

university teaching hospital a part of the training program was spent at The Animal Medical Center, New York City.

If coordinated, one resident could exchange with another resident during the last three to six months of their training. Housing and a permit to practice would have to be arranged well in advance. During the exchange period seminars could be held at each location by the resident to give the host staffs some continuing education in the resident's area of expertise. The hosting staff, on the other hand, can work with the visiting resident through individual study and small group seminars.

Through an exchange program, the university resident would gain a tremendous amount of supervised private practice experience. The private practice resident would be exposed to current ongoing institutional research and basic reviews in anatomy, pathology, etc. The overall educational value would only be limited by the exchange participants.

REFERENCES

1. Grier, R. L., McCurmin, D. M., and Pearson, P. T.: I.S.U. Faculty-Practitioner Exchange Program. *J.A.A.H.A.*, 11, (Nov.-Dec. 1975):805-809.

Mandatory Continuing Education

by F. D. Wertman, D.V.M.*

About ten years ago we began to hear consumer-oriented rumblings about mandatory continuing education as a requirement for relicensure. At that time, a number of state veterinary medical associations started academies of Veterinary Practice. These Academies varied somewhat from state-to-state, but they all required a specified number of hours of continuing education for membership. These Academies were a hedge against mandatory continuing education.

The General Assembly of the State of Iowa, following four years of committee activity, passed in the last session a Professional and Occupational Licensing Bill that requires continuing education for relicensure. This law includes twenty-four professions and occupations, and becomes effective January 1, 1978. It also delegates to the Boards of Examiners rule-making authority and provides for procedures for professional review of the imposition of disciplinary sanction for certain acts or omissions or revocation of licenses.

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The portion of the law that will affect the practice of veterinary medicine is the mandatory continuing education. The law states that the Iowa Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners will establish a continuing education program to "guarantee continued maintenance of skills and knowledge commensurate with the current level of competency of the members of the profession for the purpose of guaranteeing the citizens of the State of Iowa a high standard of professional care."

The law defines continuing education as "that education which is obtained in order to maintain, improve or expand skills or knowledge obtained prior to initial licensure or to develop new and relevant skills." The law further specifies that the education may be obtained through formal or informal practices, self-study, research and participation in professional, technical and occupational societies and by other similar means as authorized by the board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

The Professional and Occupational Licensing Law gives broad powers to all Boards to discipline licensees. The present

Practice Act grants this power to the Board. It is not changed in this law. However, the new law states that the Examining Board shall issue rules on continuing education as a requirement for relicensure and that the Board will grant credit for approved continuing education programs.

Proposed rules are being drafted that will require licensees to have twenty hours of approved continuing education per year. One continuing education credit will be granted for each hour of scientific contact. The Veterinary Examining Board studied continuing education offerings presented in Iowa and recommended twenty hours. The fact that the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association had developed an Academy of Veterinary Practice and was recording continuing education hours was beneficial to the Veterinary Examining Board members when they appeared before the legislative committees studying professional and occupational licensing.

The new law also provides that the Veterinary Examining Board may appoint peer review committees, that complaints may be brought by the Board, members of the profession or lay persons.

Grounds for revocation or suspension of a license to practice are:

1. Fraud in procuring the license.
2. Incompetency in the practice of the profession.
3. Immoral, unprofessional, or dishonorable conduct.
4. Habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs.
5. Conviction of a felony.
6. Fraud of representations as to skill or ability.
7. Use in untruthful or improbable statements in advertisements, publicity material, or interviews having a tendency to deceive and defraud the public.
8. Distribution of alcohol or drugs or controlled substances, as defined in section 204.101, subsection 6, for any other than legitimate purposes.

9. Willful or repeated violations of this title, the title on "Public Health," or the rules of the department of agriculture.
10. Employing directly or indirectly a capper, solicitor, or drummer to secure patients, or obtaining a fee for the assurance that an incurable disease can be cured.
11. Having professional connections or lending one's name to any illegal practitioner of veterinary medicine or the various branches thereof.
12. Any division of fees or charges or any agreement or arrangement to share fees or charges.
13. The revocation by a sister state or territory of a license or certificate by virtue of which one is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in that state or territory.
14. Fraud or dishonesty in applying, treating or reporting on biologics, tuberculin or serological tests.
15. Failing to report, as required by law, or making false report of any contagious or infectious disease.
16. Issuing a certificate of health for an animal knowing that the animal described therein was not the animal from which the tests were made as a basis for the certificate, or otherwise falsifying any such certificate.

The College of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Extension at Iowa State University, the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association and the district and local associations have been providing scientific educational programs for members of the profession. These voluntary programs are planned for all segments of the profession. The Legislature, through consumer advocacy, has passed a law that will require continuing education and hopefully maintenance of competency. This bill places more responsibility on and gives more authority to the Veterinary Examining Board. The members of the veterinary profession also will have to assume more responsibility.