

From: Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) <michelle@kbve.ccsend.com>
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To: Vet Inbox (KBVE)
Subject: KBVE Newsletter - September 2025



KENTUCKY BOARD OF
VETERINARY EXAMINERS



KBVE Newsletter September 2025 Edition

KBVE Meeting This Week

Upcoming KBVE Board Meeting:

- September 11, 2025 – 1:00 pm EDT - Regular Board Meeting
 - 10:00 am - Applications Committee
 - 9:00 am - Grievance Committee (Most of this meeting is closed to public, pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c) and (j) and KRS 321.187(6))

Location:

KBVE Office, 4047 Iron Works Parkway, Suite 104, Lexington, KY 40511

Hybrid virtual option available with RSVP to Vet@ky.gov

Your Input Received!

In August, KBVE conducted a survey about controlled substance reporting requirements as proposed by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Controlled Substances Prescribing Council (CSPC). More than 200 licensees shared their thoughts in response to the survey. Thank you to everyone for providing this critical feedback! KBVE was in turn able to share these anonymized responses with legislators, several of whom share your concerns and wish to support Kentucky's veterinary community.

Key survey responses:

- Only 19% of respondents felt they could comply with reporting requirements for dispensation of controlled substances in less than 24 hours, as is proposed by OIG/CSPC.
- 27% indicated they would not be able to comply even within 72 hours.
- More than 30% of respondents indicated they would need to hire additional staff, with a full 8% indicating they would need to purchase new computer systems.

When asked how reporting controlled substance dispensation would change their practice, respondents indicated:

- 45% would obtain whatever resources were needed to comply.
- 30% indicated they would stop dispensing controlled substances.
- 8% indicated they would stop prescribing controlled substances, even if it was in the best interest of the patient.
- 7% indicated they would close their doors/stop practicing.

If you missed the opportunity to provide feedback, you can still share your thoughts by emailing Vet@ky.gov. You can also share concerns directly with your elected representatives - [Find Your Legislator](#).

KBVE has issued a letter of concern to OIG and the CSPC. This is an evolving situation, and one both KBVE and KVMA are monitoring closely. The Board understands that a regulatory change would be required to implement reporting requirements. Stay tuned for more information -- KBVE will keep licensees posted on critical updates.

A Note from the KBVE Chair

On behalf of the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners, I extend a heartfelt welcome to the freshman classes of both veterinarians and veterinary technicians starting school during the fall of 2025. We are delighted to have students begin their education in these courageous professions. We hope that journey leads these students coming to work here in Kentucky. The veterinary community here is closely connected, and we lean into one another to accomplish big things and support each other in so many little ways. Although we don't always see eye-to-eye on every issue, Kentucky is a national leader in veterinary medicine and regulation of the professions. I want to encourage students to reach out to the Board when they have questions about licensure or the rules governing their practice. KBVE is here to assist and help keep Kentucky an amazing community in which to live and practice. All the best to incoming freshman during the coming years!



John C. Park, DVM
KBVE Board Chair
Equine Veterinarian

Did You Know?

New veterinarian graduates who have passed their NAVLE **must** be licensed to work in the Commonwealth. There is no provision in the Kentucky Practice Act by which these individuals may practice under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian without a license of their own. If you are planning to hire or have recently hired a new graduate, ensure they are licensed before they begin work.

Check licensure status through the online [Licensure Verification website](#).

Grievance Case Spotlight

KBVE Agency Grievance # 2021-50

Case Details:

