
  - (vi) A maximum of three (3) hours can be acquired by licensees who conducted peer reviews for the Board.
  - (vii) Two (2) hours of continuing education credit per lecture for a subject area, regardless of the number of times the licensee presents the course, for a maximum of five different subjects.
- (c) Continuing Education Audit:
- 1. During the renewal period, the Board staff will randomly select a percentage of its licensees to audit for continuing education compliance.
  - 2. If selected for continuing education audit, each licensee must submit continuing education records to meet the renewal requirements for that license renewal period.
- (d) Provider and Sponsor Criteria: All providers and sponsors must provide the following information to the Board if they have not been awarded blanket approval:
- 1. Each sponsor or provider shall have an administrator whose responsibility is to maintain the criteria for quality in programming.

2. Providers shall use qualified personnel to develop and present the programs, which shall utilize appropriate instructional materials and resources.
3. Providers shall provide to the Board adequate advanced promotional information, material about target audiences, program content, faculty credentials and fees.
4. Providers shall provide a means of registration of the participants at each program and maintain a record of attendance for a period of three years from the date of the program.
5. Providers shall develop policies and procedures for the management of grievances.
6. Providers shall provide each participant with adequate documentation of his/her successful completion of the program. The documentation shall include:
  - (i) Name and license number of participant;
  - (ii) Name of provider;
  - (iii) Name and title of program to include the date and time each individual course was offered;
  - (iv) Hours/CEU's completed;
  - (v) Date of completion; and
  - (vi) Authorizing signature.
7. All continuing education providers seeking approval of the continuing education program by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine shall submit a current Program Approval Form for each program presented to include all program materials requested. These forms must be complete and should be submitted 60 days in advance in order to be considered by the Board.
8. If the continuing education application and materials are not submitted 60 days in advance of the date the course is to be offered, the continuing education provider will be assessed penalties as follows:
  - (i) First offense: Assessed a monetary penalty of \$100.00 to be paid in full at the time of application submission.
  - (ii) Second offense:
    - (I) Assessed a monetary penalty of \$200.00 to be paid in full at the time of application submission.
    - (II) The continuing education provider will not be allowed to submit any additional courses for approval for a period of ninety (90) days from the Board's decision on the continuing education application in question.
  - (iii) Third offense:
    - (I) Assessed a monetary penalty of \$300.00 to be paid in full at the time of application submission.
    - (II) The continuing education provider will not be allowed to submit any additional courses for approval for a period of six (6) months from the Board's decision on the continuing education application in question.
  - (iv) Forth offense: The continuing education provider will be presented to the Board to determine the next course of action.

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-50-21, 43-50-40, 43-50-50, 43-50-52 and 43-50-110.

**Written Comments Received**

No written comments were received.

**Verbal Comments Received**

No verbal comments were received.

Dr. Stowers motioned, Dr. Tarabula seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to adopt 700-7-.03 Continuing Veterinary Education as proposed.

The Board discussed the economic impact of Board Rule 700-7-.03 Continuing Veterinary Education upon licensees. Dr. Wright motioned, Dr. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that the formulation and adoption of these rules do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative.

Dr. Stowers motioned, Dr. Tarabula seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Veterinary Medicine.

**4. Board Rule 700-7-.04 Veterinary Technician Continuing Education**

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE  
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-7 RENEWAL OF LICENSE,  
BOARD RULE 700-7-.04 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**Purpose:** The purpose of rule amendment is to address the requirements of continuing education for veterinary technicians. It specifies how many hours a veterinary technician must obtain during each biennial period and in what respective subjects, the completion of which is a requirement for renewal of the license. The rule amendments also detail the procedure by which a continuing education provider can apply for Board approval of programs, and penalties for such providers applying for such approval less than 60 days prior to the offering of the program. Proposed revisions to this rule include increasing the required continuing education hours from 10 to 11, with one such hour required for the subject of Georgia laws, rules, and professionalism (“LEAP”) if the licensee practices in Georgia. It also clarifies how such programs may be accessed (in-person, live interactive webinars, or recorded webinars with certain requirements for content-based post-course testing, with 3-hour credit limits of such testing). It also limits credit hours available from in-house, employer-based training (3) and in-house training at AVMA-accredited institutions (5) making the verbiage more consistent with that which is required of licensed veterinarians.

