



## Allowable Duties for Current Students and Graduates Who Are Not Licensed

The Board has been receiving notifications of graduates allegedly practicing without a license in the state; however, the Louisiana Veterinary Practice Act clearly prohibits the “practice of veterinary medicine”, as broadly defined, by anyone other than a “licensed veterinarian or the holder of a valid temporary permit issued by the board”. La. R.S. 37:1514. The Board does not issue temporary permits except in the case of a declared public health emergency by the Governor if it chooses to enact an emergency rule effecting the terms of Section 309 of the Louisiana Administrative Code, 46:LXXXV.

When a practice hires a DVM graduate who does not currently hold a license to practice veterinary medicine in Louisiana, the duties that can be delegated to that graduate are limited by law, and all permissible duties must be performed under the “direct supervision” – i.e. on premises – of the delegating veterinarian. The Louisiana Administrative Code specifies what may not be delegated to an unlicensed veterinarian, who is deemed to hold the status of a lay veterinary assistant. Duties which cannot be delegated to an unlicensed graduate, even under the direct supervision of the veterinarian, include surgery, diagnosis, prognosis or the prescribing of drugs, medicines, or appliances. See Sections 700; 702.E, LAC.

To be clear, **the law does not recognize a “veterinarian in training”, or working “under the license” of a supervising veterinarian** when the duties assigned exceed those prohibited duties listed above, irrespective of supervision by a licensed veterinarian. There are no “internships” recognized in private practice. In short, without being issued a license by the Board, a DVM graduate who has not yet passed the NAVLE would have the status of a lay veterinary assistant.

The veterinarian delegating duties to the unlicensed DVM graduate is held responsible for knowing these provisions and may be sanctioned by the Board for delegating what is not allowed by law – again notwithstanding supervision. Further, the unlicensed DVM graduate may be prohibited from licensure as an individual practicing veterinary medicine without a license under the Practice Act and Rule 301.E, which provides in part: “...The Board shall reject the application of an applicant who has practiced veterinary medicine in this state without a license, temporary permit, or exception from licensure as provided by R.S. 37:1514, during the two-year period immediately prior to the date of application.” Civil penalties and injunctive relief are also penalties which may be applied to an individual practicing veterinary medicine without a license or temporary permit under the Practice Act, generally.

**The board may also take administrative action against the licensed veterinarian delegating impermissible duties to the unlicensed DVM graduate as one who aids or encourages the practice of veterinary medicine by an unlicensed person** and, under the Practice Act (Section 1526), which authorizes a fine not to exceed the sum of \$1000, and the revocation or suspension for a specified time of the license, where a licensee is convicted of “...Having professional association with or employing anyone practicing veterinary medicine unlawfully.”

## Disciplinary Cases / Final Judgements in 2025



**Reporting of Disciplinary Actions** – The Board has begun reporting all past disciplinary actions taken against licensees on its website at [www.lsbsvm.org](http://www.lsbsvm.org).

**What is a Consent Order?** An order involving a type of disciplinary action may be made to the board by the investigating board member with the consent of the person. To be accepted, a consent order requires formal consent of a majority of the quorum of the board. Such a quorum does not include the investigating board member. It is not the result of the board's deliberation; it is the board's acceptance of an agreement reached between the board and the person. A proposed consent order may be rejected by the board in which event a formal hearing will occur. The consent order, if accepted by the board,

is issued by the board to carry out the parties' agreement. (Rule §1411 of the LA Veterinary Practice Act)

**Case #25-1205. Consent Order** (Meeting Date - April 3, 2025) - A consent order was approved by the board under the following circumstances. A complaint of malpractice was filed by the handler of an equine, a barrel racer still performing at the time of presentation. The client asked that the licensee inject both front fetlocks to enhance performance. The veterinarian did so without further recommendations. An area of swelling in one fetlock appeared the next day, and the area grew the following day. The licensee injected the area with a steroid and advised the client swelling was to be expected and recommended compression wrapping. Fluid from the affected area was not collected. On the third day following the original injection, the area of swelling continued to expand. The client was advised, through the associate veterinarian who conducted the examination and related the results to the out of town attending, that the swelling was caused by the method of compression wrapping. Previcox and cold hosing was recommended. The patient's condition continued to deteriorate and 5 days following the initial injection was barely ambulatory and the area of swelling further expanded. The client requested the licensee call to discuss the circumstances as he was still out of town, but no call was returned. The next day the client consulted two other veterinarians. Both recommended emergent care for a suspected

infection. The patient was euthanized due to poor prognosis approximately 2 weeks later. The investigating board member found the licensee committed malpractice and did not act within the standard of care. A \$500 fine was assessed, administrative costs of \$1,750 were imposed. It was determined the licensee should have acted sooner to determine the cause of the swelling by taking fluid samples to determine whether the site had become infected with a CBC to establish an early baseline upon which to determine escalating forms of needed treatment, especially considering the high rate of mortality associated with such incidents. The board approved the terms of the consent order.

