

## ***National Examining Board of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association***

You will find below information concerning the veterinary licensing examination process of the National Examining Board (NEB) of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), which has recently changed. A graduate of a non-accredited veterinary school is required to complete all three parts of the examination sequence in order to receive a Certificate of Qualification (CQ). A CQ is a prerequisite to apply for a license from any of the ten provincial veterinary licensing boards in Canada.

As implemented by the NEB, the veterinary licensing examination process for graduates of non-accredited veterinary schools will involve:

- the Basic and Clinical Sciences Examination (BCSE);
- the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®); and
- the Clinical Proficiency Examination (CPE).

To become a candidate of the NEB, one must obtain an application package, which is available for a fee of \$15 CAD. The package includes an application form, a list of the documents to be submitted and a booklet that explains the exam process in full detail. The following documentation and fee must be provided to the NEB for assessment:

- NEB application form completed and signed;
- ***Original or notarised copy*** of your veterinary degree;
- Proof of proficiency in English or French (please see below for the specific requirements);
- Application/document examination fee of **\$472.50 CAD** (including 5% GST); by cheque or money order payable to CVMA, or by providing a Visa or MasterCard account number and expiry date;
- Three (**3**) recent passport size (70mm X 50mm) photograph of the applicant, which must be signed by the applicant;
- ***Original or notarised copy*** of the official transcript of your academic record from your school of graduation;
- Letter of recommendation from a licensing organization within the veterinary profession in the country of origin or, if not yet licensed, from an individual in the veterinary profession;
- Letter of recommendation from a responsible individual in the veterinary profession;
- ***Notarised copy*** of birth certificate or a statutory declaration establishing your identity and status.

Applicants to the NEB whose first language is neither English nor French are required to submit evidence of completion of any of the listed below.

- **Internet-based TOEFL (iB-TOEFL)**, up to June 30, 2009 the NEB will accept score reports that meet either the old or the new requirements. Effective July 1, 2009, the NEB will **ONLY** accept score reports that meet the new iB-TOEFL requirements. The old minimum requirements are an overall score of no less than 80, at least 26 in Listening, a 17 in Writing and a 26 in Speaking, and these results **MUST** be achieved on the same attempt at the iB-TOEFL, the NEB will not accept section scores from separate attempts. The new minimum requirements for the iB-TOEFL are 25 in Listening, 22 in Writing, 22 in Speaking, 23 in Reading and no minimum overall score is specified. Candidate **MUST** achieve at least the minimum passing scores for each of the four

sections, with section scores accepted from separate exam attempts conducted over a two-year period.

- **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**, Academic version with an overall score of 6.5, with at least 6.5 in listening, 6.0 in writing and 7.0 in speaking; OR
- **Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) Assessment** with an overall score of 60, with at least 60 in listening, 50 in writing and 60 in speaking; OR
- **Exam of French** of the Office de la langue française of the Government of Quebec, with a score of no less than 60 for each component.

At the time of applying to become a candidate of the NEB, one must provide a score report for one of the accepted language proficiency examinations that is no more than two years old. The NEB WILL NOT accept section scores for any of the aforementioned exams from separate exam administrations or attempts. Applicants MUST achieve the minimum scores for all required sections of the aforementioned exams on the same exam administration or attempt.

For applicants whose native language (i.e. the common language of an individual's country of birth) is English or French, the English or French language examinations may be waived. To do so, an applicant must provide documentation of at least three years full-time attendance at a secondary school at which the complete language of instruction was English or French. Acceptable documentation includes a letter directly from school officials stating dates of attendance and verifying that the complete language of instruction was English or French.

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## **Information Brochure - The National Examining Board and its Examination**

### **1. Licensing to Practice Veterinary Medicine in Canada**

In Canada, legislative authority to regulate the practice of professions and trades is a provincial responsibility. In each province, licensing bodies are established by statute. Licensing for veterinary medicine is, therefore, the responsibility of the provincial veterinary association or a separate licensing body. While the general requirements to obtain a license to practice veterinary medicine are similar in all provinces, specific requirements, including examinations, may differ from province to province. Individuals intending to apply for a license must correspond with the registrar of the licensing body in the province in which they wish practice, to enquire about provincial requirements.

### **2. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association**

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is the national organisation of veterinarians in Canada. Membership in the CVMA is open to all veterinarians who are licensed to practice in any province. The CVMA acts as a forum on national veterinary issues and offers many services to veterinarians and to the animal-owning public across Canada. The CVMA does not have the power to license or discipline veterinarians. Such powers belong to the provincial bodies.

### **3. The National Examining Board**

The National Examining Board (NEB) was established by the CVMA to administer the NEB Examination. The NEB also recognizes certified specialists in selected disciplines of

veterinary medicine, and participates with the Council on Education (COE) of the American Veterinary Medical Association in a program of accreditation of colleges of veterinary medicine. The accreditation program consists of evaluations and regular on-site inspection of colleges to ensure they meet the essentials of the COE.