- November 2021 - The complainant took three cats to be spayed and neutered. One cat had a reaction to the anesthesia and the procedure was stopped before it was started. A second cat died following surgery before full recovery. The third cat was neutered without incident. Consent forms were signed for blood testing on only one patient, but the complainant alleged the veterinarian tested all three cats. Additionally, when providing news of the patient passing, the veterinarian allegedly admitted that other patients in her care that day had issues with the anesthesia.
- December 2021 - Initial letters were mailed to the respondent.
- January 2022 - A response was received by the Board. Members of the Grievance Committee reviewed the response at their next meeting and ordered an investigation.
- March 2022 - An investigative report was submitted to the Grievance Committee. The report outlined the standard protocols used with all patients in the high volume spay/neuter operation. All three cats were given a complete physical exam prior to sedation. The owner did not consent to bloodwork, only a FELV/FIV test on the youngest patient. After prep, the first cat was intubated but had low oxygen. After 5-10 minutes of assisted breathing, yohimbine was administered to reverse the xylazine and the cat recovered. The second cat was given ketamine and acepromazine IV, then masked with isoflurane. The surgery was successful and the O2 never dropped. The third cat was prepped, surgery completed, and was moved to recovery. Monitors were left on post-surgery until the patients began to move. After monitors were removed, the third cat was placed in a cage to finish recovering. A few minutes later the second cat was discovered with blue gums and deceased. Three support staff were in the room with line-of-sight on the recovery area at all times. It was unclear why the second cat passed away when the surgery went smoothly. Pre-op bloodwork may have revealed additional information.
- April 2022 - The Board issued a dismissal letter, as no violation of the Kentucky Veterinary Medicine Practice Act could be identified. However, Members of the Committee cited that the use of xylazine in felines as an anesthetic protocol was inappropriate and advised the veterinarian to engage in further study on current medical trends in feline sedation.

Start to Finish: This case spanned 6 months.

General Cautions: Newer and more selective alpha-2 agonists are now more commonly used in small animal veterinary medicine. If used, xylazine is typically part of an anesthetic combination and should be reversed post surgery. In felines, sedation with xylazine without a reversing agent carries a high risk of severe and lasting harm, including chronic cardiovascular, respiratory, and neurological complications. A reversal agent, such as yohimbine or atipamezole, is crucial for mitigating adverse effects and ensuring a safe recovery.

This spotlight is part of our effort to illustrate the Board's role in maintaining professionalism and protecting the public interest.

KBVE Legislative Activities

In August, the KBVE filed amendments to the Allied Animal Health Professional (AAHP) regulations to incorporate newly mandated licensure for equine dental providers (EDPs). The regulations are available on the KBVE website [Practice Act page](#) under the heading "Regulations – Filed with LRC (proceeding through administrative rule making process)". The public comment period is open until October 31. Comments may be mailed to the Board or emailed to Michelle.Shane@ky.gov.

As noted in prior KBVE newsletters, the Board is beginning sunset review of key regulations in [201 KAR Chapter 16](#). If you would like to provide input on any of the regulations listed below, email the Board at Vet@ky.gov or attend an upcoming meeting.

- [201 KAR 16:500](#) - Code of ethical conduct for veterinarians
- [201 KAR 16:600](#) - Prescription and dispensation of drugs for animal use

News You Can Use

THE MANY FACES OF RABIES

Please note that **human exposure to rabies does not have to involve a bite from an infected horse**: contact of skin or mucosa with the horse's saliva could transmit the disease.

Rabies vaccines are highly effective and are included in the AAEP list of Core Vaccinations. **Horses should be vaccinated annually to maintain immunity.** Consult your veterinarian to establish a vaccination schedule.



COLIC



NEUROLOGIC
ABNORMALITIES



LAMENESS



DEPRESSION



AGGRESSION

In July, a rabies case in a horse was reported in Garrard County. This occurred in a veterinary facility and other horses and people were exposed. Multiple individuals and animals went through post-exposure prophylaxis.

Upcoming KBVE Meetings

2025 and 2026 KBVE Board [Meeting Schedule is available online](#). Additional Committee meetings are also listed here.

Meetings are open to all licensees and the public. Agendas are posted in advance of the meeting. Attend and earn free CE for veterinarians and LVTs.

Don't forget to check out the KBVE Meeting Minutes which highlight major points of discussion, as well as directives and decisions issued by the Board. Find KBVE Minutes online in the [Meetings and Minutes Archive](#). Minutes are posted as soon as they are approved as final by the Board at a subsequent meeting.

KBVE Mission

The mission of the KBVE is to regulate and ensure professional competency for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, allied animal health professionals, and animal euthanasia specialists in the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the safety and well-being of animal health as well as the confidence of the public in the services provided by members of these professions.

Have comments about this newsletter, or ideas for future newsletter topics?
Email Vet@ky.gov with your feedback and input!

kbve.ky.gov

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