

21 NCAC 66 .0206 is amended as published with changes in 38:24 NCR page 1653-1654 as follows:

21 NCAC 66 .0206 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Each person holding a veterinary license, limited license, a faculty certificate, or a zoo veterinary certificate (collectively referred to herein as "veterinarian") or a veterinary technician registration issued by the Board shall comply with the standards in this Rule. The standards shall be a condition precedent to the renewal of a license, certificate, or registration respectively. The standards are as follows:

- (1) A veterinarian shall earn 20 continuing education credit hours for the calendar year license renewal period. A maximum of ~~five~~ ten hours may be obtained pursuant to courses described in Item (3) of this Rule.
- (2) A registered veterinary technician shall earn 12 continuing education credit hours for the two-calendar year registration renewal period. A maximum of ~~four~~ six hours may be obtained pursuant to course described in Item (3) of this Rule.
- (3) One continuing education hour may be earned for each hour of independent self-study courses, prerecorded webinars, audio conferences, and non-interactive on-line presentations by approved continuing education credit providers.
- (4) One continuing education credit hour may be earned for each hour of in-person attendance or live interactive attendance at courses presented by approved continuing education credit providers.
- (5) A live interactive presentation shall:
 - (a) include instant or synchronous two-way ~~communication~~; communication;
 - (b) provide access to both technical personnel and professional faculty, as well as interactivity among participants for the exchange of questions and answers via instant messaging or a moderated teleconference, and
 - (c) document the level of participation by keeping a record of the participant's activity in asking or answering questions during the presentation and the score of any examination administered at the end or the presentation.
- (6) A veterinarian or registered veterinary technician may request and be granted an extension of time, not to exceed six months, to satisfy the continuing education requirement if the veterinarian or registered veterinary technician provides evidence of a circumstance that prevents the veterinarian or registered veterinary technician from being able to obtain continuing education. The Board shall consider any evidence submitted of a circumstance preventing the veterinarian or registered veterinary technician from being able to obtain continuing education on a case-by-case basis.
- (7) If the Board finds that the circumstance that was the basis for non-compliance with the continuing education requirement justified the non-compliance, the Board may exempt that individual from completing the unearned portion of the continuing education for that renewal period.
- (8) Continuing education credits hours may be earned from courses, programs, or materials presented or approved by the following providers:

- (a) the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA);
(b) the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA);
(c) the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA);
(d) the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;
(e) the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' (AAVSB) Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE); and
(f) academies, schools, or colleges of veterinary medicine.

These providers are designated herein as "approved continuing education credit providers." The Board shall consider additional courses, presentations, or materials eligible for approval for continuing education credit hours, provided that the individual seeking the credit furnishes the Board with information to establish that the content of the course, presentation, or material are sufficiently educational for veterinarians or registered veterinary technicians. Board approval for continuing education credits for such additional courses, presentations, or materials shall be obtained prior to attendance or participation; however, the Board shall waive the requirement of prior approval if illness, injury, or natural disaster prevented the individual from obtaining the prior approval.

- (9) Each veterinarian and registered veterinary technician shall keep a file containing the three most recent renewal periods of the content of courses submitted to the Board for continuing education credit hours.
- (10) A veterinarian licensed in the year of graduation from a veterinary medical college is not required to earn continuing education credit hours to be eligible for license renewal for the next renewal period.
- (11) A veterinary technician registered in the year of graduation from a veterinary medical technology program is not required to earn continuing education credit hours to be eligible for registration renewal for the next renewal period.
- (12) A veterinarian or veterinary technician serving in the armed forces of the United States and to whom an extension of time to file a tax return is granted pursuant to G.S. 105-249.2 is granted the same extension of time to comply with the continuing education requirement of this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-185(6); 90-186(1); 93B-15;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Readopted Eff. September 30, 1977;
Amended Eff. June 17, 2024; February 1, 2018; June 1, 2003; May 1, 1996; May 1, 1989; January 1, 1987;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Amend Eff. January 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 66 .0902 is amended as published with changes in 38:24 NCR page 1655 as follows:

21 NCAC 66 .0902 VETERINARY FACILITY PERMITS

(a) Any person who owns a business which operates a facility providing services that constitute the "practice of veterinary medicine" on a full, part-time, or temporary basis shall have a veterinary facility permit issued by the Board prior to offering or delivering any veterinary medical services to the public. Veterinary or Veterinary Technician teaching programs offering services to the public shall have a veterinary facility permit.