In addition, on behalf of some of the provincial licensing bodies, the NEB reviews the credentials of graduates of non-Canadian colleges of veterinary medicine who wish to obtain a license to practice veterinary medicine in Canada. The NEB does not have power to license or discipline veterinarians.

#### **4. The NEB Examination**

The NEB Examination is a three-part process measuring entry-level competence in the theory and practice of veterinary medicine in a North American context. Graduates of a non-accredited veterinary school must complete all three parts in order to be granted a CQ. A graduate of an accredited college of veterinary medicine need only pass the NAVLE® within two attempts in order to receive a CQ. However, if such a candidate requires more than two attempts to complete the NAVLE®, they will also be required to complete the CPE in order to obtain a CQ.

All veterinary schools in Canada and the USA are currently accredited, as are those of the University of Utrecht in The Netherlands (graduates from 1973 onward), the Universities of London (graduates from 1999 onward), Glasgow (from 1999) and Edinburgh (from 2001) in the United Kingdom, Massey University in New Zealand (from 2001), Murdoch University (from 2002), the Universities of Sydney (from 2005) and Melbourne (from 2006) in Australia, as well as University College Dublin in Ireland (2007).

The first is the BCSE, designed to assess basic and clinical veterinary sciences knowledge. The knowledge level expected to receive a passing score on the BCSE is that of an entry-level veterinarian (i.e., a new graduate of an accredited veterinary school). The computer-based BCSE consists of 200 multiple-choice questions, many with graphics, which must be completed within a 220-minute test session. In addition, your four-hour testing appointment will include a brief tutorial to introduce you to computer-based testing and an exit evaluation at the end. The BCSE must be completed before one may appear for the NAVLE® or the CPE and the fee is \$210.00 (including GST).

The NAVLE® is solely owned by the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME) of the United States and all questions are copyrighted. The exam comprises 360 multiple choice questions, which are administered one at a time by computer. About 10 percent of the questions will include relevant graphic or pictorial information (photograph, radiograph, chart, etc.). This exam is designed to measure one's general knowledge base in the various scientific and clinical disciplines required in veterinary medicine. The NAVLE® requires one full day to complete and the fee charged by the NEB is currently \$892.50 (including GST).

The CPE is a practical examination of the candidate's medical and surgical skills. It is designed to assess the candidate's ability to handle actual medical, surgical and diagnostic problems in a clinical or hospital setting. The CPE requires four days to complete and involves the examination/treatment of live animals and the performance of routine laboratory procedures. One must pass the BCSE in order to be eligible to appear for the CPE. Currently, the fee for the CPE is \$7,087.50 (including GST).

All three parts of the Examination may be taken in either English or French.

## **5. Availability of the Examination**

Beginning in 2008, the BCSE will be available four times per year during test windows. Each test window will comprise a one- or two-week period during which testing appointments may be scheduled. The exam will be administered at Prometric Inc.™ test centres throughout Canada and the USA. Please go online at [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com) to view the list of test centres available to you for the BCSE.

The NAVLE® is offered in April and November/ December of each year at about 14 Prometric Inc. testing centres in Canada, over 250 in the USA and a handful overseas, including London and Edinburgh (UK), Dublin (Ireland), Arnhem (The Netherlands), Sydney and Melbourne (Australia) and Auckland (New Zealand). One may appear for the NAVLE® as early as either of the two exam sessions prior to one's expected date of graduation with a degree in veterinary medicine.

The CPE is currently available about ten (10) times per year in English, at the four Canadian colleges of veterinary medicine. The CPE is available in French only at the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire (St-Hyacinthe, Québec) usually two (2) times a year. Candidates eligible to take the CPE will be informed by the NEB as to when they may register. Please note that, currently the waiting period between passing the NAVLE® and the date of an opportunity to appear for the CPE that the NEB is able to offer is about 24 months on average.

## **6. The Certificate of Qualification**

Candidates who successfully complete the NEB examination process are granted a Certificate of Qualification (CQ). A CQ or completion of the Examination is a prerequisite to obtain a veterinary license in all the provinces of Canada. The licensing authorities in any province may require further examinations in addition to or in lieu of those required to obtain a CQ.

Applicants are reminded to consult the licensing body of the province where they wish to obtain a license for specific requirements.

## **7. Candidacy for the Examination**

Those seeking to become a candidate for the Examination should contact the NEB for further information. To obtain the NEB application package, please send the order form below and a cheque or money order for \$15 CAD payable to the CVMA (you may also provide a Visa or MasterCard account number and the expiry date).

### **NEB APPLICATION PACKAGE ORDER FORM**

Given Name:  
Last Name:  
Mailing Address:  
City:  
Province/State:  
Postal Code:

Country:

Visa/MasterCard  
Account number:  
Expiry Date:

Please return to:  
NEB - CVMA  
339 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1R 7K1  
fax: 613-236-9681  
e-mail: [mmontpetit@cvma-acmv.org](mailto:mmontpetit@cvma-acmv.org)

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