



KENTUCKY BOARD OF
VETERINARY EXAMINERS



kbve.ky.gov

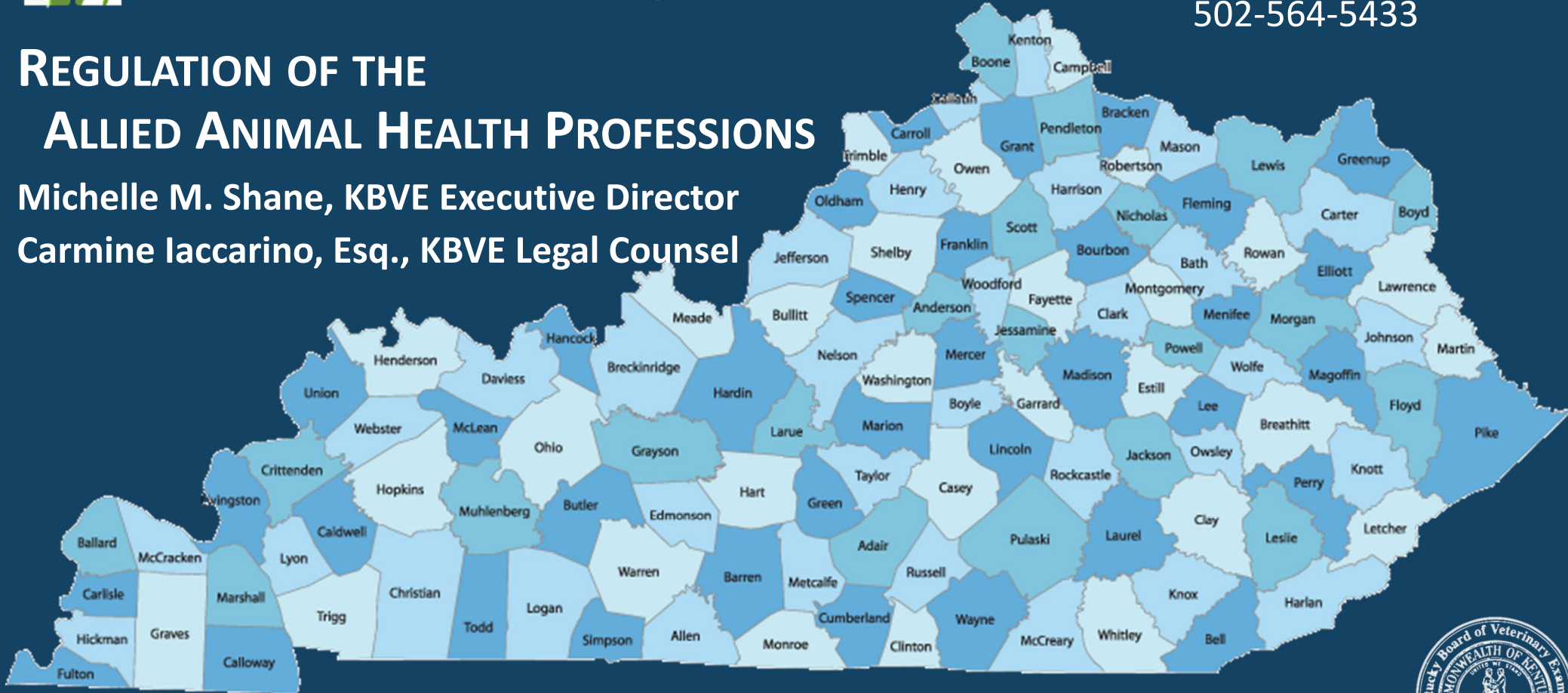
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REGULATION OF THE ALLIED ANIMAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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Learn more about the Kentucky Practice Act at <https://kbve.ky.gov/Pages/practice-act.aspx>



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) Composition
- Veterinarian Education
- Governance Recommendation for Services on Animals
- Kentucky Veterinary Medicine Practice Act
- Practice of Veterinary Medicine – A Recent History of Carveouts
- Allied Animal Health Professional (AAHP) Licenses
- New Legislative Initiatives



