

## MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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### *New Owner of a Veterinary Hospital*

In Maryland, a veterinary hospital owner need not be a veterinarian. However, in accordance with State law, if a veterinary hospital is not owned by a veterinarian, the office or hospital must be under the direct supervision and control of a licensed and registered veterinarian, and a licensed and registered veterinarian must be employed in the office or hospital.

Veterinary hospital licenses are not transferable. If there is new ownership of a veterinary hospital, the new owner must seek to have the facility licensed under his/her name.

If there is new ownership of a veterinary hospital, and the new owner wants to change the name of the hospital, go to [Hospital corporate name approvals](#) on the Board's webpage to learn if corporate name approval needs to be sought by the Board before the business opens.

A few steps must be taken prior to opening the doors for business under new ownership:

1.) Print and review the laws and regulations governing the operation of a veterinary hospital in Maryland.

2.) Print and fill out a Request for Veterinary Hospital License Application. Mail the Request and a check or money order to the address provided on the Request.

#### **Licensing fees are non-refundable.**

3.) After the Board's office receives the Request, an Application for a New Veterinary Hospital License will be e-mailed to the requestor. The Application shall be printed, filled out completely, and mailed to the Board's office.

4.) The application will be reviewed by Board staff and, if complete, a hospital license will be issued in the name of the new owner if the following conditions are met:

a.) The hospital was inspected by the Board within the 12 months preceding the Board's receipt of the hospital application; and

b.) The hospital passed the inspection conducted within the 12 months preceding the Board's receipt of the hospital application.

5.) If 4a. and b. are met, a Board inspector shall attempt to inspect the hospital under new ownership within 60 days from the Board's receipt of the application.

6.) If, upon receipt of the hospital application, it is determined that 4a. and b., above, have not been met, a Board inspector will be contacted.

7.) A Board inspector will contact the new owner to schedule a date and time to inspect the facility. This is considered an initial inspection. If the inspector has concerns over the condition of the hospital, the inspector will discuss these deficiencies with the hospital owner so they may be corrected prior to opening. If the deficiencies are significant, the inspector will perform a re-inspection prior to the business's opening.

8.) When the inspector notifies the Board's office that the hospital has passed inspection, a hospital license will be printed and sent to the hospital owner. This license must be posted in a conspicuous location within the hospital that is readily accessible by the public, such as at or near a receptionist's desk. The hospital license shall expire on June 30 of each year unless the hospital owner seeks to re-license the facility.

Should a non-veterinarian hospital owner fail to comply with the Board's laws or regulations governing the operation of a veterinary hospital, that owner may be disciplined by the Board.

If, after reviewing the above, you have any questions regarding acquisition of a new hospital license, or whether a hospital requires inspection, please contact the Board's office at 410.841.5862.