(b) As a condition of any veterinary facility permit issued by the Board, the owner shall designate a supervising veterinarian.

(c) The Board shall issue a veterinary facility permit to an owner after the owner submits an application, pays the veterinary facility permit fee, and passes a facility inspection. The Board shall inspect the veterinary facility to ensure compliance with Rules .0207 and .0208 of this Chapter if an inspection has not been performed in the last two years. It is the responsibility of the owners to ensure that the veterinary facility meets the minimum veterinary facility standards in Rules .0207 and .0208 of this Chapter.

(d) The application for a veterinary facility permit shall be on a form prescribed by the Board and available on the Board's website. The application shall contain:

- (1) the owner's name, physical address, mailing address, email address, and telephone number;
- (2) proposed or existing name of the facility, as set forth in G.S. 90-181.1, physical address, mailing address, email address, and telephone number; and
- (3) designation of a supervising veterinarian of the facility subject to the provisions of Rules .0903 of this Section.

(e) Each veterinary facility permit shall be renewed yearly. The veterinary facility must have passed an inspection pursuant to Rule .0207(b)(16) of this Chapter within the 24 months prior to issuance of renewal.

(f) Each veterinary facility that is identified by a separate physical address or that is located at the same physical address as another veterinary facility but has different owners or supervising veterinarians shall be a separate veterinary facility requiring a separate veterinary facility permit. The physical address for a veterinary facility shall be the primary business location.

(g) The owner shall notify the Board within 10 business days of any changes in contact information.

(h) The owner shall notify the Board in writing of a planned change in the ownership or in the supervising veterinarian of the veterinary facility at least 20 business days prior to the planned change.

(i) In the event of an owner's inability to maintain the facility's compliance with Chapter 90 of the General Statutes and the rules of this Chapter, the Board shall be notified within 10 business days by an owner, or if the owner is unable to do so as a result of physical inability, the supervising veterinarian, or a member of the veterinary facility's staff.

(j) In the event that the Board is notified that the owner to whom a facility permit is issued is dissolved voluntarily, administratively, or by operation of law; suspended by the NC Department of Revenue; or has its certificate of authority revoked by the NC Secretary of State, the Board shall also suspend the permit issued to the owner. The

suspension shall remain in effect until the suspension has been lifted by NC Department of Revenue, or the person has been reinstated by the NC Secretary of State, or both.

(k) The Board may issue a temporary veterinary facility permit to the owners of a veterinary facility for a period of 35 business days to allow the owners to address and resolve violations of the rules of this Chapter, particularly, Rules .0207 and .0208 of this Chapter, discovered during the veterinary facility inspection. However, the Board shall not issue a temporary veterinary facility permit if the violations present a danger to the health or safety of the public or animals. Upon request of the owner, the Board may extend a temporary permit for an additional period of no more than 35 business days, as long as satisfactory progress has been made as determined by the Board. In the event of the death of an owner, the permit remains valid for ~~35~~ 50 business days from the date of the death of the owner, so long as the facility continues to have an active, supervising veterinarian registered with the Board.

(l) The following are exempt from the requirement for a veterinary facility permit:

- (1) those exempted by licensure under G.S. 90-187.10;
- (2) a veterinary facility owned and operated by the State of North Carolina, a political subdivision thereof, or the federal government, so long as the facility does not offer or provide veterinary services to the public; or
- (3) a temporary veterinary facility established as a result of an emergency declared by the Governor of North Carolina.

(m) A person operating without a veterinary facility permit is subject to the provisions of G.S. 90-187.13.

(n) The veterinary facility permit shall be displayed by the owners at the facility at a location viewable by the public. Veterinary facility permits for mobile facilities shall be available upon request.

(o) An owner or supervising veterinarian shall provide a copy of medical records maintained pursuant to Rule .0207 of this Chapter within 10 business days of receipt of a request by a current or former patient's owner. The veterinary facility may charge the patient's owner the actual cost of reproducing the records as a reasonable fee.