**Board Rule 700-7-.04 Veterinary Technician Continuing Education**

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine in accordance with the provisions of State Law and for the purpose of establishing certain minimum standards for continuing education in the best interest of and for the protective of the public health, safety and welfare hereby adopts the following rule:

(a) General Requirements:

1. Each veterinary technician licensed to practice in the State of Georgia must obtain eleven (11) hours of Board approved continuing education per biennium for license renewal. Of the eleven (11) hours required, one (1) per renewal period must be acquired in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism (LEAP). Continuing education hours may be acquired in person, by live, interactive webinars, or pre-

recorded, non-interactive webinars that incorporate measures to ensure active participation throughout the course, to include, but not limited to, a content-based, post-course test with a minimum of five questions per CE credit. Georgia licensees who do not practice in the State of Georgia are not required to meet the one (1) hour requirement in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism.

2. At the time of license renewal, each veterinary technician shall certify to the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine that he/she has completed the continuing education required for license renewal.
    - (i) If the LEAP course is a pre-recorded, non-interactive webinar, the provider must ensure that a passing score of 80% is achieved on the content-based, post-course test before awarding credit for the course.
    - (ii) Veterinary technicians may satisfy the LEAP requirement by providing proof of completion of three USDA-APHIS modules.
  3. A veterinary technician licensed during the first year of a biennium must obtain five (5) hours of continuing education and is not required to meet the one (1) hour requirement in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism. A veterinary technician licensed during the second year of the biennium is exempt from obtaining continuing education for that renewal period. After this time period, the entire eleven (11) hours is required for each renewal.
  4. In the event that a veterinary technician fails to verify or submit documentation of continuing education credits at the same time of renewal of his/her license, the Board will not process his/her renewal until continuing education requirements have been met and proof of such has been received and approved by the Board. If documentation of continuing education is requested and not received by the Board prior to the expiration date, the license will expire.
  5. A veterinary technician may not carry over continuing education credits from one biennium license renewal period to the next.
  6. Each veterinary technician must maintain a record of credit hours earned and proof of attendance of such hours for a period of three years from the date of the preceding renewal period and must provide the Board with said documentation upon request.
  7. Veterinary technicians who attend programs where more than one course is taught must maintain proof of the courses attended and the number of hours awarded for each course.
- (b) Approved Continuing Education Programs and Hours:
1. Blanket approval is awarded to any National, State and International veterinary association meetings, United States Department of Agriculture and Georgia Department of Agriculture sponsored meeting, Board Certified Specialties programs recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association, all AVMA accredited veterinary college or school sponsored classes and programs, all AAVSB RACE approved programs, any GVMA constituent organization programs, AAHA programs, programs sponsored by the United State or Southern Animal Health Association and any course approved by another state board. Blanket approval does not apply to any continuing education programs on Georgia laws, rules and professionalism.

2. All continuing education courses on Georgia laws, rules and professionalism (LEAP) or any continuing education course which is not offered by a blanket approved organization must be awarded Board approval. Providers may be awarded Board approval for a continuing education course by submitting the following:
    - (i) A continuing education application form;
    - (ii) A detailed course outline or syllabus;
    - (iii) A current curriculum must be provided for each speaker or lecturer;
    - (iv) The procedure to be used for recording attendance;
    - (v) The number of continuing education hours for which the course sponsor requests approval.
  3. In addition to the LEAP hour requirement for resident veterinary technicians, the remaining credit hours may be earned as follows:
    - (i) One (1) hour may be given for each 50 minutes of contact time. Seminars are composed of lectures or labs; welcoming remarks, business sessions, unstructured demonstrations or degree programs are not considered seminars.
    - (ii) Not more than four (4) hours can be obtained from veterinary journal studies or non-interactive computer-generated courses where follow-up testing is required.
    - (iii) A maximum of three (3) hours for veterinary technicians can be acquired through in-house training at the licensees' place of employment.
    - (iv) A maximum of five (5) hours can be acquired through in-house training for veterinary technicians at AVMA accredited institutions.
- (c) Continuing Education Audit:
1. During the renewal period, the Board staff will randomly select up to 25% of its licensees to audit for continuing education compliance. If selected for continuing education audit, each licensee must submit continuing education records to meet the renewal requirements for that license renewal period.
- (d) Provider and Sponsor Criteria: All providers and sponsors must provide the following information to the Board if they have not been awarded blanket approval:
1. Each sponsor or provider shall have an administrator whose responsibility is to maintain the criteria for quality in programming.
  2. Providers shall use qualified personnel to develop and present the programs, which shall utilize appropriate instructional materials and resources.
  3. Providers shall provide to the Board adequate advanced promotional information, material about target audiences, program content, faculty credentials and fees.
  4. Providers shall provide a means of registration of the participants at each program and maintain a record of attendance for a period of three years from the date of the program.
  5. Providers shall develop policies and procedures for the management of grievances.
  6. Providers shall provide each participant with adequate documentation of his/her successful completion of the program. The documentation shall include:

