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From: Shane, Michelle (AGR)
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 5:41 PM
Subject: Kentucky BVE – May 20 - Update on COVID-19 Order

Importance: High

You are receiving this message as current licensee or certificate holder of the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE), or as a pending applicant. To learn more about the COVID-19 response in the Kentucky veterinary community, please visit KBVE's website at www.kybve.com/Kentucky-Veterinary-Covid-19-updates.html.

First, thank you to each licensee who has been conscientiously abiding by both the Governor's and Board's Orders and recommendations during the initial phases of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Your efforts to protect public health during this time are very much appreciated and reflect well on the veterinarian community in the Commonwealth.

Board licensees may expect an easing of some restrictions in the coming weeks. The Board meets on May 28 to discuss the full scope of the changes, and will follow by June 1 with an official announcement and posting on the Board's website.

Licensees should prepare now by developing operational protocols to accommodate client entrance into buildings for walk-throughs to an exam room. Be sure to consider the following points:

- 1) Limiting client entrance to only one individual per family
- 2) Requiring clients to wear masks in the building
- 3) Disinfection of all surfaces touched by clients and patients, as well as exam rooms **between each use**
- 4) Keeping the commons / waiting areas closed – i.e., clients with patients should still be waiting in their vehicles until called into the building, and clients picking up prescriptions or supplies only should still be using curbside
- 5) **Allowing more time between appointments** for appropriate social distancing space, waiting times in vehicles (especially as temperatures increase outside), as well as time for disinfection of surfaces between clients

As the pandemic is not yet over, all businesses must still comply with the Governor's [Minimum Requirements for All Businesses](#). If you have not yet read these, visit the #HealthyatWork minimum requirements link immediately to review the mandates and ensure you and your practice are in compliance. Additionally, we must continue to communicate these responsibilities to our clients on a regular basis so they stay informed on practice limitations.

For the immediate future (i.e., from receipt of this notification), licensees may implement newly developed protocols that are based on the above numerical considerations by allowing client entrance to the building in the following limited situations only:

- Animal euthanasia – an exception of two clients per patient
- Aggressive / fractious patients – client / handler is needed to control the animal
- First Responder / Police / Service animals – handler must stay with the service animal

Outside of these limited situations, all other clients should continue to utilize telemedicine or curbside exchanges and transactions until such time as the Board officially announces otherwise. In all such situations, the commons area / waiting room must remain closed except to pass-through traffic.

Thank you for your continued diligence as we work together to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and protect clients from COVID-19 in our communities.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Michelle

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