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 10 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 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;
   (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 Stated 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;*
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