



# Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

## The Scratching Post

Fall 2012

### Our Mission

The Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board protects the health, safety and welfare of the general public, as well as the welfare of animals, by enforcing the licensing standards prescribed by statute for the licensing and regulation of veterinarians, certified veterinary technicians, veterinary premises, and animal crematories.



### this issue

License Renewals/CE P. 2

Draft Rules Revisions Process P. 4

Investigative Committee News P. 5

ASBP's Prescription Monitoring Program P. 6

## Letter From the Chairman

- Scott Plummer, DVM, DACVIM

We are coming to the close of 2012, so it is time for an update from the Board. A big effort we have undertaken this year is to initiate some revisions to the Administrative Rules. These suggested changes are primarily "housekeeping" in nature, as some rules needed clarification or were outdated. Modifying the Administrative Rules involves a formal process of publication in the Arizona Administrative Register and a public comment period, which has recently begun. The draft rules package is currently posted on our website, so please take some time to review it. These rules impact you on a daily basis, so we really need input from veterinarians, CVT's and the public! I strongly encourage you to be part of this process!

Don't forget everyone needs to renew their licenses by the end of the year!

Please check to make sure you have enough CE credits. If not, start looking so that you are in compliance when you renew your license. Along with other efforts to streamline and create cost-effective processes, we are currently working on an online system for license/certification renewals. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that this will be operating in time for the upcoming license renewal period.

On a positive note, the number of complaints filed against veterinarians has dropped. Unfortunately, most of the issues are the same ones the Board deals with every year - - COMMUNICATION and Record Keeping. So keep that in mind as you go about your daily work routine and take a moment to review the Administrative Rules that spell out the record keeping requirements.

Happy Holidays!

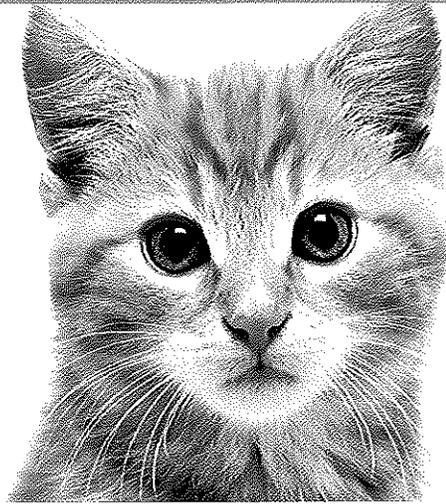
Does your CE qualify for license renewal credit?

☑ Please refer to Administrative Rules R3-11-401 through R3-11-405 to be sure that the CE you plan to take or have taken will be approved!

☑ We encourage you not to register for a course until you determine if it will be accepted for CE credit!

☑ All courses approved by RACE or sponsored by the AzVMA or AAVSB are automatically approved.

☑ To view a list of additional Board-approved CE for this renewal cycle, please see our website at [www.vetboard.az.gov](http://www.vetboard.az.gov).



## It's Renewal Time!

All licenses and certification renewals are due December 31, 2012! Renewal notices will be mailed in November.

At the time of renewal, you will be required to submit information pertaining to Continuing Education (CE) hours that have been earned since January 1, 2011.

### For Veterinarians:

During the two-year period preceding license expiration, a licensee shall complete 20 credit hours of Board-approved continuing education, subject to the following:

1. A maximum of two credit hours in practice management;
2. One credit hour for each hour of attendance at a veterinary college seminar;
3. One credit hour for each hour of attendance at a scientific meeting related to veterinary medicine;
4. A maximum of five credit hours for:
  - a. Each hour spent developing or presenting a presentation related to veterinary medicine;
  - b. Each hour of study using tapes or CDs, and
  - c. Each hour spent reading articles in veterinary

journals or periodicals pertaining to veterinary medicine or controlled substances; and

5. One credit hour for each hour of continuing education obtained on the Internet.

If you received your license in 2012, please refer to Administrative Rule R3-11-401(B) for your requirements.

### For CVTs:

During the two-year period preceding certificate expiration, a certificate holder shall complete 10 credit hours of Board-approved continuing education, subject to the following:

1. One credit hour for each hour of attendance at a veterinary college seminar;
2. One credit hour for each hour of attendance at a class at a veterinary technology school;
3. One credit hour for each hour of attendance at a scientific meeting related to the work of a veterinary technician;

