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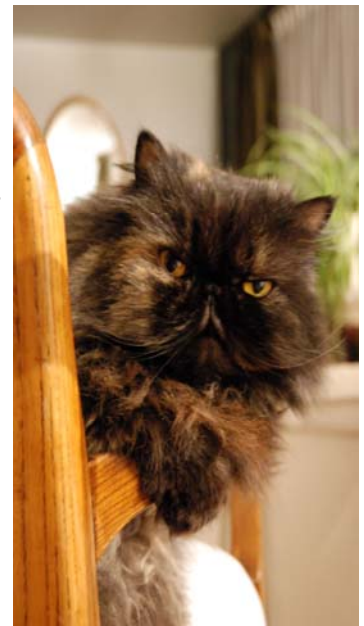
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STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AN ACTIVE LICENSE TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE

During the past fiscal year, which was July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, the State Board of Veterinary Medicine ("Board") initiated several cases involving licensees with expired or inactive licenses OR applicants for licensure practicing veterinary medicine in the state of Colorado prior to receiving authorization from the Board in the form of an active license to begin practice. Such conduct is a direct violation of the Colorado Veterinary Practice Act ("Practice Act"), which is codified as Article 64 of Title 12 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S).

According to the Practice Act, in order to practice veterinary medicine in Colorado one must be licensed as an active veterinarian or active academic veterinarian. C.R.S. §12-64-104 (1) states that "no person may practice veterinary medicine in this state who is not a licensed veterinarian" unless that person is specifically exempted as outlined in that section of the Practice Act. C.R.S. §12-64-103(9) defines a "licensed veterinarian" as "a person who is validly and currently licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state." This includes, but is not limited to, "a person who holds an academic license to practice veterinary medicine pursuant to the provisions and limitations set forth in Section 12-64-107.5." Section 12-64-114, C.R.S. states that "no person who practices veterinary medicine without a currently valid license may receive any compensation for services so rendered" and goes into detail as to what penalties may be imposed for such unauthorized practice, including criminal penalties, both misdemeanor and felony. Please note that when the statute uses the words "validly and currently" or "currently valid" it means that the license must be active.



For those licensees who currently have a license in an inactive status or who plan to inactivate their license at some point in the future, it is imperative that you familiarize yourself with the requirements outlined in Section 12-64-110.5, C.R.S. and also note that there is a specific violation listed under C.R.S. § 12-64-111(1)(x) for "engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine while on inactive status as determined pursuant to Section 12-64-110.5."

Section 12-64-111(1), C.R.S., which pertains to the discipline of licensees, states that "upon receipt of a signed complaint by any complainant or upon its own motion, the board may proceed to a hearing in conformity with Section 12-64-112." It then goes on to read "after a hearing, and by a concurrence of a majority of members, the board may revoke or suspend the license of, place on probation, or otherwise discipline or fine, any licensed veterinarian for any of the following reasons." Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) makes it clear that the Board can discipline a licensee for a "violation of any of the provisions of this article or any of the rules of the board." This includes all the language from the Practice Act that I shared above and also any Board rule relevant to this issue. Board Rule 5.01(d) states "the license of a licensee who does not renew their license within the sixty-day grace period shall expire and the licensee shall not practice until such license is reinstated. If the licensee has practiced with an expired license, the Board may impose disciplinary actions."

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Contact us:

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**Consumer protection
is our mission**

PROOF OF LAWFUL PRESENCE



Effective January 1, 2007, all persons requesting original licensure, renewal of an active license or reinstatement of a lapsed license must verify lawful presence in the United States based on the passage of House Bill 06S-1009. This bill applies to all applicants and licensees in the Division of Registrations, with the exception of apprentices, interns, and businesses.

Licenses will not be issued or renewed without completing the Affidavit of Eligibility form.

The good news is that you can complete this affidavit online when you renew using Registrations Online Services!

You must possess at least one secure and verifiable document and include information about that document on the Affidavit itself (or provide the information during online renewal). The list of secure and verifiable documents is available to you when you renew online.

More information regarding this law is available on our website at

<http://www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/Affidavit.htm>

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AN ACTIVE LICENSE TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE

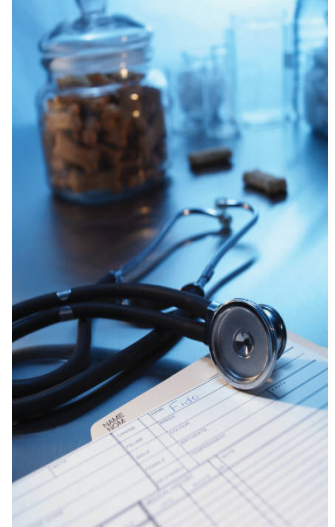
(Continued from page 1)

If you have questions as to what acts constitute the practice of veterinary medicine and thus require an active license, unless otherwise exempted under C.R.S. §12-64-104, please carefully review the definition of the "practice of veterinary medicine" under Section 12-64-103 (10), C.R.S. and the definition of "veterinary medicine" under subsection (14) of that same section.

It is vital that you maintain an active license to practice veterinary medicine in this state if you are engaged in such practice regardless if it is a veterinarian license or an academic veterinarian license. That is why you must timely renew if you wish to maintain an active license in Colorado. We have gone to an online renewal system and when it is time to renew your license, you will be sent a yellow renewal reminder that is about the size of a postcard. This postcard is sent out roughly 6 to 8 weeks in advance of the expiration date of your license. If you are reading this article right now, then it's an excellent indication that you either received the yellow postcard and reacted timely to those instructions to visit our website in order to begin the online renewal process of your license, or if you did not, you instead took initiative to visit our website anyway in anticipation of your upcoming renewal date on October 31, 2010. Regardless of your path, a job well done!

