

Proposed policy concerning the names of veterinary PC's and PLLC's

- In order for a veterinarian or two or more veterinarians to represent *a particular area of veterinary expertise* as part of his/her/their corporate name, all shareholders of the PC or members of the PLLC must be certified (and remain certified) in a recognized specialty or subspecialty by a certification agency acceptable to the Department.
- Alternatively, the shareholder or members, as the case may be, may present credentials that demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that their skills, knowledge, competency and proficiency in the specialty area are *substantially equivalent* (as defined herein) to the board certified specialty.
- *A particular area of veterinary expertise* includes species specific representations.
- Certification agencies acceptable to the Department include:
 - specialty boards recognized by the American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS) of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA); the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners; other certifying boards recognized by the AVMA; and other certification agencies acceptable to the Department.
- All owners and licensed veterinarians on staff of the practice must meet this standard. Providing evidence of having met these standards is the responsibility of the applicant(s).
- At the Department's discretion, it may accept education, training and experience that is *substantially equivalent* to specialty board certification. The following are examples of ways in which *substantial equivalence* may be demonstrated:
 - Veterinary medical education¹ demonstrating advanced knowledge in the particular area of veterinary expertise which may include significant continuing education credits, and five years of clinical practice experience acceptable to the Department in a relevant specialty practice, or
 - Veterinary medical education demonstrating advanced knowledge in the particular area of veterinary expertise and one year accredited (recognized by AVMA) residency in that specialty, or
 - Successful completion of a recognized, accredited certificate program by a certification agency acceptable to the Department in the particular area of veterinary expertise and one year of relevant specialty practice.

¹¹¹ Education could be demonstrated by demonstration of successful completion of 150 hours of relevant accredited continuing education or the substantial equivalent.