

Board for Veterinary Medicine Workgroup on Naming Veterinary Professional Corporations

April 10, 2025

The current naming policy states “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. All owners and licensed veterinarians on staff of the practice must meet this standard.” The consensus of the workgroup is that expecting every DVM working for a business to hold the same specialty certifications is unrealistic and such restriction will limit the ability to provide veterinary care. This has never been enforced by NYSED. The consensus of the workgroup is that the phrase “...and licensed veterinarians on staff” should be stricken from the policy.

The workgroup discussed the concern of limiting emergency care by upholding this policy, as critical care specialists are not abundant. The consensus was that if a business wants to use “emergency” in the name, all owners need to hold an AVMA board certification in Emergency and Critical Care. If they do not have such certification, they may use “urgent care.”

The current practice is that all entities approved before the policy was instated in 2011 will not be held to said policy. Anyone applying after 2011 and any corporation changing owners will have to adhere to the new policy when they notify Professional Corporations of the change.

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NYS Board for Veterinary Medicine