(p) Owners shall post on any existing veterinary facility website home page:

- (1) The facility's name, address, and telephone ~~number, number;~~
- (2) The facility's regular business ~~hours, hours;~~
- (3) Availability of after-hours emergency care at the ~~facility; facility;~~ and
- (4) If after-hours emergency care is not available, the name, address, and telephone number of an after-hours emergency provider.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-185; 90-186(2); 90-186(8); 90-186(9);

Eff. June 17, 2024.

Amended Eff. October 1, 2024.

21 NCAC 66 .0903 is amended as published with changes in 38:24 NCR page 1655-1656 as follows:

21 NCAC 66 .0903 SUPERVISING VETERINARIAN

(a) The owners of a veterinary facility shall designate a supervising veterinarian who shall be responsible for informing the owners as to the instances of non-compliance with 21 NCAC 66 .0207 and 21 NCAC 66 .0208 at the veterinary facility.

(b) The supervising veterinarian shall be currently licensed by and in good standing with the Board.

(c) The owners may designate an interim supervising veterinarian to serve for a period not to exceed ~~25~~ 50 business days.

(d) A veterinarian may be a supervising veterinarian at more than one veterinary facility. At each veterinary facility that is open for 159 hours or less per month, the supervising veterinarian shall be physically onsite for a minimum of 25 percent of the total time a veterinary facility is open. At each veterinary facility that is open for 160 hours or more per month, the supervising veterinarian shall be physically onsite at each veterinary facility for a minimum of 40 hours per month. Electronic or handwritten documentation stating the dates and times that the supervising veterinarian was present at the veterinary facility shall be maintained by the supervising veterinarian at each individual facility and made available by the owner, supervising veterinarian, or the staff at each facility at the time of inspection or investigation by the Board.

(e) The owners of a veterinary facility may designate more than one supervising veterinarian for a veterinary facility, in which case the onsite physical presence of each of the supervising veterinarians at the veterinary facility shall be counted toward satisfaction of the onsite physical presence requirement of Paragraph (d) of this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-185(6); 90-186(9);

Eff. June 17, 2024.

Amended Eff. October 1, 2024

21 NCAC 66 .0904 is amended as published with changes in 38:24 NCR page 1656 as follows:

21 NCAC 66 .0904 DISCIPLINE VETERINARY FACILITY PERMITS

(a) The Board shall investigate any complaint within its jurisdiction. The investigation and any resulting hearings shall be conducted pursuant to Sections .0600 and .0700 of the Chapter. Following an investigation and the owner's opportunity to be heard, the Board may:

- (1) revoke or suspend a veterinary facility permit issued under this Chapter;
- (2) discipline the owner of a facility permitted under this Chapter in accordance with the disciplinary measures set forth in Sections .0600 and .0700 of this Chapter;
- (3) deny a veterinary facility permit required by G.S. 90-186(8) and the rules of this Chapter based on violations of Board Rules ~~including~~ including, but not limited to, Rules .0207 and .0208 of this Chapter.

For the purpose of this Rule, references to licensee or registrant in the provisions of Sections .0600 and .0700 of this Chapter are treated as references to owner and permittee. References to license are treated as references to facility permit.

(b) The Board may suspend, revoke, or deny issuance of a veterinary facility permit, without hearing, ~~if~~ for any of the following reasons:

- (1) A veterinary facility has not had a supervising veterinarian or an interim supervising veterinarian serving in that capacity for more than ~~five~~ fifteen business days.
- (2) The Board obtains a summary emergency order pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 90-186(3).
- (3) The owners of the veterinary facility have failed to notify the Board after 10 business days of a change in ownership of the facility or change in the supervising veterinarian.

(c) An owner shall cease to operate a veterinary facility as of the date the Board notifies the owner of the revocation of his or her veterinary facility permit. Within 24 hours of receiving notification of revocation, an owner shall display the following information at the facility and through any existing medium of communication with the public, such as social media, a telephone answering system, or facility website:

- (1) information that the veterinary facility is closed;
- (2) the means by which clients may obtain their animal's medical records; and
- (3) notice of the Board's revocation of the facility permit.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-185(6); 90-186(8); 90-186(9);

Eff. June 17, 2024.

Amended Eff. October 1, 2024.