**Case #25-1211. Consent Order** (Meeting Date - April 3, 2025) - A licensee also licensed in another state, the area of his practice, upon two renewals declared that he was not under investigation for disciplinary action in any other state. Subsequent investigation indicated otherwise - the state where his practice was conducted had investigated multiple complaints and suspended the licensee from practice, with significant fines being imposed for a series of adverse administrative findings. When the board discovered these false representations were made upon renewal applications, it asked the licensee for an explanation, which was that he thought the investigations were over when he made the positive statement he knew of no out of state investigations on his renewal applications. Upon investigation it was determined that the licensee could not have reasonably thought the out of state investigation was over as the out of state board had within a few days prior to the false declaration requested a defense to the complaint be submitted. The second misrepresentation was found to be excusable as plausibly true - the licensee had agreed to the terms of the out of state consent order at the time of Louisiana renewal, but the out of state investigation had not then formally concluded. The licensee agreed to a Consent Order based on a finding of using fraud to obtain a license. He was fined \$500 for one violation, assessed the cost of investigation (\$1,000), ordered to obtain 6 additional hours of CE in a board approved program(s) on the subject matter of veterinary medical ethics and professionalism and consented to unannounced inspections of his Louisiana based facility and records for a period of five years. The board approved the Consent Order.

**Case #24-0416. Consent Order** (Meeting Date - August 5, 2025) - A complaint was filed against a veterinarian alleging the patient was seen by a lay person employee of the veterinarian who had established the VCPR under circumstances where the lay assistant made the physical examination of the patient, recommended diagnostics, made a diagnosis and administered an injection at a time when the veterinarian was not on premises. Conflicting evidence was presented during the investigation phase as to whether the veterinarian was on premises and the lay assistant was simply voicing the instructions of the veterinarian, who had examined the patient records and was informed of the patient's vitals and the clients' declining diagnostics, and whether a diagnosis was in fact made. Conflicting evidence was also presented as to the whereabouts of the licensee at the time the patient was seen. A consent order was agreed to and a reprimand issued due to findings that the attending veterinarian should physically examined the patient irrespective of the declining of diagnostics by the owners. The Consent Order was approved by the Board, with the investigating member recused from deliberations, whereby the licensee was fined \$1,000, required to reimburse the board for the costs of its investigation (\$1,500) and required to obtain an additional two hours of CE.

**Case #25-0617. Consent Order** (Meeting Date - October 2, 2025) - A complaint was filed against a licensee following surgery on the patient, which began exhibiting symptoms eventually found to be the result of surgical gauze being inadvertently left in the patient, as analyse by histopathology. Simple surgical negligence was found and the Board approved the proposed Consent Order, with the investigating member recused from deliberations, whereby the licensee was given a formal reprimand, ordered to reimburse the Board the costs of its investigation in the amount of \$1,500 and to obtain an additional six hours of RACE-approved continuing education in the field of surgical technique.

**Case #25-0327. Consent Order** (Meeting Date - December 5, 2025) - A proposed Consent Order came before the Board for approval. The allegations of the complaint were that the patient, a boxer approximately 5 years and 8 months old, had been presented for Apoquel refill care but with the compliant of the patient losing weight. The initial presenting weight was 61.2 lbs. The patient had been routinely seen by the licensee over several years and had been

## ICVA Changes NAVLE Retake Policy Effective March 2026

Beginning with the March 2026 NAVLE testing window, all candidates will be granted five (5) new opportunities to take the NAVLE. For more information and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the [FAQ section of ICVA's website](#).

### What Does This Mean for DVM Licensure in Louisiana?

The Board's Rule 303.B.7 still states the following: "An applicant for licensure may only sit for the national examination a maximum of five times. Thereafter, the applicant will no longer be eligible for licensure in Louisiana and any applications submitted will be rejected."

While the Board will be reviewing its rule(s) in consideration of this change with ICVA in 2026, DVM graduates who have made more than five attempts at the NAVLE still remain ineligible for licensure, even if the exam is taken and passed on one's sixth or more attempt. As such, the LBVM will enforce its maximum number of attempts in accordance with Rule §303.

## Rulemaking Reporting Pursuant to La. R.S. 49:966(K), La. R.S. 49:964(D), & Executive Order No. 25-038

In December of 2025, the LBVM reported all rulemaking activity to the Office of the Governor and to the Senate and House Legislative Oversight Committees on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development as mandated by La. R.S. 49:966(K) and La. R.S. 49:964(D). These reports include all rulemaking either completed or underway from 2022 to 2025, as well as the rules which are scheduled to be reviewed in 2026 as mandated by JML Executive Order No. 25-038.

These rulemaking reports can be found on the Board's website at [www.lsbyn.org](http://www.lsbyn.org).