KENTUCKY BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS (KBVE)



MEMBERS OF THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

1. Chairman John C. Park, DVM

- Serving 2nd term
- Equine
- Paris, KY

2. Vice Chairman Gene Smith, DVM

- Serving 4th term (13+ years)
- Small animal
- Hazard, KY

3. Dianne J. Dawes, DVM

- Serving 2nd term
- Small animal
- Georgetown, KY

4. Tom M. Dorman, Citizen-at-Large

- Serving 2nd term
- Extensive regulatory background
- Frankfort, KY

5. Tim R. Gardner, DVM

- Serving 2nd term
- Large animal
- Scottsville, KY

6. Stephanie M. Kennedy, DVM

- Serving 2nd term
- Small animal
- Frankfort, KY

7. Philip E. Prater, DVM

- Serving 1st term
- Large Animal
- Hillsboro, KY

8. Jennifer K. Quammen, DVM

- Serving 1st term
- Small animal
- Walton, KY

9. Amy J. Staton, EdD, LVT

- Serving 3rd term
- LVT Educator @ Morehead
- Salt Lick, KY

10. Steve Velasco, DVM

- Kentucky State Veterinarian
- Proxy for KDA Commissioner Jonathan Shell (permanent seat)
- Versailles, KY

11. TBD

- AAHP Licensee



VETERINARIAN EDUCATION



HISTORY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Care of animals has existed for thousands of years

- B.C. 2200 – Code of Hammurabi regulates veterinary fees
- B.C. 1900 – Documentation showing oldest veterinary prescriptions
- A.D. 300 – “Hippiatrika”, first major work written by professional veterinarians
- A.D. 1500’s – Work and publications on animal diseases
- Late 1700’s – Science of veterinary medicine noted as a formal discipline with establishment of first veterinarian school: Lyons Veterinary School, France

Source: “Evolution of the Veterinary Art” by J.F. Smithcors



MODERN VETERINARIAN EDUCATION IN U.S.

- Four (4) year undergraduate degree (typically)
- Four (4) year doctoral degree (DVM or VMD) from an AVMA-COE accredited school
 - Classroom learning
 - Laboratories
 - Clinical rotations
- National Board Exam – the NAVLE
 - Test covers all species
- After graduation, most veterinarians limit practice to focus services:
 - Small animals and/or small animal ER
 - Large animals / food animals
 - Equine
 - Exotics
 - Mixed practices



VETERINARIAN EDUCATION

- Ongoing continuing education (CE) and additional training in various areas of practice to build upon their foundational knowledge:
 - Surgery
 - Internal Medicine
 - Oncology
 - Complementary and alternative therapies
 - Etc.
- Boarded Specialists / Diplomates
 - Additional three-four (3-4) years of education/residency
 - Additional Board Exam
 - To maintain, must take specialized CE



GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION FOR SERVICES ON ANIMALS



VETERINARIAN SHORTAGES

- Today, there are Veterinary shortages, particularly in equine and food animal medicine
 - Just 20-30 years ago many stated there were too many veterinarians
- Shortages today are related to access to care, especially in rural areas
 - Specific reasons for this, too broad of a topic to cover today
- Proponents of carveouts argue that a division of labor will reduce shortages
- This argument fails to account for addition of 12+ new Colleges of Veterinary Medicine (CVMs) being built, or increased cohort size or added cohorts at existing CVMs in the U.S.
- Notably,
 - Training in human medicine doesn't provide for an automatic understanding to safely and appropriately work across species
 - Training in a specialized discipline requires more than a brief course in animals to understand holistic treatment needs and the cross-discipline impacts for an animal patient



WHO WANTS A SLICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE?

The better question
might be:

“Who doesn’t?”