4. A maximum of two and one half credit hours for:

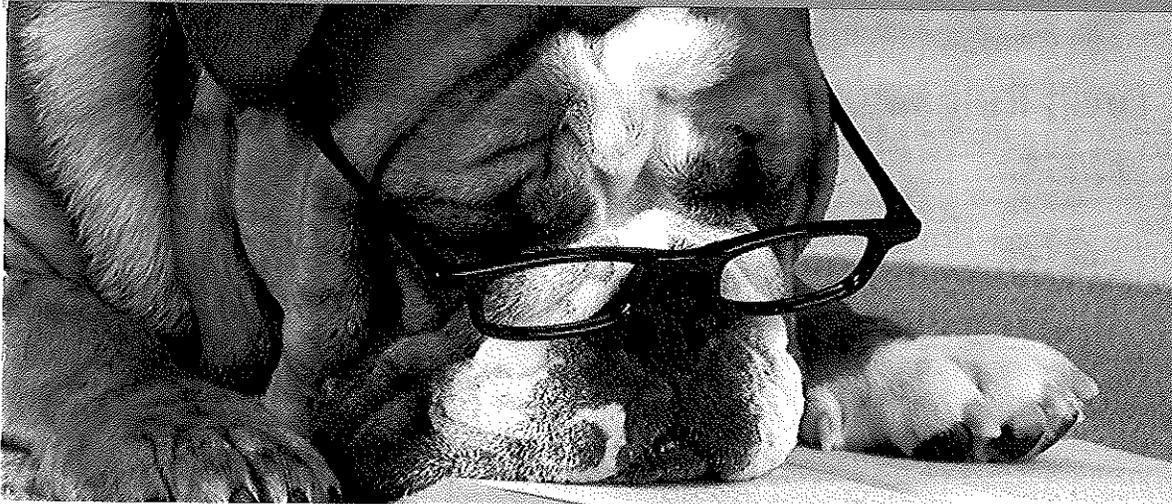
- a. Each hour spent developing or presenting a presentation related to the work of a veterinary technician;

- b. Each hour of study using tapes or CDs, and

- c. Each hour spent reading articles in veterinary journals or periodicals pertaining to veterinary medicine or controlled substances; and

5. One credit hour for each hour of continuing education obtained on the Internet.

If you received your certification in 2012, please refer to Administrative Rule R3-11-401 (D).



## EARN 2 HOURS OF FREE CE! Attend a Board Meeting

You can earn 2 CE credits by attending a Board meeting (if you are not listed on the agenda).

Be sure to sign the CE sheet at the entrance to the meeting room or ask a staff member for assistance.

There will NOT be a Board meeting in November; the next meeting will be Wednesday, December 19, 2012.

## Change Your Address or Place of Employment?

A.R.S. § 32-2233 requires licensees to notify the board within twenty days in writing about any change in residence, practice, ownership, or responsible veterinarian.

Please use the Name/Address Change form on our website, under the "Forms" tab at [www.vetboard.az.gov](http://www.vetboard.az.gov).

### Premise License Applications

Do you need to submit a new premise license application? If your premise changed ownership or Responsible Veterinarian and/or moved locations, you are required to submit a new application because any of those changes cancels a license. Of course, if you opened a new premise, that also triggers the need for a new application as well.

Please see the Arizona Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules for details and/or call the Board staff at (602)542-8605 for assistance.

## GENERAL INFO: Board Meetings

Meetings are held beginning at 8:30 a.m. at 1400 W. Washington St., Phoenix, in the Basement Conference Room B1. Enter on the north side of the building.

Meetings are usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month with the exception of July. Check the website for details.

## Reportable Criminal Charges

**Don't wait until renewal time to report charges to the Board.**

Under Arizona law, any veterinarian or certified technician, or person who has filed an application for either, is required to report to the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining



Board within 10 days of being charged with any felony or with certain misdemeanors. (See A.R.S. § 32-3208).

## Draft Rules Public Comment Period Now Open

The Board has initiated a process to update and revise the Administrative Rules that apply to the agency. We welcome your review and comments on the draft rules package that has been submitted for the formal rulemaking process. Please visit our website to view/download the Rules package. This information can also be found in the Arizona Administrative Register on the Arizona Secretary of State's website at [www.azsos.gov](http://www.azsos.gov).

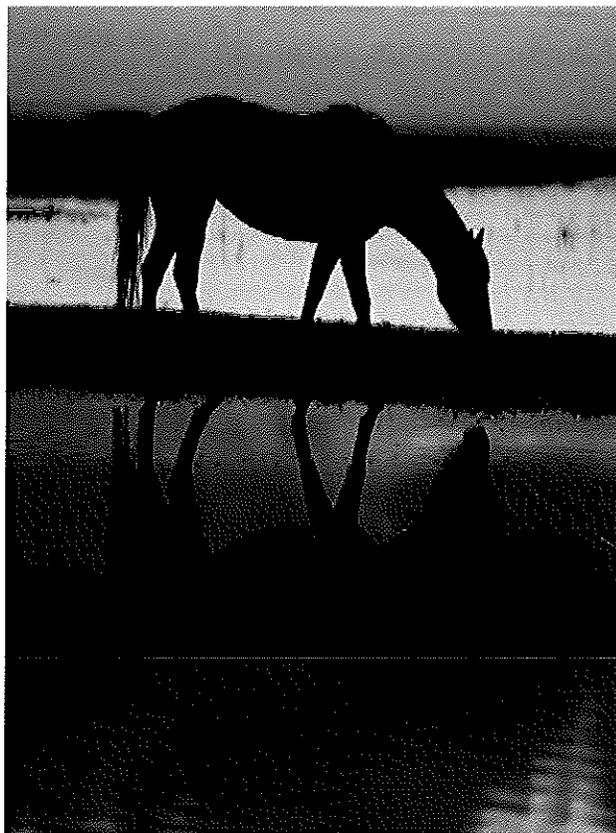
We encourage you to review this material and submit comments by email, mail, or fax by November 14, 2012.

