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## **Continuing Education Requirements for Veterinary Surgeons in Jamaica**

**Special Notice: In light of COVID 19 restrictions on large gatherings/conferences, all 10 CE credits may be earned from reputable, on-line sources which are capable of producing acceptable documentary proof of participation by the Veterinary Surgeon. This is applicable for credits earned in 2021. All other requirements remain as outlined below.**

Effective January 01, 2015 The Jamaica Veterinary Board (JVB) has required ALL veterinary surgeons (see exemptions and special considerations below) intending to practice in Jamaica to have acquired 10 Continuing Veterinary Medical Education Credits (CVMEC) in the 12 months preceding the annual licensing period for which licensure is requested. Eight CVMEC must be earned in disciplines directly concerning veterinary medicine/profession ( i.e. "specific"), while the other two (2) CVMEC could be in related but not necessarily veterinary areas ( i.e. "non-specific") (for e.g. medical ethics). Note that all 10 CVMEC earned can in disciplines which are "specific."

Veterinary Surgeons who have satisfied the Board's Continuing Education requirements and made the requisite submissions will receive an Annual Licensing Certificate. The licensure period runs from February 01 to January 31 of the following year.

## **EXEMPTIONS and SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**On-line and journal articles:** CVMEC will not be made to account for more than four CVMEC (specific or non-specific) of the 10 CVMEC required annually.

**Veterinary Faculty Lecturers** will automatically qualify for the two hours of non-specific courses. They will be required to submit letters from the relevant institution indicating that they are employed to the institution (part time or full time) and indicating the courses that they teach.

These individuals will still be required to complete 8 “specific” CVMEC.

**Specialists:** (Board-certified etc) veterinary surgeons are expected to receive and demonstrate no less than 5 hours of CVME units annually, in their field of speciality.

**Publications:** Two hours of “non-specific” veterinary medical credits will be assigned for research papers and publications in peer-reviewed professional Journals. This may be research done for either private interest or on behalf of an organization. All written material must adhere to standard scientific format for evaluation.

**Presenters at Workshops/Seminars:** Appropriately qualified presenters are awarded CVMEC of the same number awarded to participants/attendees.

**New Graduates:** Veterinary surgeons shall not require CVME credits during the year of graduation from veterinary school and subsequent first full licensing period. The CVME requirements will be necessary commencing the second full licensing period after graduation. (for e.g. a registered June 2020 graduate will not need to present proof of 10 CVMEC in order to receive ALC for 2021 but will need to earn 10 CVMEC between Jan 01 2021 and Dec 31 2021 in order to qualify for ALC in 2022)

**New registrants who have graduated in excess of 2 years** shall not require CE credit in the year of registration but shall be required to attain requisite CVME credits to facilitate licensing in the first full licensing period after the date of registration.

**Post Graduate students:** Individuals engaged in post graduate studies on a **full time basis** (which can be shown to enhance the performance of their professional skills or the efficiency of their duties) will be exempt for the period of study. On completion of their studies they will be exempt for the year of graduation and the first full licensing period thereafter.

Individuals who are engaged in **part time basis** post graduate studies will be exempt based on the following criteria:

- Post graduate education in any branch of Veterinary Medicine or a residency or internship, will be completely exempt during the period of study. On completion of their studies they will be exempt for the year of graduation and the first full licensing period thereafter
- For educational courses that are not specific to veterinary medicine, the individual will have to complete 8 hours of specific units to maintain their licensure during the course of study. On completion of their studies they will be exempt for the year of graduation.

**For all of the above, the individual will be required to submit proof that they are engaged in post graduate studies.**

**Non-Practitioners:** Members of the Profession who are Registered Veterinary Surgeons but are not in veterinary practice, full or part-time, will not need an Annual License Certificate and therefore may be exempted from submitting CVME credits, at the discretion of the Jamaica Veterinary Board.

### **APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL LICENSING CERTIFICATE (ALC)**

Each veterinary surgeon intending to practice in Jamaica and wishing to receive an Annual Licensing Certificate shall submit to the Continuing Education Accreditation Committee (CEAC) of the JVB, between December 01 and December 15 of each year, documentary evidence of CVMEC (e.g. “Records of Participation”, “Certificates of Attendance”, hereafter referred to as CE certificates) earned and an annual assessment form. Only original or certified copies of CE certificates will be accepted by the CEAC.

All documents should be submitted to the CEAC via :

1. 1) The Chairman, CEAC , c/o Jamaica Veterinary Board, Veterinary Services Division, P.O. Box 309, Hope Gardens, Kingston 6, or
2. **jvbceac@gmail.com**