

From: Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) <michelle@kbve.ccsend.com>
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KENTUCKY BOARD OF
VETERINARY EXAMINERS



KBVE Newsletter December 2025 Edition

A Note from the KBVE Chair

KBVE is aware of rapid adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for various applications in veterinary medicine. Like some of you, some Board Members are already using AI tools in their practices. Based on the feedback we are receiving, there are some early concerns about understanding of professional liability and uninformed adoption of these technologies which may endanger patient safety or compromise the privacy of medical records.

KBVE endeavors to establish guidance for the appropriate and safe use of AI technologies. In order to learn more, the Board is hosting guest speakers on this topic in 2026. We're also reviewing efforts by the Kentucky General Assembly to establish appropriate controls for the use of AI in government and businesses in the Commonwealth.

Please take this 2 minute survey to inform the Board on how you are using AI tools in your practice, at your facility or business, or in animal shelters. We'll review these responses at our January Board meeting as we begin to explore this topic in depth. This survey will be open until January 9, 2026.



John C. Park, DVM
KBVE Board Chair
Equine Veterinarian

Click Here to take the Survey on Use of AI Technology in Veterinary Practice

(If the survey button doesn't work, [click here](#).)

KBVE Biennial Budget Filing

Budget Highlights

In October, the KBVE submitted the agency budget request to the Office of the State Budget Director (OSBD). The request will be reviewed by the OSBD as well as the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) budget staff. It will be incorporated into the Governor's State Budget proposal and will be considered by Members of the General Assembly during the 2026 Legislative Session, alongside all other state agency budgets.

Budget Highlights from the KBVE Budget Committee

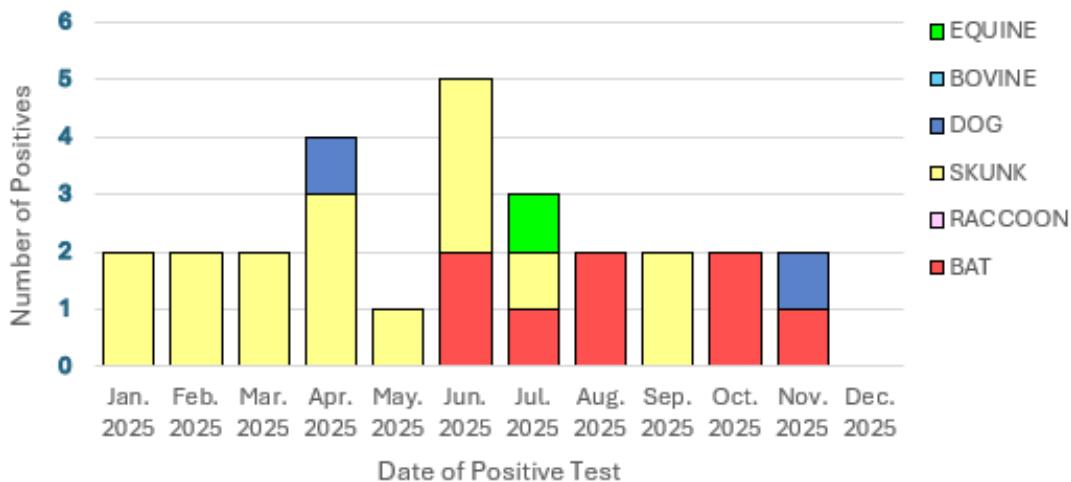
- Agency expenses continue to rise in several areas, including information technology (IT), database utilization, and health care.
- Even with these increases, the proposed budget remains within the current annual allotment of \$759,700; however, it does not include all required costs.
- OSBD required an Additional Budget Request (ABR) for all agencies to account for projected 1% annual salary increases set by the General Assembly.
- A second ABR was required for KBVE to support database upgrades, including registered facility and AAHP license renewals, as well as development of the anticipated interactive constituent map.
- New ten-year projections show that the current fee structure is expected to sustain the Board through FY 2034 (July 2033–June 2034).
- Beyond that point, projected expenditures—including inflationary increases, ongoing database enhancements, and replacement of agency IT hardware—are expected to outpace revenue. The Board's carry-forward balance is projected to decline by approximately \$60,000 annually, placing the agency in a deficit by roughly FY 2040 if no adjustments are made.
- To prevent this, the Board should plan to reassess the fee structure in 2032 and make incremental adjustments to ensure full and stable funding for the agency.

Interested in learning more about the agency budget or other Board discussions? Finalized meeting minutes are available to the public on the KBVE website on the [Board Meetings page](#) under the Meetings & Minutes Archive.