- (i) Name and license number of participant;
  - (ii) Name of provider;
  - (iii) Name and title of program;
  - (iv) Hours/CEU's completed;
  - (v) Date of completion; and
  - (vi) Authorizing signature.
7. All continuing education providers seeking approval of the continuing education program by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine shall submit a Program Approval Form for each program presented. These forms should be submitted 60 days in advance.
8. If the continuing education application and materials are not submitted sixty (60) days in advance of the date the course is to be offered, the continuing education provider will be assessed penalties as follows:
- (i) First offense: Assessed a monetary penalty of \$100.00 to be paid in full at the time of application submission.
  - (ii) Second offense:
    - (I) Assessed a monetary penalty of \$200.00 to be paid in full at the time of application submission.
    - (II) The continuing education provider will not be allowed to submit any additional courses for approval for a period of ninety (90) days from the Board's decision on the continuing education application in question.
  - (iii) Third offense:
    - (I) Assessed a monetary penalty of \$300.00 to be paid in full at the time of application submission.
    - (II) The continuing education provider will not be allowed to submit any additional courses for approval for a period of six (6) months from the Board's decision on the continuing education application in question.
  - (iv) Fourth offense: The continuing education provider will be presented to the Board to determine the next course of action.

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. §43-1-25, 43-50-2, 43-50-21, 43-50-40, 43-50-50, 43-50-52 and 43-50-110.

**Written Comments Received**

No written comments were received.

**Verbal Comments Received**

No verbal comments were received.

Dr. Stowers motioned, Dr. Tarabula seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to adopt Board Rule 700-7-.04. Veterinary Technician Continuing Education as proposed.

The Board discussed the economic impact of Board Rule 700-7-.04. Veterinary Technician Continuing Education upon licensees. Dr. Tarabula motioned, Dr. Wright seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the

motion that the formulation and adoption of these rules do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative.

Dr. Tarabula motioned, Dr. Wright seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Veterinary Medicine.

## **5. Board Rule 700-8-.01 Unprofessional Conduct**

### **SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-8 UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, BOARD RULE 700-8-.01 UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the proposed amendment is to address concerns posed by the public on the impact of the rule on veterinarians who work with kennels, rescues and wild, exotic or non-traditional companion animals. The proposed amendments further define and clarify the information that should be recorded in the patient record as well as clarify the timeframe during which the Board would expect a veterinarian to respond to a request of the Board.

#### **Rule 700-8-.01. Unprofessional Conduct. Amended.**

Unprofessional conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Advertising - defined: Advertising shall mean any information communicated in a manner designed to attract public attention to the practice of the licensee or registrant. Advertising shall include but not be limited to, a communication, published or displayed through the use of newspaper, internet, telephone directory, pamphlets or handouts, radio, television, signs, billboard, window display or any other means of medium.
  - 1. A licensee or registrant shall not make any false, misleading or deceptive communication in any form of advertising.
  - 2. Advertisement of prices must contain a complete description of veterinary services included in any advertised price and disclosure of any extra charges that may be required to serve the consumer's needs.
- (b) Professional Relationships:
  - 1. It shall be unprofessional conduct for a licensee or registrant without just cause and in bad faith or for the purpose of soliciting patronage or personal pecuniary gain to disparage the profession or professional capabilities of another licensee or registrant.
  - 2. It shall be unprofessional conduct to aid any person, firm, or corporation to engage in the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine.
  - 3. It shall be unprofessional conduct for a licensee or registrant to guarantee a cure or to offer his name in a commercial setting in a testimonial as to virtues of proprietary remedies or foods.