An oral proceeding is scheduled for November 14, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at 1400 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ in the Conference Room B1 (basement). This is offered as an option to provide comments orally. The Executive Director will be available to answer questions and record the comments.

To submit comments:

- Mail to:  
Arizona State Veterinary  
Medical Examining Board  
1400 W. Washington St.  
Room 240  
Phoenix, AZ 85007
- Email to:  
[victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov](mailto:victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov)
- Fax to: (602) 364-1039

For questions, please contact the Executive Director, Victoria Whitmore, at the email address above, or call (602) 542-8150.



We encourage you to review this material and submit comments by email, mail, or fax by November 14, 2012.

# Investigative Committee News



Many thanks to Terry Horrall, who recently left the Investigative Committee (IC) after two years of volunteer service to the A.M. committee! We appreciate his dedication to helping us carry out our mission!

In September, the Board appointed Mary Williams as a "Public Member" to take Mr. Horrall's place on the committee. Jumping right in, Ms. Williams has already attended training and her first meeting.

A retired Senior VP in the insurance industry, Ms. Williams has been active for many years in the cattle industry as well. She has added the IC to her long list of volunteer activities.

## Public Member Volunteer Needed!

The A.M. Investigative Committee is in need of an additional public member to serve beginning in early 2013. Appointed by the Board for a two-year term, the committee members generally meet once per month except in July from 9:00 a.m. to approximately noon (or 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the P.M. Committee). Meeting times may run longer or shorter depending on the day's agenda and complexity of cases reviewed.

Each committee consists of three licensed veterinarians and two members of the general public. The Investigative Committee may conduct witness interviews, review medical records and other case materials, discuss the case, and make recommendations to the Board regarding case dismissal or potential violations. Their work is a vital step in thoroughly reviewing all cases before decisions are made by the Board.

For more information, contact Tracy Riendeau, Staff Investigator, at (602) 542-8167.

**To apply,**

**Please submit  
the Volunteer  
Candidate  
Information  
Form by  
December 6,  
2012.**

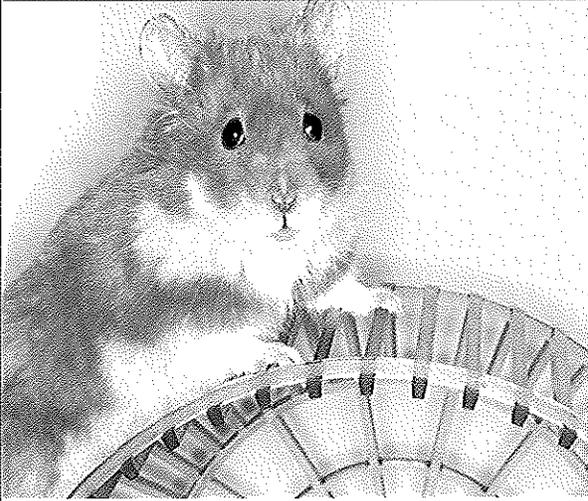
**The form is  
available on our  
website, Forms  
section.**

# What is the PMP?

Arizona's Forty-eighth Legislature passed a law which required the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy (ASBP) to establish a controlled substances prescription monitoring program (CSPMP). It also requires pharmacies and medical practitioners who dispense controlled substances listed in Schedule II, III, and IV to a patient, to report prescription information to the Board of Pharmacy on a weekly basis.

Because veterinarians dispense so few controlled substances, the CSPMP allows veterinarians to report their dispensing information monthly instead of weekly.

The new statutes, A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 28 are available on the ASBP's website under the "CS-Rx Monitoring Program" link at:  
[www.azpharmacy.gov](http://www.azpharmacy.gov).



## Arizona State Board of Pharmacy News

-by Dean Wright, Prescription  
Monitoring Program Director

Arizona is not the first state to have a prescription monitoring program. Far from it, Arizona is one of 49 states and one territory that have legislation establishing a monitoring program. There are now 41 states with operational CSPMPs.

