



STATE OF IDAHO

BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

November 8, 2006

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Vicki Smith, Executive Director
Idaho Veterinary Medical Association
1841 W. Secluded Court
Kuna, ID 83634

Re: PAVE Foreign Graduate Equivalency Program

Dear Vicki,

As you are aware, the Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) has submitted several rule changes to be reviewed and approved by the 2007 Legislature. The rules to be approved include acceptance of the PAVE foreign graduate program, which is administered by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB). Upon receipt and careful consideration of the IVMA's comment letter regarding PAVE, the Board has decided to go forward with the rule change to accept PAVE. The Board has found PAVE to be a high quality foreign graduate educational equivalency program and would like to assist the IVMA in better understanding the PAVE program by providing additional information for your review.

For your information, PAVE was started in 2002 by the regulatory boards in response to deficiencies in the ECFVG program. The deficiencies at that time were a significant backlog in the ECFVG program that resulted in long waiting periods for international graduates to become eligible for licensure, the misuse of the national licensing examination as a tool to assess veterinary education equivalency, and the overexposure of the national licensing examination.

The PAVE program emerged as an alternative to the ECFVG program. It offers licensing boards and international graduates a choice, thereby making the veterinary profession more accessible for qualified international veterinary graduates and raising the bar on education equivalence assessment. AAVSB created the PAVE program with the mission to better serve and protect the public.

The PAVE program boasts a rigorous Qualifying Examination, developed by the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME), the same organization who developed the North American National Licensing Examination (NAVLE). The NBVME also created the Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA) examination for PAVE; this exam is designed to test an international graduate's clinical skills.

The NBVME has notified ECFVG that ECFVG candidates may no longer take the NAVLE after the April 2007 test administration. The ECFVG program is currently addressing the NAVLE issue by developing a Step 3 examination; this examination will be similar to the Qualifying Examination currently in place in the PAVE program.



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PAVE is run only by the regulatory boards of veterinary medicine, represented by the members of the PAVE Committee. All AAVSB Member Boards have access to the PAVE Committee as well as the AAVSB Board of Directors and, through the resolution process and their delegate's vote, can affect change during the AAVSB Annual Conference.

The PAVE program relies on the accreditation process for those candidates who choose the evaluated clinical experience at an AVMA-accredited school to meet PAVE's clinical requirements. The accredited veterinary schools accept PAVE candidates for the evaluated clinical training; the clinical faculty members evaluate candidates on exactly the same standards used for regularly enrolled students. PAVE relies on the quality of that training.

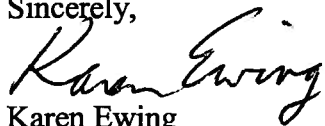
To assist the IVMA in better understanding the PAVE program, please find enclosed a document titled, "Questions for Discussion – The PAVE Program". This document is the result of a recent telephone conference call held between the Washington Board of Veterinary Medicine, a PAVE representative, and an ECFVG representative, and answers many questions brought up by the Washington Board. I believe you and your board members will find this document helpful in answering many of your questions and concerns about PAVE.

Also enclosed is a copy of a letter from former Idaho veterinary board member, Dr. Bradley Williams. Dr. Williams was on the PAVE Committee for several years and has an in-depth knowledge of the quality of the program. I believe you will find his comments informative and educational. I have also included a disk with a video about PAVE which can be watched on your computer. This disk was prepared about 18 months ago, before the PAVE Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA) was implemented in January of 2006. The VCSA provides a second pathway for PAVE candidates to receive their PAVE certificate. Additional information about PAVE can also be found at the PAVE website: <http://www.aavsb.org/PAVE/PAVEHome.aspx>.

The Board would appreciate the opportunity to address the IVMA's concerns regarding the PAVE program and to that end, would like to invite you and a member of the IVMA board to the next meeting of the Board of Veterinary Medicine to discuss PAVE. The next meeting is to be held Monday, January 22, 2007. At this meeting, the Board would also appreciate receiving information from the IVMA on its peer review committee, and to further discuss the issue of pregnancy palpation by independent contractors.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience about IVMA representatives attending the Veterinary Board's meeting on January 22, 2007. The Board members welcome the IVMA's input and the opportunity to further discuss the PAVE program. If you have any questions on the enclosed information, or need further information regarding PAVE, please don't hesitate to contact me at the Board office at 332-8588.

Sincerely,



Karen Ewing
Management Assistant
Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine

Enc.