4. Consultation by an attending veterinarian with other veterinarian expert in the particular matter on which consultation is sought is in the public interest and thus is expected of the attending veterinarian when the need arises. But such consultation is discouraged if the consulting veterinarian employs the relationship so created to disparage the attending veterinarian or to solicit business; such practices are not in the public interest.
    - (i) It shall therefore be unprofessional conduct for a licensee called as a consulting veterinarian to disparage in the presence of the client the competence of the attending veterinarian. The Board does, however, expect any incompetence or negligence to be reported to it and nothing in this rule prohibits such reports or the giving of testimony in public or private litigation.
    - (ii) It shall be unprofessional conduct for a consulting veterinarian to assume unauthorized control of the case or to utilize the consulting relationship to solicit business for himself or others.
  5. It shall be unprofessional conduct for a licensee employed to render professional advice by one party in negotiations concerning the sale of an animal to accept a fee from the other party.
- (c) Failure to Maintain Patient Records:
1. A veterinarian shall prepare and maintain a record reflecting the care and treatment of animals treated or boarded.
  2. These records shall contain clinical information sufficient to justify the diagnosis and warrant treatment and shall, if applicable, include but not be limited to the following information:
    - (i) Name, address, and telephone number of the animal's owner;
    - (ii) Name of attending veterinarian and staff rendering care;
    - (iii) Patient identification, including name, ages, sex and breed;
    - (iv) Dates of examination, treatment and custody of the animal;
    - (v) Patient history;
    - (vi) Presenting complaint;
    - (vii) Vaccination history;
    - (viii) Findings from physical examination, including temperature and weight for each examination;
    - (ix) Clinical lab reports, if applicable;
    - (x) Medication prescribed or recommended, including dose, strength, and frequency;
    - (xi) Anesthetic, including dose, strength, type, amount and monitoring of vital signs at frequent intervals, if applicable;

- (xii) Details of surgical procedure including complications and/or abnormalities noted with documentation of suture materials used;
  - (xiii) Progress and disposition of the case to include client communications and copies of any written instructions for home care;
  - (xiv) Differential diagnoses; and
  - (xv) Radiographs to include radiographic interpretations.
3. All records shall be kept in a readily retrievable form, shall be recorded contemporaneously, and shall be filed promptly following treatment.
  4. Patient records shall be kept by a veterinarian for three (3) years after a patient's last visit, notwithstanding any other provisions of law.
  5. Copies of patient records must be made available to the owner of the animal upon written request to the veterinarian who treated the animal or to the veterinarian facility where the treatment was provided. Such records must be made available within ten (10) business days from request. The veterinarian may charge a reasonable charge for the search, retrieval, duplication and, if applicable, mailing of the patient records.
  6. A veterinarian shall respond to an inquiry by the Board within fifteen (15) days and/or provide the Board with evidence that requested records have been released to the client.
  7. Failure to keep records as required by this subparagraph shall constitute a failure to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing veterinary medical practice.
- (d) Failure to have an appropriate Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship. An appropriate veterinarian/client/patient relationship will exist when:
1. The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, and the client (owner or other caretaker) has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian;
  2. There is sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) by the veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s). This means that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of:
    - (i) An examination of the animal by the veterinarian within the last twelve (12) months, or
    - (ii) Medically appropriate and timely visits by the veterinarian to the premises where the patient is kept.
  3. A veterinarian/client/patient relationship cannot be established solely by telephone, computer, or other electronic means; however,
    - (i) Once a veterinarian/client/patient relationship is established, it may be maintained telephonically, electronically, or by any other method of communication between:

- (I) In person medically necessary examinations; or,
  - (II) Visits to the premises where the animal is kept, provided that it is within the periods of time that are appropriate for the medical issue in question and the species and age of the animal; and,
  - (III) A failure to require in person examinations or visits in accordance with the minimum standard of care for the diagnosis, treatment, or other practice of veterinary medicine for an animal shall be considered unprofessional conduct.
    - I. A licensed veterinarian may provide advice and recommendations via electronic means in an emergency where death is imminent if an in-person examination of the patient will be conducted within 60 minutes of the provision of such advice or recommendations; and,
4. A licensed veterinarian is readily available for follow-up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy.
- (e) Prescription Drugs:
- 1. It is unlawful for a veterinarian to release, prescribe, and/or dispense any prescription drugs without having established a valid veterinary/client/patient relationship.
  - 2. After a valid veterinary/client/patient relationship has been established, a veterinarian must make available, upon request, at a reasonable cost, a written prescription.
- (f) Failure to cooperate with an investigation of the board to include but not limited to allowing agents of the Board to inspect veterinary premises and equipment, including mobile veterinary clinics.

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-50-3, 43-50-21, 43-50-41, 43-50-90 and 43-50-110.

**Written Comments Received**

No written comments were received.

**Verbal Comments Received**

Public verbal comment was provided by Don Riddick, JD, GVMA Counsel, who stated that during the continuing education courses provided on laws, ethics, and professionalism (LEAP), that veterinarians, specifically from non-small animal practices, expressed concerns that the use of ‘if applicable’ within the rule makes them fearful of their potential to violate the rules. He stated that where that population of the veterinary community feels that the intent of the rule is exceptional and well supported, there is some confusion on how to apply the rule in a large animal practice, and they could benefit from the parameters being more defined.

After discussion, the Board proceeded to adopt the rule as posted on the basis that it would be too difficult and very restrictive on the various different types of veterinary practices to include more specificity within the rule as the parameters of medical care must be applied to a patient on a case by case basis, in accordance to what is best for that patient. Additionally, the care provided for the different types of animals vary somewhat for the patient as well as the patient’s environment. The rules cannot account for every scenario but merely provide minimum requirements to ensure patient safety. The Board determined that as licensed professionals, veterinarians must have the latitude to make informed decisions on the care of their patients and if the veterinarian adequately documents and supports their care within the medical record, a peer review of the care will likely reveal no violations should the veterinarian be investigated.

Dr. Tarabula motioned, Dr. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to adopt Board Rule 700-8-.01. Unprofessional Conduct. Amended. as proposed.

The Board discussed the economic impact of Board Rule 700-8-.01. Unprofessional Conduct. Amended. upon licensees. Dr. Wright motioned, Dr. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that the formulation and adoption of these rules do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative.

Dr. Stowers motioned, Dr. Tarabula seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Wright motioned, Dr. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to release the Memorandums of Authority regarding the proposed rules to the Governor's Office.

The hearing was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

**Agenda** Dr. Wright motioned, Dr. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the agenda as presented.

### **Open Session Board Minutes**

#### **1. April 2, 2025 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Wright motioned, Dr. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the April 2, 2025 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes, as amended for a clerical correction.

#### **2. June 3, 2025 Open Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Wright motioned, Dr. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the June 3, 2025 Open Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes, as presented.

### **Licenses to Ratify: March 26, 2025 – May 27, 2025**

Dr. Stowers motioned, Dr. Wright seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to ratify the licenses by application and by reinstatement that were issued in accordance with Board Rules and Policies, between Board meetings.

### **Correspondence – The practice of charging for prescriptions – Zach Ruege**

Dr. Stowers motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that the absence of a reference to cost in the AVMA Principles does not preclude one's ability to charge for services rendered when processing prescription requests.

### **Correspondence – Equine Veterinary Sedation Responsibility Question – Miriam Chari, DVM**

Dr. Stowers motioned, Dr. Wright seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of Advice.

### **Discussion – American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)**

- 1. Discussion – KBVE Proposed Resolutions for AAVSB Delegate Assembly**
- 2. Proposed Amendments to AAVSB Bylaws – Dr. Wright, DVM**
- 3. Registration is Open for the 2025 AAVSB Annual Meeting and Conference**

**4. Board of Directors' Meeting – May 14, 2025**

- i. Final Versions of Model Documents\_Beth Venit, VMD, MPH, DACVPM, Chief Veterinary Officer
- ii. Proposed Changes to the Practice Act Model
- iii. Model Regulation - Medical Record Keeping

**5. 2025 AAVSB Annual Meeting and Conference – Agenda**

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to AAVSB as information.

