



# D.C. Board of Veterinary Examiners

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## YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

Changing your mailing address? Send your name, mailing address, and license number to:

DC Board of Veterinary Examiners  
Processing Department  
Address/Name Change  
899 N. Capitol Street, NE  
First Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

\*\*\* Government of the District of Columbia  
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor



Fall 2013

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

I'm so excited to be writing to you for the first time as the Board Chair. It's been awhile since we've updated you, and many things have happened since our last newsletter.

First, there have been some changes to the make-up of our board. Dr. Gary Weitzman left the Board after relocating to San Diego, and the terms for Dr. Candace Ashley and Joan Schaffner (our consumer member) have ended. I extend my most heartfelt thanks for Dr.

Weitzman, Dr. Ashley, and Ms. Schaffner for the dedication and the many hours of hard work they gave to the Board and all licensees in the District.

With their leaving, I am also pleased to announce our new Board. As of December 20, 2012, our new veterinary board members are: Dr. Ashley Gallagher of Friendship Hospital for Animals, Dr. Elton Vyfhuis of Paws, Purrs and Exotics, and Dr. Leanne Lipton of Meridian Veterinary Services. Our new consumer member is Ms. Lisa LaFontaine of the Washington Humane Society. We're looking forward to coming together as a group and working with veterinarians, technicians, and the animal community at large as we continue to work to protect and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of animals in the District.

I'm also pleased to announce that Dr. Vito DeVento has joined the Department of Health fulltime as the Executive Director of the Veterinary Board and Program Manager of the Animal Services Program. In his new capacity Dr. DeVento will be overseeing nearly all animal related issues in the District. He is a great asset to the city and it's great to have him join the staff.



Julie Garnier, DVM, with Taiwan and Zorro.

(continued on page 2)

## Upcoming Board Meetings

THE BOARD MEETS ON THE  
**THIRD THURSDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH**

899 N. Capitol Street, NE  
Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

*Open Session Begins 9:30 am.*

## Verification of Licensure

Licensing authorities and some health facilities often require a letter of verification of the current or previously held licenses. These letters of verification are sometimes called "letters of good standing," even though the DC license may have expired.

### To receive a letter of good standing:

If the jurisdiction or institution provides a form, forward the form, with a check or money order payable to "DC Treasurer" in the amount of \$26.00 to:

DC Board of  
Veterinary Examiners  
899 N. Capitol Street, NE  
First Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

Be sure to include name and address where the form is to be sent.

If the jurisdiction or institution does not provide a form, please send a note requesting a letter of verification. The note should include both the name of the person requesting the verification and the name and address of the recipient. Please enclose a check or money order (for \$26.00) payable to "DC Treasurer."

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

(continued from page 1)

With a new board and a full time Executive Director, the Board is working on formulating a direction and goals for the next few years. Paramount to this effort is incorporating our laws under the Health Occupations Revision Act (HORA). The Board has been working toward this goal for several years, and the bill that would accomplish this has recently moved from the Executive Office of the Mayor to Council. It was my pleasure to testify before the Committee of Health, chaired by Councilmember Yvette Alexander, to talk about the importance of veterinary practice in the District, the role of the Board of Veterinary Examiners, and urge her to move this legislation forward quickly. We are hopeful that a hearing will be scheduled and the bill will be passed soon so we can begin work on the regulations for veterinary licensees and facilities that will accompany the HORA and give us modern standards.

We always welcome feedback from veterinarians and the public. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for the Board, please feel free to contact Board staff by e-mailing Dr. DelVento: [vito.delvento@dc.gov](mailto:vito.delvento@dc.gov) with your questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Julie Garnier, DVM  
Chairperson  
Board of Veterinary Examiners  
Washington, DC

## ACCREDITATION CONCERNS

All accredited veterinarians must submit an application to NVAP (National Veterinary Accreditation Program). Accredited veterinarians must elect to participate and must select an accreditation Category or the accreditation that they currently hold will expire.

The NAVP Application form, VS form 1-36A, must be completed and submitted in order to prevent expiration of your current accreditation. The form, instructions, and further details are available online at:

[www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/vet\\_accreditation](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation)

If you are applying for accreditation for the first time, you must meet the basic requirements including completion of the CORE ORIENTATION PROGRAM in addition to submission of VS form 1-36A. By completing the program, the veterinarian certifies that he/she is able to perform the tasks associated with the Category selected.