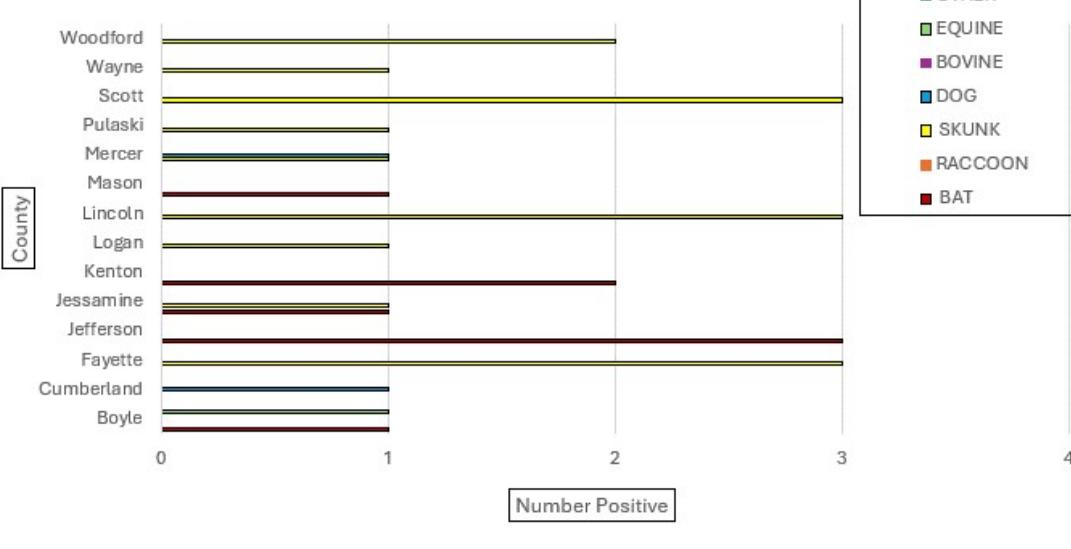
Key Notes About Rabies Vaccinations

The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) Department of Public Health (DPH) reports the following statistics to-date in 2025 for Kentucky rabies incidences.

2025 Positive Rabies: Kentucky



2025 Kentucky Positive Rabies by County



- Mass rabies clinics are important so as a community we can reach as many people and their animals as possible with rabies vaccine services.
- In Kentucky, there is a cap of \$10 on the price for rabies vaccines offered in a mass vaccine clinic setting ([KRS 258.043](#) and [201 KAR 2:070, Section 8](#)).
- Even with this low cost, mass rabies clinics can be a good way to establish relationships with new clients and encourage them to connect for more routine services.
- A VCPR is not required in a mass rabies vaccine clinic setting, and the rabies certificate acts as the medical record. However, any other services offered do trigger the requirement for the establishment of a VCPR and complete medical records. ([201 KAR 16:762, Section 3\(2\)](#) and [201 KAR 16:701, Section 6](#)).

Important Notice: Veterinarian's Right to Refuse Services

Veterinarians are permitted to refuse services to clients whose animals are not vaccinated against rabies or when clients decline the required rabies vaccine. This authority, established in [201 KAR 16:500, Section 12 and 41](#), helps protect public health, other patients and clients, and veterinary staff.

This year, several confirmed rabies cases resulted in exposure to at multiple veterinary clinics, requiring all affected individuals to undergo post-exposure treatment.

Reminder:

- Rabies titers **are not** an acceptable alternative to vaccination in animals.
- The rabies vaccine **is required by law**.

For additional guidance, please visit the [CHFS DPH online](#).

Initial Facility Registration Deadline Passed

Enforcement Activity to Begin

At their meeting on November 20, Members of the Board established enforcement procedures for those facilities who are not registered but continue to operate. In accordance with [KRS 321.235\(2\)\(h\)](#) and [201 KAR 16:612](#), Notices to Comply (NCs) and Notices of Violation (NOVs) (with fines) will be issued in the coming months. Note that each day or part of a day that the violation continues is a separate violation subject to daily penalties.

If you have not yet submitted your facility's registration paperwork, please [contact KBVE today](#) to learn about your options.

Grievance Case Spotlight

KBVE Agency Grievance # 2022-41

Case Details:

- July 2022 - Complainant filed a grievance indicating that a c-section on an American Bully did not go well. They alleged that the veterinarian did not perform the c-section appropriately and missed puppies. As a result, about a day after being home with 7 healthy puppies, the bitch went into labor and gave birth to three more dead pups and two live ones. They took the dog back to the veterinarian who x-rayed and found no more pups. The veterinarian apologized to the client for not checking all the way to the ovaries. The client filed a grievance because the life of the dog was endangered and several puppies were lost unnecessarily.
- September 2022 - The Board sent out initial letters in the case for a response.
- October 2022 - A response was received. The medical records were limited.
- December 2022 - During an added meeting of the Committee, Members reviewed the case file and directed an investigation.
- January 2023 - Investigative Report submitted to the Committee for review. The Committee conducted a complete review of the case file and the investigative report. The Committee identified a failure in the standard of care related to

imaging to ensure all puppies are retrieved, as well as inadequacies with medical records and consent forms. They ordered settlement negotiations.

- July 2023 - Settlement Agreement was fully executed and fulfilled, and included:
 - \$1,000 fine
 - Written reprimand.

Start to Finish: This case spanned 12 months.

General Cautions: How are veterinarians supposed to know the standard of care? Minimum standards of care are generally not encoded in regulation because there is a spectrum of care offered to clients, and because medicine evolves. **To be within the standard of care, veterinarians must perform their duties with an average degree of skill, care, and diligence exercised by colleagues working in similar areas of practice.** Therefore, it is critical that licensees keep up with CE in the veterinary field relevant to the work they do, even on procedures regularly performed. In the case above, it is the standard of care to x-ray the patient following a c-section to ensure all pups are safely and timely extracted.