**Discussion – American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) – Correction – Council on Education (COE) Report of Accreditation Actions**

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to AVMA as information.

**Discussion – Rule 700-16-.01. Practice of Foreign Graduates Prior to Licensure**

Dr. Cuevas motioned, Dr. Tarabula seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer Rule 700-16-.01. Practice of Foreign Graduates Prior to Licensure to the Rules Committee to clarify “any capacity” and what to determine the outcome if they do not pass; in what capacity they can serve.

**Discussion – Governor's Active Supervision Certificates**

1. BR 700-2-.04
2. BR 700-6-.02

The Board accepts the Governor's Active Supervision Certificates as information.

**Executive Director’s Report – A. Price**

Executive Director’s Report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications, the number of licensees, and complaints/compliance matters to include the number of Continuing Education applications pending, approved, and denied. In addition, she addressed the following topics with the Board:

- Task Force for Establishing a VCPR via Virtual Means
- PLB Updates
- Georgia General Assembly
- AAVSB Director Position

Dr. Stowers motioned, Dr. Tarabula seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director’s report as presented, and to post the report to the Board website.

**Board Chair’s Report – J. Sewell, LVT**

No official report presented, although Ms. Sewell stated that all eyes are on Georgia because the profession is turning around for Veterinary Technicians due the synchronistic function and proactive efforts between the Board, the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA) and the Georgia Veterinary Technician Association (GVTA) to understand the needs of the public and the profession. As a result, necessary changes are being made via the rule promulgation process, and law amendments.

Dr. Stowers brought up the shortage of veterinary technicians and how this is affecting the profession. He expressed his concern about how to encourage more technician interest. Ms. Sewell shared that it is frustrating from the technician point of view as they are not getting paid for what they are trained to do. She continued that educating the public regarding their abilities and function in a veterinary practice is paramount as this will allow the technicians to practice their craft in the manner for which they have been trained.

Ms. Price indicated that based on her attendance to the national meetings, it is being reported that there is a fear factor involving veterinarians in practice in relation to what they should allow technicians to do. Ms. Price shared that this information will now be more clearly defined in the Board Rules which will allow the veterinarians in practice to focus on performing their primary duties. Ms. Price continued that this should be encouraging to the technicians in Georgia as they will be able to practice what they love and hopefully receive the appropriate financial compensation. Ms. Sewel agreed this will empower the technician to be and do more in their role.

Dr. Stowers commented that the older generation of veterinarians will not allow their technicians to step into their abilities as those vets have done it themselves for so long and are not ready to pass the baton. Ms. Sewell noted that it takes a new way of thinking and education is key. She also noted that the younger generation struggles to balance work and school.

Dr. Wright shared that he feels the key to alleviating the technician shortage is to promote enrollment into technical schools to those in middle and high school when they are early in considering a career path. He continued that Future Farmers of America (FFA) is trying to enter technician programs and he said that it is paramount for the state as a whole to get interested students in the pipeline early.

Ms. Sewell feels that time management mentoring is important, to include scheduling and partnering with employers to pay them to be in the office to do schoolwork for two (2) hours a day for example. Dr. Stowers stated that he supports nine (9) FFA programs in his community. He shared that there is too much emphasis on becoming a veterinarian whereas technicians should receive equal support since there is so much now that technicians are legally allowed to handle in their scope of practice. He suggested that school presentations should be with both a veterinarian and a veterinary technician presenting and supporting the field in concert. Those who teach need to also promote careers for veterinary technicians.

Dr. Wright noted that the profession has a ratio of 5 to 1 veterinarian to veterinary technicians, and this should be the opposite. Ms. Price agreed, noting that there are 10-1 dental hygienists to dentists. She continued that it is encouraging to see that there are many state and federal associations who are pointing students to tech programs and trade professions. It is a great climate for focusing on middle and high school students for encouraging careers in the veterinary technician field. Dr. Stowers pointed out that in the state of Michigan, technicians do clinical rotations with veterinarians, and he encouraged UGACVM to do the same. Ms. Sewell said that the veterinary educational programs need to take some responsibility for this discrepancy within the profession and own some of the shortage problems.

