

02 DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
285 BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Chapter 4: CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION FOR VETERINARIANS

Summary: This chapter describes the continuing professional education required for renewal of licenses.

1. Generally

1. 24 Contact Hours Required

Except as set forth in section 1(2) or 1(3) of this chapter, no license to practice veterinary medicine will be renewed unless the licensee has completed 24 contact hours of continuing professional education as set forth in this chapter during the two year period

Beginning on October 1, 2002 and ending on September 30, 2004; and

Beginning on October 1 of each evennumbered year and ending on September 30 of the next evennumbered year on a continuing basis thereafter.

2. Newly Licensed Veterinarians

A person initially licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this State need not complete continuing professional education during the period preceding the licensee's first license renewal that takes place in an evennumbered year.

3. Inactive Status

The board may waive continuing education for licensees on inactive status as set forth in Chapter 2, section 4(E) of the board's rules.

2. Continuing Professional Education Activities

Continuing professional education contact hours may be earned by participation in the following activities only:

1. Seminars in Clinical Practice

Contact hours may be earned through attendance at seminars in medicine, surgery, diagnostics and other subjects relating to the hands-on clinical practice of veterinary medicine. Programs presented for the purpose of promoting a specific company, individual or product are not eligible for credit.

2. Seminars in Practice Management

A maximum of six contact hours may be earned through attendance of seminars in practice management and other nonclinical subjects relating to the practice of veterinary medicine.

3. Proctored Computer-Based Training

Contact hours may be earned through participation in a proctored computer-based training program relating to the practice of veterinary medicine that has been approved by RACE.

3. Prior Approval of Continuing Professional Educational Activities

1. Recognized Sponsors

Prior approval from the board is unnecessary for recognition of seminars offered by the following sponsors:

- A. RACE;
- B. American Veterinary Medical Association;
- C. Colleges of veterinary medicine accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association; and
- D. State boards of veterinary medicine and state veterinary associations;
- E. Professional organizations that certify specialties within veterinary practice, including but not limited to:

- (1) American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine;
- (2) American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists;
- (3) American College of Veterinary Surgeons; and
- (4) American Animal Hospital Association.

F. Organizers of regional continuing education programs, including but not limited to:

- (1) Atlantic States Veterinary Conference;
- (2) Central States Veterinary Conference;
- (3) New England Veterinary Medical Association;
- (4) North American Veterinary Conference; and
- (5) Western States Veterinary Conference.

2. Unrecognized Sponsors

To avoid subsequent disallowance of continuing professional education activities, licensees are encouraged but not required to request advance approval of seminars that are not offered by recognized sponsors as described in section 3(l) of this chapter. To ensure a timely response, requests for approval of an unrecognized sponsor should be submitted at least 30 days in advance of the seminar. Requests may be made directly by the sponsor. Requests for approval shall include the following information:

- A. Name, address and telephone number of sponsor;
- B. Name of program and specific subject matter to be covered;
- C. Credentials of presenter(s);
- D. Date(s) and location of the program;
- E. Exact start and end times of each session for which credit is requested; and
- F. Such other information as may be required by the board.

Credit will not be awarded for participation in continuing professional educational activities for which advance approval was requested and denied.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 MRSA § §4859(3) and 4871(2)

EFFECTIVE DATE:

March 8, 1983 - as "Hearing Rules for Adjudicatory Proceeding"

EFFECTIVE DATE (ELECTRONIC CONVERSION):

November 13, 1996

REPEALED AND REPLACED:

October 7, 2000 - as "Standards for Continuing Professional Education for Veterinary Doctors"

May 25, 2003 - as "Continuing Professional Education for Veterinarians," filing 2003-140