

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



KBVE Newsletter February 2026 Edition

A Note from the KBVE Chair

This month's newsletter brings several important updates to licensees, including an update on the KBVE's January meeting regarding AI tools, activity in the Kentucky General Assembly, and a call for input on a new round of Kentucky regional meetings.

KBVE held an informative meeting on January 22 where we heard from guest speakers overviewing concerns with AI technology implementation. Presenters from AAVSB and AVMA reviewed critical considerations related to regulation of AI and veterinarian responsibility. As a result of discussions, the Board formed an ad hoc committee to develop recommendations on the regulation of AI use in the veterinary professions. Stay tuned.

The 2026 Kentucky legislative session was expected to be a quiet one for veterinarians and animals, however, this session has instead been very busy. KBVE is tracking multiple key bills which relate to veterinary medicine, animals, licensure, and public agencies. See below for additional details and how you may share your voices with legislators.

Finally, we would like to hear from you regarding a proposed round of regional meetings to occur this spring and summer,



John C. Park, DVM
KBVE Board Chair
Equine Veterinarian

April - September. These meetings will be in partnership with KVMA and DEA and will offer free CE to participants. Please provide feedback on meeting times so we can accommodate as many licensees as possible.

Take the Survey!

KBVE is partnering with the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA) and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to offer free CE in 2026. The CE will qualify to meet the new requirements for two (2) hours continuing education in state/federal laws. Meetings are tentatively planned monthly April - September. When can you join us? Let us know by taking this short survey.

Take the Regional Meetings Survey

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Calendar

- January 6, 2026 – Session opened
- March 2 – Last Day for new Senate Bills
- March 4 – Last Day for new House Bills
- March 31-April 1 – Concurrence
- April 2-13 – Governor's Veto Period
- April 15 – Sine Die

Regarding Outreach

- If you reach out to your elected officials on any legislation or regulations, be respectful.
- Your goal with any outreach should be to demonstrate that you are a professional and have expertise in the subject area of the bill or regulation you are contacting them about.
- You should always work to build a positive relationship so that an elected official thinks of you when issues around veterinary medicine come up – they may even call you with questions in the future.
- Regarding bills that have passed one Chamber, please click on the link for the bill and look for the "Vote History" to see how your elected official voted.

Key Bill Update for Licensees

- [HB 212](#) – Rep. Witten, Rep. Freeland, Rep. Grossberg – Related to rabies vaccine administration. Allows LVTs to administer. This bill passed the House, 92-0, and is now in the Senate, currently assigned to the Senate Committee on Committees since 2/9/2026. This is the third year in a row the bill has made it to the Senate. **Constituents should consider writing or calling their Senators and Senate Leadership to express their opinion regarding this bill.**
- [HB 387](#) – Rep. Meade – Changes the Membership of the Controlled Substances Prescribing Council (CSPC). This bill adds two (2) veterinarian seats (one

livestock, one equine) to the CSPC, but also prohibits veterinarians from reporting requirements under [KRS 218A.202](#). This bill passed the House 91-1 on 2/9/2026 as an EMERGENCY (meaning it will take effect immediately when signed by the Governor), and is with the Senate Committee on Committees since 2/9/2026.

Constituents should consider contacting their Senators and Senate Leadership to express their opinion regarding this bill.

- [HB 500](#) - Rep. Petrie, Rep. Banta, Rep. Bowling, Rep. Bray - The Republican recommended State/Executive Branch Budget. KBVE requested \$797,500 in FY 2026-2027 and \$792,500 in FY 2027-2028, with increases to accommodate increases in contract and service costs. This Budget mandates a 2% raise for state employees, but provides no additional spending authority to the agency from 2025 levels (\$759,700). The bill also contains an added requirement for public agencies to submit annual reporting to LRC, and caps employer contributions to employee healthcare coverage (significantly increasing employee costs and reducing their benefits). This bill is with the House Committee on Appropriations & Revenue since 2/3/2026, and had seven (7) Floor amendments filed on 2/20/2026.
- [SB 45](#) – Sen. Webb – Amends KRS 247.801 to change the definition of "agritourism activity"; define "working animal"; create a new section of KRS 247.800 to 247.810 to prohibit a city, town, county, or other political subdivision of the Commonwealth from restricting a person from engaging in an agritourism activity, etc. This bill passed the Senate 26-12 on 2/12/2026, and has been with the House Committee on Committees since 2/13/2026.
- [SB 155](#) - Sen. Carpenter - Provides wide expansion of authority to the Commissioner of Agriculture related to animal health emergency responses. At the Senate Ag Committee hearing on 2/10/2026, the sponsor indicated this bill was to streamline actions by the Department so that delays in approvals from other involved agencies and the Governor's office did not impede response. It is unclear if or how this bill may impact the role of the State Veterinarian. This bill passed the Senate 38-0 on 2/12/2026, and is with the House Committee on Committees for assignment since 2/13/2026.
- KBVE is tracking other key bills related to licensure, animals, public agencies, and other important topics. If you are interested in a broader legislative update, please reach out to Michelle.Shane@ky.gov for more information.