Keep in mind if you do not renew your license by the expiration date, you still can renew with a \$15 late fee during the 60-day grace period that follows the expiration date of your license. You may practice during that time without further penalty and if you renew within the 60-day grace period your license will not show any lapse in active status. However, if you fail to renew your license by the end of this grace period then your license will be converted to an expired status and you will then have to submit a reinstatement application in order to reinstate your license. If you practice after the expiration date of your license and you fail to renew it within the grace period, then such unauthorized practice may subject you to action by the Board. The 60-day grace period for veterinarian licenses will end on December 31, 2010.

Please continue familiarizing yourself with the Practice Act, Board Rules, and Policies by visiting our website at www.dora.state.co.us/veterinarians. We will also post this article and any other important notices or future articles on our website.



WALL CERTIFICATES

For those of you that may be interested, the Division of Registrations is pleased to announce that it has outsourced the production of wall certificates to Wall Certificate Service (WCS) a division of Professional Credential Services, Inc. (PCS). The outsourcing of the certificates provides enhancements to the certificates that both new and existing licensees will find beneficial. Specifically, the certificate provided by WCS is a larger, professionally designed, better quality certificate than what the Division was able to provide. For more information regarding wall certificates, which license types are eligible, and how to obtain one, please visit our website at <http://www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/wallcert.html>. You will be able to order and pay the fee online. The fee for U.S. residents is \$25 and for international residents there is an additional international shipping

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MAILING OR EMAIL ADDRESS LATELY?

It is imperative that you keep your contact information updated with the Division. The Division mails renewal notices and other information to you at the last address furnished to us. Failure to receive a renewal notice does not relieve you of your obligation to timely renew.

Once you have logged into Registrations Online Services, check your mailing address and update it if it is not correct. If you received your renewal notice due to a forwarding order it is important that you change your address on file with us, since we cannot change the information based on the forwarding order.

You should also add or update your email address. The Division wants to keep you abreast of legislation, events and other information that impact your profession. We have recently implemented "eUpdates" and look forward to providing more of these in the future.

RENEW YOUR LICENSE ON TIME!

Veterinarian licenses are set to Lapse on October 31, 2010

You may renew your license online using Registrations Online Services. Renewals are generally made available 6 to 8 weeks prior to the license expiration date and there is a 60-day grace period after the deadline. So that means you typically have a timeframe of 16 weeks within which to renew your license!

Any license not renewed prior to the end of the grace period will be considered lapsed. Once a license is in lapsed status, a reinstatement application must be completed and returned to our office with the appropriate fee listed on the form.

If you do not renew your license prior to the end of the grace period and continue to practice, you will be practicing on a lapsed license and may be subject to disciplinary action. The Division sees a number of situations every year of individuals who have failed to renew their license on time and practiced without a license. The reasons that are offered boil down to some common themes: I forgot; I thought I renewed but I guess I didn't; I moved and I forgot to notify the Board so I never got the renewal notice; I thought that my assistant/secretary/spouse/boyfriend, et cetera, handled it; it's the Board's fault because I *did* renew my license...or I *thought* I renewed my license. The result is that depending on how long it takes for the individual to "remember" to renew, the Division often takes disciplinary action against the individual because it is against the law to practice without an active license.

So, here's where we need your help. And the steps are just 1-2-3 easy!

1. Go to the Division of Registrations website at www.dora.state.co.us/registrations and click on Registrations Online Services to renew your license.
2. Note the expiration date in your calendar to remind yourself of when it is time to renew your license the next time.
3. Make sure that the address listed on your record is accurate. If it is not, then update your address with the Division. Remember to update your address anytime that you move so that you do not miss out on any important notices from the Division.

Remember, it is each licensee's responsibility to renew his or her license on time. With our online system, you can handle all of this yourself, any time, day or night.

REGISTRATIONS ONLINE SERVICES

Registrations Online Services makes it easier for all licensed professionals to renew and update their contact information after a simple registration process. Check it out at www.dora.state.co.us/registrations and then click on Online Registrations Services. For detailed instructions on how to use the online system go to www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/FAQs.htm.

REPORTING A JUDGMENT OR SETTLEMENT INVOLVING A FRAUDULENT INSURANCE ACT

There is a duty to report a judgment or settlement involving a fraudulent insurance act against a person who is licensed by a State of Colorado licensing board and whose services are compensated in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by insurance claims proceeds. For more information, please see <http://www.dora.state.co.us/Insurance/regs/B-1.10.pdf>.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS ONLINE DOCUMENTS

If you would like to view a board action you may use the **Registrations Online Documents (ROD)**. ROD is a website that makes certain scanned documents related to board actions taken on licensees available to the public via the Internet. The document may be found on ROD if a licensee had been disciplined or if the board has taken some other non-disciplinary action against the licensee that restricts or limits the individual's license.

The following documents are available via ROD:

- All Stipulations, Final Agency Orders, and Suspensions that were in effect in February 2000 plus any that became effective since that date. Child support suspensions are not available online but may be obtained by contacting the appropriate board/program.
- Any document Revoking or agreeing to a Voluntary Relinquishment/Surrender of license or registration, Cease and Desist Orders and Letters of Admonition from January 1, 1999 to the present.
- All Injunctions.

[Click here](#) for more information about the types of documents provided by this online system and definitions of terms used within the disciplinary documents.

If you are interested in viewing these documents, please visit www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/ROD.htm.

To view disciplinary documents dating from January 1, 1999 to the present, please visit Registrations Online Documents (ROD) at www.dora.state.co.us/doraimages