Ms. Sewell encouraged Dr. Riddick to share their sentiments with the Georgia Veterinary Medicine Association (GVMA) and encourage them to work with the University of Georgia to develop continuing education programming to educate veterinarians on the expanded scope of veterinary technicians and how they can help to encourage middle and high school students to take an interest in becoming veterinary technicians.

**Dr. Wright made a motion, Dr. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted to enter Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2(k); 43-1-19 (h) and 50-14-2 (1) to receive and review information pertaining to investigative reports, pending cases and enforcement matters and to receive the Assistant Attorney General's report. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included: Ms. Sewell, Dr. Cuevas, Dr. Wright, Dr. Tarabula, and Dr. Stowers.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, Ms. Sewell declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken during the executive session.**

## OPEN SESSION

### Executive Session Board Minutes

1. April 2, 2025 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes
2. June 3, 2025 Executive Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes

Dr. Stowers motioned, Dr. Wright seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the April 2, 2025 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes and the June 3, 2025 Executive Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes, as presented.

**Attorney General’s Report – E. Simpson**

1. **AG MEMO - Request for Clarification - VET230166**
2. **AG MEMO OF AUTHORITY**
  - a) **BR 700-12-.04 Record Keeping**
  - b) **BR 700-14-.01 Immediate Supervision**
  - c) **BR 700-14-.02 Direct Supervision**
  - d) **BR 700-14-.03 Indirect Supervision**
  - e) **BR 700-14-.04. Restrictions**

Ms. Sewell motioned, Dr. Wright seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that the statute grants veterinary faculty all of the rights and privileges of a licensed veterinarian in a limited setting; therefore, veterinary faculty should be eligible for DEA licenses if they meet all necessary criteria and can handle controlled substances.

Dr. Tarabula motioned, Dr. Stowers seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General’s Report and advice as presented.

**Legal Services Memorandum**

Dr. Stowers motioned, Dr. Tarabula seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

1. **Cases for Ratification**
  - a) **VET250090**
  - b) **VET250110**
  - c) **VET250112**
  - d) **VET250109**

Accept the orders as received.

- a) **Case for Reconsideration – VET250113**

Uphold the previous decision.

**Investigative Summary Report – J. Sewell, LVT**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>VET240030</b> | Refer to Investigations.  |
| <b>VET240035</b> | Close the case due to insufficient information.   |
| <b>VET240042</b> | Refer to Investigations.  |
| <b>VET240043</b> | Close the case due to insufficient information.   |
| <b>VET240044</b> | Close the case due to insufficient information.   |
| <b>VET240048</b> | Close the case due to insufficient information.   |
| <b>VET190077</b> | Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for an Order for Mental Physical Examination based upon violations of an order of the Board. |

Dr. Wright motioned, Dr. Cuevas seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Investigative Summary Report as presented.

**Applications for Board Review**

Dr. Stowers motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

**Applicant 4222867** Issue the license.

**Applicant 4212245** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$500 and the completion of thirty (30) continuing education hours to satisfy Board requirements including two (2) LEAP Continuing Education hours. Proof of completion of the CE hours must be submitted and the fine paid in full within six (6) months of the order docket date. Continuing education hours to satisfy the terms of the order cannot be used to meet the CE requirements for the biennium ending December 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.

**Applicant 4215068** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$250 for failure to complete CE within the biennium. The fine must be paid within ninety (90) days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.

**Applicant 4183397** Renew the license.

**Adjournment** No further business was discussed, and the meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

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

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

**Minutes approved on:** August 20, 2025

JESSICA SEWELL, LVT  
**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

**AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF  
PUBLIC MEETING**

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 *et seq.*, requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding officer execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specific exceptions relied upon. O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meeting in question.

Comes now Jessica M Sewell the presiding officer identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the Georgia Veterinary Medicine Board.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in all other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On June 4th 2025 this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of the members present voted to close the meeting or a portion thereof for the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for the closure of this meeting was:  
O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h)
5. The subject(s) discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are:  
To deliberate applications and enforcement matters and to receive information on applications and investigative reports.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT

Jessica M Sewell  
Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me  
This 16 day of June 2025

Walton Lee Fellows  
Notary Public