Administrative Regulation Filings and ARRS Testimony

- Prior to the meeting on February 9, KBVE withdrew proposed changes to 201 KAR 16:762 after the Committee signaled they would declare the regulation deficient. If the Board had left the proposed amendments in play and the regulation was declared deficient, the currently effective regulation would not have been enforceable. By withdrawing the regulation, KBVE may work with stakeholders and resubmit the proposed amendments through the administrative filing process.
- KBVE testified before the ARRS Committee on February 9 regarding the proposed changes to 201 KAR 16:767 (registered facility regulations) and updates to the AAHP regulations for Equine Dental Providers (EDPs). KBVE deferred 16:767 to provide more time for stakeholder input. The EDP regulations are on track to become effective June 2.

- OIG has filed a proposed change to [902 KAR 55:110](#) to require veterinarians to report controlled substances to KASPER, an electronic reporting system that requires all dispensation of CS to be entered into the system within 24-hours. The public comment period is open until March 31. Comments may be emailed to OIG at CHFSregs@ky.gov. Be certain to reference the regulation number.
- All ARRS hearings are open to the public and anyone may sign up to testify at an ARRS meeting.
- You may also watch hearings live or as a recording at [LRC's livestream YouTube site](#), or the [KET Live Feeds](#).

Licensees are encouraged to reach out or write to Members of the General Assembly to voice your opinions on these filings. Your voice matters and can make a difference in the outcome of these bills and proposals. Not sure how to contact your representatives? [Find your legislator on the LRC website](#).

Grievance Case Spotlight

KBVE Agency Grievance # 2014-44

Case Details:

- September 2014 - A Kentucky licensee applied for renewal.
- Shortly after the application was received, the Board received notice from Tennessee that the licensee had a Final Order against them, filed in September.
- When staff reviewed the renewal application, the TN Final Order was not disclosed.
- Details of the TN Final Order showed:
 - The licensee had multiple undisclosed disciplinary actions in Texas.
 - Texas revoked the veterinarian's license in 2010.
 - This was not disclosed to TN.
 - The licensee further violated multiple standards of care in at least five (5) patient cases.
 - As a result, the TN Board:
 - Revoked the veterinarian's license.
 - Assessed a \$6,000 fine.
 - Required all Board legal costs to be repaid up to \$50,000.
- March 2015 - The Kentucky Board issued a letter to the licensee denying the renewal application and terminating the right to practice veterinary medicine in Kentucky.

Start to Finish: This case in Kentucky spanned seven (7) months.

General Cautions: The KBVE Veterinarian Code of Ethics ([201 KAR 16:500](#)) requires that licensees report disciplinary action occurring in other jurisdictions within 30 days. Failure to report such actions to the Board may trigger a disciplinary action by Kentucky.

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

Did You Know?

What tasks can an LVT be assigned? KBVE regulations allow a veterinarian to assign to an LVT any task that is part of the [CVTEA Essential Skills List](#).

Veterinary assistants are limited to those tasks specifically listed in [201 KAR 16:750](#).

News You Can Use



MSU Honors Dr. Phil Prater

On Friday, February 13, Morehead State University held a celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony unveiling the newly improved Veterinary Technology Facilities at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex and formally dedicating the Equine Health Building in honor of Professor Emeritus Dr. Phil Prater.

[Read the full article](#)

In addition to Dr. Prater's many contributions at MSU, he also currently serves on the KBVE with a term through 10/30/2027.

In the News

- [Global One Health Symposium | University of Tennessee One Health Initiative](#) - Free Conference Opportunity.
- [AVMA Call for volunteers](#), including positions on the Council for Education (COE).
- [AAEP Panel addresses underutilization of veterinary technicians](#).
- [Joint statement from AVTE, AAVSB, and AVMA](#) as they begin closer collaboration to resolve outstanding issues with the VTNE.
- [AVMA January 2026 State Legislative Update](#).
- [Covetrus and MWI Animal Health to Merge](#).
- [CPE Board approves new veterinary program at Murray State University](#) (AVMA COE accreditation still required).

New World Screwworm (NWS) newly approved EUA drugs.

Veterinarians may prescribe FDA-approved products for uses that are not on the label, in accordance with the existing regulations including a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR). There are several new Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs)

As the weather warms in the United States, the NWS will likely cross over the border. Veterinarians and their staff should be vigilant for cases of NWS and report to the Kentucky Office of the State Veterinarian at StateVet@ky.gov.

for Extra-Label Drug Use (ELDU) applications to treat NWS in dogs and cats.

