March 26, 2020

Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners – Telemedicine Allowance

For the time period of State of Emergency as declared by the Governor of the State of South Carolina, the Board will not enforce S.C. Regulation 120-1(C)(1) requiring in-person (face-to-face) examination for the purposes of establishing telemedicine Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR). The Board encourages licensees engaging in telemedicine, as defined in S.C. Code of Law §40-69-20(15), to refer to the AAVSB Guidelines for Telehealth and the AVMA Policy on Telemedicine.

Licensees electing to continue to engage in in-person visits and examinations, should follow the published AVMA guidelines PPE use and mobile/house calls found on their website at https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19. Additionally, the Board is urging licensees to review the most current recommendations on facility closures and infection control from SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Guidance for Healthcare Facilities and adhere to the CDC Guidelines for Infection Control.

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The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation is currently restricting the public from entering the LLR Kingstree Building. However, the Board staff is working remotely and will assist you as quickly as they can. Licensees and other members of the public needing assistance are encouraged to visit the Board website at www.llr.sc.gov or 803-896-4598 or email to contact.vetboard@llr.sc.gov.

The Board will be reviewing the effects of cancelled continuing education courses and renewals at the next scheduled Board Meeting on May 14, 2020. Information regarding the Board’s decision will be posted following the meeting.

The Board will continue to monitor the situation and will communicate updates via email and the Board website. Over the next few weeks, the Board encourages both the public and licensees to remain calm and take appropriate action to decrease the transmission of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

South Carolina Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners