



# May 2020 Bulletin

## State of Nevada Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

### Continuing Education Policy Change for 2020

There have been many questions surrounding that status of the continuing education requirements for this year in light of numerous cancellations, delays, or changes regarding in-person conferences and courses for CE. At the April 23, 2020 Board meeting, the Board members discussed the current requirements and if those requirements should change for 2020 in light of the national and global emergency and social distancing measures. Typically, licensees are required to earn at least 1/2 of their CE at in-person courses. ***Due to the current national and global pandemic, the Board has decided to waive the in-person requirement for CE for 2020.***

The number of hours remain the same as well as the types of courses that qualify as approved CE. Additionally, the types of courses that are approved must satisfy the requirements set out in NAC 638.042 (below)

**The number of required CE hours remain the same for 2020.**

License Type	Hours
DVM	20
LVT	10
AC	15
APT	5
EDP	8

#### Courses deemed approved by Board.

1. The American Veterinary Medical Association;
2. A specialty group of the AVMA
3. The Western Veterinary Conference, the Wild West Veterinary Conference or any other regional veterinary conference;
4. The State Department of Agriculture;
5. The United States Department of Agriculture;
6. The American Animal Hospital Association;
7. The AAVSB (this includes all RACE approved courses)
8. The Nevada Veterinary Medical Association;
9. An institution of the Nevada System of Higher Education;
10. A school of veterinary medicine that is accredited by the Council on Education of the AVMA; or
11. A program for veterinary technicians that is approved by the CVTEA of the AVMA.

We will be posting resources and links to courses that are online in an effort to make it easier for our licensees to find approved classes and low-cost or free courses as well. Additionally, if you have signed up for a conference, you may want to check with the company to see if they may be putting the conference on digitally.

#### **Here is a list of online accessible CE Resources:**

- ⇒ <https://www.vetmedteam.com/classes.aspx> (This site shows free CE specific courses at the top of the page)
- ⇒ <https://www.aavsb.org/CE-Services/RACE/find-a-race-provider> (Allows you to search RACE courses under specific criteria)
- ⇒ <https://www.vetfolio.com/pages/trial-page> (You will scroll down to see courses. After registration, you will be able to begin the course)
- ⇒ [https://www.navta.net/page/continuing\\_education](https://www.navta.net/page/continuing_education)
- ⇒ <https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/veterinarians/webinars/>
- ⇒ <https://www.idexxlearningcenter.com/>

# DON'T BE CONFUSED, HERE'S YOUR COVID UPDATE

## The Virus, Testing, and What to Say to Clients



As expected, there have been numerous developments since our April bulletin. The most relevant development regarding veterinary practices is that there are now confirmed SARS-CoV-2 positive cases in animals and there is commercial availability of a SARS-CoV-2 test for animals.

### The Animal Cases

At the time of publication, there have been reports of four SARS-CoV-2 positive pet cats, three pet dogs, and several exotic cats worldwide. The details of each case are unique and the information is not sufficient to confidently confirm COVID-19 in all of the reported cases. The USDA confirmed four cases of COVID-19 in animals in the United States (two domestic cats in New York and a lion and a tiger at the Bronx Zoo). The clinical signs were reported to be mild and all patients are expected to recover. In each case, there was exposure to known SARS-CoV-2 positive persons prior to the animal being tested and the transmission was assumed to be from human to animal.

### The Role of Animals in COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the small number of confirmed cases, it is impossible to make a blanket characterization of the role domestic animals play in this pandemic. With only sporadic reports of SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 illness appearing in some domestic species, the role of domestic species in SARS-CoV-2 spread may become more clear as time goes on and more information can be gathered. At this time, there is no direct evidence that domestic animals play a role in SARS-CoV-2 transmission to people.

### Animal Testing

The two largest commercial veterinary laboratories, IDEXX and Antech, have announced they have been testing for SARS-CoV-2 in animals since March. Both laboratories stated they have tested samples submitted by veterinarians for routine respiratory and gastrointestinal panels. The exact number of tests have not been reported but the IDEXX website states that the lab has run more than 5,000 tests. Antech has not yet released any cumulative data. No positive tests from either lab have been reported at the time of this writing. The AVMA, USDA, and the CDC do not recommend routine testing in animals and Antech does not offer their test to their clients. However, IDEXX has chosen to offer their test (RealPCR) to their veterinary clients. Understandably, there is a demand for this test in animals and you will likely face questions from your clients. The AVMA has published an algorithm to help you decide if testing is indicated in your patients. If the decision to test a patient is made, the Nevada State Veterinarian should be contacted for further guidance if a positive result occurs (see contact information at the end of this article). Because the USDA is responsible for reporting any SARS-CoV-2 positive case in the US to the World Organization for Animal Health, additional samples will need to be collected for later confirmation by the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

### Talking to Clients

If an owner is concerned their pet is sick with COVID-19, you should discuss that although it is possible, that it is more likely that symptoms are from a more common disease (such as feline herpes virus in a cat with respiratory signs). You should counsel your clients to rule out more common conditions causing the clinical signs in the pet prior to considering SARS-CoV-2 testing. It is important to stress that this virus is spread primarily from human to human and potentially from infected person to domestic animal. However, it remains unclear if domestic animals can transmit this virus to people at this time. It should be acknowledged that the information we have to date is limited and updates with more conclusive information will be provided when available. In the meantime, it continues to be best practice to wash hands before and after contact with a pet, their food, and/or their waste.



# COVID RESOURCES

RESOURCES FOR COVID UPDATE

**USDA List of Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 in Animals in USA:**

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA\\_One\\_Health/sars-cov-2-animals-us](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA_One_Health/sars-cov-2-animals-us)

**IDEXX SARS-CoV-2 Testing Information:**

<https://www.idexx.com/en/veterinary/reference-laboratories/coronavirus-diagnostic-update/>

**AVMA Recommendations on CoV-2 Testing:**

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/testing-animals-sars-cov-2>

**AVMA Algorithm for CoV-2 Testing in Animals:**

<https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/coronavirus/COVID-19-Testing-Flowchart.pdf>

**AVMA FAQ for Talking to Clients:**

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/covid-19-faqs-pet-owners>

**Nevada Department of Agriculture:**

[http://agri.nv.gov/Resources/Staff\\_Listings/Animal\\_Industry\\_-\\_Staff\\_Listing/](http://agri.nv.gov/Resources/Staff_Listings/Animal_Industry_-_Staff_Listing/)

**AVMA Recommendations on Managing Employees:**

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/guidance-managing-employees-confirmed-suspected-covid-19-exposure-disease>

**John Hopkins Article on PPE:**

<https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/articles/the-right-mask-for-the-task.html>

## WANT TO DO MORE?

HOW VETERINARIANS AND VET TECHS CAN NOW  
VOLUNTEER TO PUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE TO USE IN THE  
HUMAN WORLD

Recently, the Nevada Veterinary Board approved a proposal that was then accepted and approved by the Nevada Medical Advisory Team. The proposal would allow for volunteer licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians to practice in hospitals with an

expanded scope of practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. For veterinarians and veterinary technicians interested in the program, you can visit <https://www.servnv.org/> to register for the volunteer program or you can go directly to <https://www.servnv.org/faq.php> to access more information to find out if you'd like to serve in the Battle Born Medical Corp.

A special thanks goes to Dr. Jon Pennell who not only brought this critical issue to the Board, but also drafted the language for the proposal. Thank you Dr. Pennell!