## New Searchable Database of Board-Approved CE Activity

The Board announced in 2025 a newly designed, dynamic, Searchable Database of Continuing Education Activity pre-approved by the LBVM. A new feature was added which allows sponsors to include a document (i.e.– a flyer or itinerary/schedule, etc) for the activity which can be viewed and downloaded by possible attendees! Please visit the Board's website to check out this new searchable Database of Pre-Approved Continuing Education!

prescribed Apoquel in high doses for an extended period of time. The licensee attributed the weight loss due to the extreme temperatures of the summer. Approximately 3 months later the patient was returned for the removal of a cyst and had lost an additional 4.2 lbs. The licensee attributed the weight loss as a pattern for the breed. Approximately 6 weeks later the patient was presented for examination and possible removal of a second cyst—having lost an additional 2 lbs. Surgery was scheduled a few days later (with an additional weight loss of 3 lbs), underwent surgery, was admitted and then discharged. At home the patient's breathing became labored, she was inappetent, and developed diarrhea and a cough. The patient was returned to care with a diagnosis of an upper respiratory infection with instructions to observe and return with worsening symptoms, which did occur. The allegations were that the licensee offered no diagnostic bloodwork during this period and insisted the patient was fine but was, as others of the breed, "prone to things". Two weeks later the client presented the patient elsewhere for emergency care. Diagnostics revealed nodules all over the patient's lungs. Five days later the patient was euthanized. Several allegations of malpractice were found to be insupportable applying the standard of care. However, the licensee was found to have committed malpractice in the failure to recommend blood work despite long term and high dosage of Apoquel (4 ½ years) and in keeping inadequate medical records in that many entries were illegible, and no surgical notes were entered into the record. The Board approved disciplinary measures of \$500 per violation (\$1,000 total), reimbursement of the costs of investigation (\$1500) an additional 2 hours of CE and a formal reprimand.

## Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

The LBVM will meet at 8:30am on the following dates:

**2026** - February 5, April 2, June 4, August 6, October 8, and December 3

Location: LA Dept of Ag & Forestry Building, 5825 Florida Blvd, BR, LA 70806  
*Agendas are published online at [www.lsbvm.org](http://www.lsbvm.org) at least one week prior to the meeting date.*

## Board Member Appointments and New Officer Elections

- At the Board's June '25 meeting, Dr. Christine McHughes Barr from Covington, Louisiana was elected President of the Board for the '25-'26 fiscal year.
- There has not yet been a new appointment made by the Governor's Office for the '25-'26 seat currently filled by Dr. Trisha Marullo. Dr. Marullo will continue to serve on the Board until such time that the new appointment is made.

The Board office staff is always pleased to assist anyone with questions concerning the Board and its role in regulating veterinary medicine in the State, and we extend continued best wishes for our administrative staff, Board members, and all of our licensees.

## '25-'26 Statistics from the Board

'25-'26 RENEWAL STATISTICS		NO. RENEWED
<b>CAETs</b>		<b>157</b>
CAET - Active - Full		140
CAET - Active - Lead		17
<b>DVMs</b>		<b>1,700</b>
DVM - Active		<b>1,691</b>
DVM - Active - Conditional		0
DVM - Inactive - Disabled		1
DVM - Inactive - Retired		8
DVM - Active Military		0
<b>DVMs - Faculty</b>		<b>89</b>
DVM - Faculty - Active		89
<b>RVTs</b>		<b>339</b>
RVT - Active		339
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>2,285</b>

*\* Reflects all licenses renewed from 07/01/25 to 10/08/25.*

COMPLAINTS / INVESTIGATIONS		Total
<b>From 08/30/24 to 12/31/25</b>		
Complaints Received		96
Complaints Closed		71
Consent Orders Issued		5
Consent Orders Closed		4
Other Negative Actions *		21
<b>Still On-Going / Active</b>		
Pending Cases (licensees)		36
Pending Cases (non-licensees)		5
Consent Orders		3
Other Negative Actions *		2

*\* Other negative actions include, formal reprimands, informal reprimands, cease & desist notices, etc.*

Louisiana Board of  
Veterinary Medicine



5825 Florida Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
225-925-6620  
[admin@lsbvm.org](mailto:admin@lsbvm.org)  
[www.lsbvm.org](http://www.lsbvm.org)

### Board Members 2025-2026

Christine D. McHughes, DVM  
*President*  
 Jesse S. Brandon, DVM  
*Vice-President*  
 Christopher Morris, DVM  
*Secretary-Treasurer*  
 Larry L. Findley, Sr., DVM  
*Member*  
 Trisha C. Marullo, DVM  
*Member*

## LBVM License Portal Reminders

- Enter and track CE activity in real time!** Licensees are encouraged to enter and track all continuing education hours as they are being completed throughout the year! No need to wait until the next renewal cycle opens on July 1, 2026! The earlier you get your CE entered, the quicker and easier your renewal will be. Remember, all CE for the '26-'27 renewal must be completed between July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
- Have you recently changed jobs?** All employment details must be kept up-to-date, so please log into the LBVM License Portal and update your employment details.