A 2005 survey by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration shows that 17% of substance abusers obtained drugs by presenting pain complaints to multiple physicians.

Substance abusers often seek prescriptions from more than one doctor. By filling the prescriptions at different pharmacies, they are often able to avoid notice.

The purpose of the legislation is to improve the State's ability to identify controlled substance abusers or misusers and refer them

for treatment, and to identify and stop diversion of prescription controlled substance drugs in an efficient and cost effective manner that will not impede the appropriate medical utilization of licit controlled substances.

The primary function of the

and deterring drug diversion, consistent with A.R.S. § 36-2604. Assuring confidentiality and the security of data is a primary consideration for the program, including data collection and storage, request transmissions, and dissemination of reports.

The ASBP began collecting data from pharmacies in October 2008. Collection from dispensing

practitioners began in 2009.

**Medical practitioners  
can register at this web  
link:**

**[http://azpharmacy.gov/  
pmp/default.asp](http://azpharmacy.gov/pmp/default.asp)**

**Click on the  
Registration/Renewal  
link.**

**The law requires all medical practitioners, (including veterinarians) who possess a license and DEA registration to register with the CSPMP. There is no fee.**

ASBP is to provide a central repository of all prescriptions dispensed for Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances in Arizona. Authorized persons may request information from this repository to assist them in treating patients and identifying

For more information, contact

Dean Wright  
ASBP  
(602) 771-2744  
[dwright@azpharmacy.gov](mailto:dwright@azpharmacy.gov)



## News from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) recently held a free workshop concerning biohazardous medical waste compliance that was open to the veterinary community. We encourage you to learn how statutes and rules that pertain to this ADEQ subject may impact you and your practice. ADEQ has provided the information below:

### Biohazardous Medical Waste & Medical Waste questions:

Daniel Salzler, Inspector  
Solid Waste Inspections & Compliance  
Unit, ADEQ  
(602) 771-4119  
Email: ds2@azdeq.gov

### Hazardous Waste questions:

Nicole Coronado, Manager  
Hazardous Waste Inspections &  
Compliance, ADEQ  
(602) 771-4245  
Email: nm1@azdeq.gov

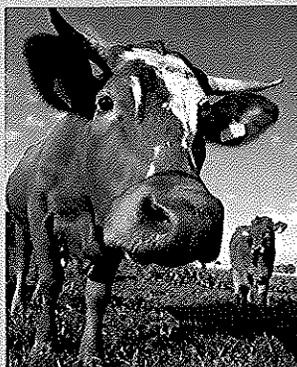
More info: [www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov)

Biohazardous medical waste transporters can be found at:  
<http://azdeq.gov/environ/waste/solid/download/bhmwh.pdf>

The rules regarding biohazardous medical waste can be found at:  
[http://www.asos.gov/public\\_services/Title\\_18/18-13.htm](http://www.asos.gov/public_services/Title_18/18-13.htm) (scroll to Article 14)

## USDA-APHIS Office New Location

The Tempe USDA-APHIS office was recently relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico. The new contact information is:



USDA-APHIS-VS  
6200 Jefferson St. NE  
Ste. 117  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
505-761-3160

## CVT Exam Update

Beginning in 2013, the State exam will be offered three times per year, instead of two, to coincide with the three VTNE testing windows. We hope this offers more flexibility and opportunities for candidates to take the exam when it is most convenient for them.

## CURRENT Statistics

- ✓ Veterinarians  
2163
- ✓ CVTs  
977
- ✓ Premises  
814
- ✓ Animal  
Crematories  
19



**ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD**

1400 W. Washington St., Ste. 240  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-364-1738 ph  
602-364-1039 fax  
www.vetboard.az.gov



**Staff Contacts**

**Executive Director:**

Victoria Whitmore  
602-542-8150

**Investigations:**

Tracy Riendeau  
602-542-8167

**Licensing:**

Kodi Calais  
602-542-8166

**General Information:**

Deb Turner  
602-364-1739

**Board Members**

- Scott Plummer, DVM - Chair
- Christina Bertch-Mumaw, DVM
- Nancy Bradley, DVM
- James Christensen, DVM
- Deb Gullett
- Julie Mumford, CVT
- Brian Serbin, DVM
- Cynthia Tidwell-Shelton
- Julie Young

**Investigative Committee Members**

**AM Committee:**

- Jeffery Brown, DVM - Chair
- Alex Casuccio, DVM
- Christina M. Fleming
- Robyn Jaynes, DVM
- Mary Williams

**PM Committee:**

- Tamara Murphy - Chair
- Shelly Forstrom
- Irvin Ingram, DVM
- Robert Kritsberg, DVM
- Amrit Rai, DVM

**Visit our website at [www.vetboard.az.gov](http://www.vetboard.az.gov)**