- Chiropractors
- Physical therapists
- Rehabilitators
- Therapists / Animal communicators
- Nurses
- New mid-level professional
- Acupuncturists
- Vaccine administrators
- Euthanasia specialists
- Farmers and herdsmen
- Groomers, breeders, boarders and sitters...



WHO SHOULD GOVERN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE ON ANIMALS?

Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) on animals – Veterinarians

- Work on animals is by definition the practice of veterinary medicine
- Keep all practices on animals under this single board's umbrella
 - Veterinarians holistically understand all animal services and how they cross over into all areas of practice
- Consistent limits on scopes of practice
- One source for animal service laws
- One source for animal service providers
- One source to file consumer complaints
- Less confusing for the consumer/public
- California and Kentucky already license/register veterinary technicians (RVTs)



KENTUCKY VETERINARY MEDICINE PRACTICE ACT



“COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE THERAPIES”

[KRS 321.181](#)

(24) "Complementary and alternative veterinary medicine therapies" means a heterogeneous group of preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic philosophies and practices that are not considered part of conventional veterinary medicine. These therapies include but are not limited to:

- (a) Veterinary acupuncture, acuthery, and acupressure;
- (b) Veterinary homeopathy;
- (c) Veterinary manual or manipulative therapy, such as therapies based on techniques practiced in osteopathy, chiropractic, or physical medicine and therapy;
- (d) Veterinary nutraceutical therapy; and
- (e) Veterinary phytotherapy;



"PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE"

[KRS 321.181](#)

(52) "Practice of veterinary medicine" means any person who practices veterinary medicine when performing any one (1) or more of the following on an animal:

- (a) Directly or indirectly diagnoses, prognoses, corrects, changes, relieves, prevents, supervises, recommends, or performs medical or surgical treatment, **including complementary and alternative veterinary medicine therapies**, obstetrics, dentistry, oral surgery, acupuncture, laser therapy, manipulation, and all other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine, for the diagnosis, prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, defect, deformity, fracture, bodily injury, disease, or dental, physical, behavioral, or mental condition;
- (b) Prescribes, dispenses, or administers any drug, medicine, anesthetic, biologic, appliance, apparatus, application, treatment, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique for veterinary purposes, or performs euthanasia, in accordance with the applicable federal statutes and regulations governing controlled prescription drugs, legend drugs, and veterinary drugs;
- (c) Performs any manual procedure for the diagnosis, treatment, or both of pregnancy, sterility, or infertility, including embryo transfer;...



“ALLIED ANIMAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL” OR “AAHP” PROVIDER

[KRS 321.181](#)

- (1) "Allied animal health professional" or "AAHP" means a professional who has completed an approved allied animal health professional program as defined by administrative regulation promulgated by the board in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A and who offers specialized, limited services as defined in this chapter or by an administrative regulation to an animal patient in an area of practice as identified in [KRS 321.251](#);



AAHP LICENSES



AAHP PROVIDERS

- KBVE granted scope of authority to govern AAHPs
- License required to provide AAHP services on animals
- Title protections
- “Legacy” (i.e., grandfather) pathway window
- Limited scope of practice for each provider type
- Education, testing, and CE requirements
- Medical record keeping, retention, access
- Duties to Report
- Subject to compliance and disciplinary action



AAHP LICENSE OVERVIEW

[201 KAR 16:737](#) – Responsibilities and limitations on practice specified in regulations*

- Conditions regarding required supervision by veterinarians
 - ACPs – no supervision required, no referral needed
 - EDPs – indirect supervision required by veterinarian with a VCPR, no referral needed
- Communication with veterinarians (pre- *and* post- services)
- **Limited scope of practice**
 - Prohibition on lasers, shockwave, ultrasound, electrotherapy, rehabilitation activities, etc.
 - No medical imaging
 - No surgery
 - No prescription authority
 - No drug administration authority

* EDPs in statute



AAHP GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

[201 KAR 16:737](#) – Responsibilities and limitations on practice

- Staying within limitations on scope of practice
 - Public understanding
- Communication with VCPR veterinarian
- Dispensation and administration of drugs
 - Pending federal scheduling of drugs typically used in equine sedation
- Liability for services
- EDP students