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 consultation with the staff at the Legislative Research Commission (LRC), KBVE has requested to defer filed regulations scheduled for hearing before ARRS until early 2026. This will impact the proposed amendments for the veterinary facility regulations as well as the AAHP-EDP regulations. Stay tuned! The Board will announce the new ARRS Hearing dates for these filings prior to the meeting.

Did You Know?

Have you missed a newsletter from the Board? Want to reference something you've read in the past but can't locate the KBVE Newsletter email? Search no more! Check out the KBVE Newsletter Archives on the agency website on the [Statements and Announcements page](#) in the right sidebar.

News You Can Use

ICVA Seeks Veterinary Volunteers for the 2026 NAVLE Practice Analysis

Your participation helps strengthen the future of veterinary licensure

The International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA)—administrator of the NAVLE—is launching its next Practice Analysis and is inviting licensed veterinarians to participate. This work is essential to ensuring the NAVLE remains valid, relevant, and defensible for future generations of veterinary professionals.

ICVA is currently recruiting **Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)** through a short survey that helps identify veterinarians who may serve on the Practice Analysis Advisory Committee or Focus Area Workshops. These groups analyze the tasks, frequency, importance, and Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) required in modern veterinary practice.

Who Should Participate?

ICVA is seeking a broad range of experience across the profession and encourages all licensees to complete the recruitment survey. They are especially interested in veterinarians with the following backgrounds:

- U.S. or Canadian practitioners with expertise in **Aquatics, Camelidae, Cervidae, Laboratory Animals, Ovine/Caprine, Pet Birds, Porcine, Poultry, Reptiles, Small Mammals, or Wildlife.**
- Recent graduates (within the last 5 years).
- Canadian practitioners with expertise in Canine medicine.

Why Your Participation Matters

- Your insights help ensure the NAVLE reflects real-world practice.
- Diverse participation strengthens the exam's fairness and accuracy.
- Sharing this opportunity with colleagues increases representation across practice types and species areas.

If you or someone you know may be a good fit, please take a moment to complete—and share—the survey.

Access the survey here: [ICVA Practice Analysis SME Survey Link](#).

In the News

- [Florida Senate Bill 769](#) seeks to expand the mid-level practitioner (Veterinary Professional Associate, or "VPA") into a new jurisdiction.
- [Man dies of rabies exposure following organ transplant.](#)
- ICVA has announced an [update to the NAVLE Retake Policy](#), offering all candidates five (5) new attempts to test.
- ICVA has announced intentions to [conduct an audit of the NAVLE](#).
- Purdue University is [changing the name of its veterinary nursing program](#) back to a program of Veterinary Technology
- The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has published a [call for volunteers and new leadership positions](#).

Survey Results: Mass Rabies Clinics in Kentucky

The results are in! 57 licensees completed responses to the KBVE November Survey regarding mass rabies clinics in Kentucky.

Below is a summary of the results:

- 37% of respondents participate in mass rabies clinics (63% don't)
- Respondents partner with:
 - 18% - Local Health Departments
 - 5% - Local Government
 - 11% - County Animal Shelter
 - 0% - Missionary Groups
 - 4% - Other Non-profits
 - 2% - Retail Stores
 - 16% - Complete offerings on their own
- Vaccines offered:
 - 37% - Rabies

- 28% - Canine Core: DAP / DAPP or similar
- 11% - Canine Core: Leptospirosis
- 12% - Canine Non-core (including Bordetella, Lyme, and Influenza)
- 26% - Feline core: FPV + FHV+1 + FCV or similar
- 16% - Feline core: FELV
- 2% - Feline non-core
- Other Services Offered:
 - 7% - Heartworm testing
 - 5% - Heartworm prescriptions
 - 7% - Tickborne disease testing
 - 9% - Flea and Tick prescriptions
 - 4% - Fecal testing
 - 7% - Deworming
 - 18% - Microchipping
 - 20% - None / No other services
- Where are clinics offered?
 - 12% - Registered Veterinary Facility
 - 4% - Local Health Department
 - 4% - County Animal Shelter
 - 4% - Retail Stores
 - 12% - Community Building (e.g., community center, church, etc.)
 - 4% - Parking lot not at one of the above locations
- Number of Clients served?
 - 9% - 0-50
 - 18% - 51-100
 - 12% - 101-150

Upcoming KBVE Meetings

- January 22, 2026 - 1:00 pm EST – Regular Board Meeting
 - 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))
 - 10:00 am - Applications Committee

Location:

KBVE Office, 4047 Iron Works Parkway, Suite 104, Lexington, KY 40511
 Hybrid virtual option available with RSVP to Vet@ky.gov

The KBVE Board [Meeting Schedule is available online](#). Additional Committee meetings are also listed at this location.

Meetings are open to all licensees and the public. Board meeting agendas are posted in advance of the meeting. Attend and earn free CE for veterinarians and LVTs -- this CE will count toward the new requirements for state/federal laws and regulations.

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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