Learn more

[CDC updates](#)

[See the full FDA list of approved drugs for treating NWS.](#)

[USDA NWS response and resources for veterinarians](#)

UKVDL and Gluck Research Nocardioform placentitis

Nocardioform placentitis (NP), also called focal mucoid placentitis, is an infection of the equine placenta that can lead to late-term abortion, premature births, or the delivery of weak, underdeveloped foals. NP cases are sporadic, with significant variations between years. At the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (UKVDL), submitted placentas are examined for any abnormalities. The numbers of NP cases are continuously monitored and will be [available on the UKVDL website](#) throughout the 2026 foal season.

If you have cases to discuss, samples you can provide, and/or wish to help with fundraising please contact Gluck Equine Research Center at hossam.elsheikh@uky.edu or UK VDL at Rebecca.Ruby@uky.edu. [Learn more from UK.](#)

Nocardioform Placentitis



• Associated Bacteria

- Soil associated nocardioform bacteria (including *Crossiella equi* and *Amycolatopsis* spp.) and non-nocardioform bacterial species



• Appearance

- Placental lesion near the junction of the uterine horns and body. Covered with thick tan mucoid discharge
- Larger lesion size → Increased risk of abortion or weak foal



• Diagnosis

- Transabdominal ultrasonography is used, but small/early lesions can be easily missed.
- Often diagnosed at an advanced stage
- No reliable blood test available



• Ongoing Questions

- Why follow hot dry summers?
- How do mares get infected? → develop prevention strategy
- Early and sensitive diagnostic tool → early diagnosis and treatment → improve pregnancy outcome
- Better treatment strategy



Current Research

- Development of an early and sensitive diagnostic blood biomarkers
- Identification of novel therapeutic targets
- Determination of antibiotic penetration into NP lesions.

Future Research

- Epidemiological study
- Trials to develop an equine model for NP
- Develop more specific PCR primers

How You Can Help Us Solve This Problem

- Blood samples (red-top; serum and purple top) from mares diagnosed with or suspected of NP collected every two weeks
- Medical record questionnaire filled out
- A blood sample immediately after foaling/abortion if the placenta shows a lesion consistent with NP.
- Submit affected placenta to UK-VDL.
- Confidential discussions with veterinarians and managers of heavily impacted NP farms may help identify solutions.

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Seeking Volunteers for AAHP Advisory Committee

The Board seeks multiple volunteers to participate on the new Allied Animal Health Professional (AAHP) Advisory Committee ([KRS 321.257](#)).

KBVE is looking for a veterinarian with experience in animal chiropractic services and four (4) newly licensed Kentucky AAHP providers - two (2) ACPs and two (2) EDPs. Positions shall be staggered during the initial Committee formation, not to exceed five (5) years. The Committee is anticipated to meet at least once per year, but most likely 2-4 times per year during the establishment phase. Duties include creating policy recommendations to the Board, reviewing legacy candidate applications, and reviewing disciplinary cases involving AAHP providers.

If you are interested in volunteering with the AAHP Advisory Committee, email your qualifications and a statement of interest to Vet@ky.gov.

Facility Registration Update

By the Numbers

- As of 2/18/2026:
 - 682 = Veterinary Facility Applications received
 - 201 = Application reviews completed
 - 139 - Approved applications pending issuance
- As of 2/18/2026:
 - 517 = data entry (partial / initial) complete
 - Database upgrades to allow full data entry, reporting, and licensure issuance still in progress

KBVE has begun issuing Notices of Compliance (NCs) to facilities identified as not having submitted an application. Failure to comply with the NC shall result in a Notice of Violation, including assessed fines.

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

KBVE Meetings Update

- **January 22, 2026 - Meeting Recap**
 - There is national engagement on the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.
 - Both AVMA and AAVSB have established working groups to generate profession-wide recommendations on AI use and governance.
 - The AVMA taskforce is aiming to come up with a checklist to assist licensees in their due diligence.
 - Ultimately, the veterinarian is responsible – it is incumbent upon the licensee to ensure they are using these tools appropriately and within the bounds of existing laws.
 - Immediate recommendations from the Board:
 - Ensure that medical records note use of AI, and if the AI creates an entry the notes should state the AI's contribution. Edits made by AI should also be designated as such.
 - Licensees need to ensure client consent.
 - The Board plans to explore more formal recommendations through an ad hoc committee and will send out more information later this year.
 - Anyone interested in working with the Board on this issue should email Vet@ky.gov and ask to be added to the AI Stakeholder group.
- **March 26, 2026 - 1:00 pm EDT – 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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