AAHP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- [25 RS SB 69](#)
- Members include veterinarians and AAHPs
- Appointed by Veterinary Board Chair
- Meet at least once per year
- Make recommendations to the Board on governance of AAHPs
- Review grievance cases against AAHP providers



PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE — A RECENT HISTORY OF CARVEOUTS



REPRODUCTIVE SPECIALISTS

- Late 1980's – early 1990's
- Reproductive specialists with a PhD performing embryo transfers
- After a long legislative battle, special exemption added for a few individuals
 - [KRS 321.200](#)
 - (1) No provision of this chapter shall be construed to prohibit any of the following:...
 - (i) Any person who holds a postgraduate degree in reproductive physiology or a related field, and who has performed embryo transfers in Kentucky during the five (5) years immediately preceding July 14, 1992, from performing embryo transfers on animals;...
- Now these exempted individuals are near retirement and their clients are looking for a veterinarian alternative
- Renewed petitions to KBVE for additional exemptions and carveouts
 - [KBVE Meeting Minutes 11/30/2023](#) – Page 5
 - [KBVE Meeting Minutes 02/08/2024](#) – Page 15-16



ANIMAL MASSAGE THERAPISTS (AMTs)

- In 2019, KBVE reached out to the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Massage Therapy (KBLMT)
 - Multiple stakeholder meetings
 - Boards did not agree – e.g., required hours of training, CE, veterinarian oversight, etc.
- In 2020, bill filed ([20 RS HB 346](#))
 - Initiative returned to primary lobby group for the professional association of massage therapists
 - COVID
- 2020-2023 – KBVE Practice Act Modernization
- 2023-25 – Renewed talks with KBLMT (new board composition) to include AMTs under the AAHP framework



ANIMAL CHIROPRACTIC PROVIDERS (ACPs)

- In October 2020, the Kentucky Board of Chiropractic Examiners (KBCE) reached out to KBVE
 - Multiple meetings boards, including Chiropractors Association to determine direction for legal path to license
 - Timing aligned with KBVE initiative to modernize the Kentucky Veterinary Medicine Practice Act
- In 2023, Practice Act modernization bill filed ([23 RS HB 167](#))
 - Included definition of an “Allied Animal Health Professional” (AAHP) provider
 - Established that ACPs were AAHPs and could be awarded a permit by KBVE
 - Added seat for AAHP permittee to the Board
- ACPs must complete training, pass testing, and maintain certification with either:
 - American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) or
 - International Veterinary Chiropractic Association (IVCA)



EQUINE DENTAL PROVIDERS (EDPs)

- Worked in Kentucky basically unchecked by the Board for more than four (4) decades
- Encouraged by veterinarians in busy parts of the Commonwealth who provided client referrals to EDPs, and such practice became a staple of the industry
- Conversely, this generated complaints from licensees in more rural areas of the state citing lay EDPs practicing veterinary medicine without a license
- While initially included in the Practice Act modernization bill, EDPs were removed for additional research
 - Texas vs. Oklahoma models
 - Permit changed to license for professional insurance and liability purposes
- [25 RS SB 69](#) passed to include EDPs under the AAHP licensure framework
- EDPs must complete training, pass testing, and maintain certification with the International Association of Equine Dentistry (IAED)
- KBVE working now with Kentucky Horse Racing & Gaming Corporation re rules for EDP licensure requirements on racetracks



NEW LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES



POSSIBLE FUTURE LEGISLATION IN KENTUCKY

- Animal Massage Therapists
 - Seeking legislative sponsor to add into current AAHP framework
- Physical Therapists
 - Scheduled meetings in 2025
 - Opposition from KBVE and Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy (KBPT)
- Physical Rehabilitation Providers
- Reproductive Specialists
- Shockwave and Laser Therapy Providers





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Questions?



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