If you have questions about NVAP, you can contact NVAP at

(301) 734-6827

## 2013 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

The DC Department of Health (DOH) was honored to participate in the Presidential Inauguration held on January 21, 2013. The Animal Services Program's efforts to prevent and control the spread of zoonoses during the Inaugural period were fourfold:

- Conducting **syndromic surveillance** in the licensed DC Animal Facilities (animal shelters and veterinary clinics-many thanks to all who participated!);
- Receiving and reviewing **health certificates** and conducting **health check inspections** of horses imported to the District for the parade;
- **Patrolling the parade route** for any animal-related problems; and
- Preparing for the **protection, sheltering, and evacuation** of animals in case of a natural or manmade disaster or emergency.

In preparation for the parade and other events, the Animal Services Program reached out to its partners in the community to formulate a comprehensive plan to carry out its mission during the Inaugural Period. Partners included the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the Washington Humane Society (WHS), Humane Equine Aid and Rapid Transport (HEART), experienced emergency equine practitioners.

On the day of the Inauguration, approximately 150 horses and 50 service dogs participated in the parade. DOH staff and partners were on scene ready to assist if any problems came up. Thanks to advance planning, good communication between Federal and District agencies, and the hard work of our partners, the day concluded with no major problems!



Board Executive Director Vito R. DelVento, DVM, MS, offering hay to one of the Inaugural Parade horses.



Left, Raymond Noll, Director of Animal Control Field Services (Washington Humane Society); Right, Scott Giacoppo, Vice President, External Affairs & Chief Programs Officer (Washington Humane Society); monitoring the condition and treatment of the animals participating in the Inaugural Parade.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS VET RENEWAL BEGINS OCTOBER 1, 2013 LICENSES EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2013

**TO RENEW:** Go online and access our website at <https://app.hpla.doh.dc.gov/mylicense/>

There are two methods for entering the renewal section of our website:

- **Don't have a User ID and Password?** Are you a New User, or have you forgotten your User ID and Password? Enter your **Social Security Number** and **Last Name** and select SEARCH to create a **User ID** and **Password**.
- **If you have your User ID and Password from the last renewal:** Select **LOGIN**, then enter **User ID** and **Password**.
- To renew online you must use **Internet Explorer** or **Mozilla Fire Fox**. Other browsers such as Safari and Goggle Chrome cannot be used.
- **Renewal fee is \$130.00 (enter the credit card information for your VISA or MASTERCARD number).**

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:** VET must complete **thirty-six (36) hours** of approved continuing education credits within the period of (October 1, 2011 through December 31, 2013).

This requirement does not apply to applicants for the first renewal of a license. If you are renewing for the first time, answer "yes" to the question pertaining to CE.

**DOH HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSING ADMINISTRATION/BOARD OF BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS**  
899 North Capitol Street, NE, First Floor, Washington, DC 20002 • Website: [www.hpla.doh.dc.gov](http://www.hpla.doh.dc.gov)

**GENERAL RENEWAL QUESTIONS:  
CALL THE PROCESSING CENTER/CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE AT  
1-877-672-2174 (Monday - Friday; 8:30 am - 4:40 pm)**

**Technical Questions:** 202-724-8930 or 202-741-7689 / **Fax:** 202-724-5145

*To contact the Board of Veterinary Examiners Licensing Specialist Lakisha J. Thompson, call 202-535-2323.*

## APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

Veterinarians licensed in the District must complete 36 hours of continuing education units (CEUs) each renewal cycle (every 2 years). Veterinarians may choose from any on-line or in-person course offered by: an AVMA accredited College of Veterinary Medicine, the AVMA, the DCVMA, the DC Academy of Veterinary Medicine, or the Board. In addition to these courses, the Board has granted automatic approval for all courses that receive CEU credit through the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' (AAVSB) Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE). For information on RACE, visit <https://www.aavsb.org/race/>.

Licensees who take courses not approved through any of these means may petition the Board on a course by course basis to request that hours be approved. Licensees should be prepared to provide course and provider information to the Board. The Board may request that the licensee attend a Board Meeting to further discuss the information prior to a decision being rendered.

Course providers who are seeking approval of continuing education courses will be referred to RACE for approval, except in cases where RACE has denied CEUs and would like the Board to reconsider.

## AVOID PURCHASING MEDICATIONS FROM UNLICENSED ENTITIES

The District of Columbia regulations require that medications be purchased from distributors and manufacturers registered with the Department of Health.

Please be advised that pursuant to Title 22 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, Chapter 4:

- 400.3 All in-state drug manufacturers, distributors, or wholesalers shall be licensed pursuant to Section 401 of this chapter. All out-of-state drug manufacturers, distributors, or wholesalers shall be registered pursuant to Section 404 of this chapter.

Likewise, Title 22 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, Section 1002

- 1002.1 Every person who manufactures, distributes, dispenses, or conducts research with any controlled substance, or who proposes to engage in the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, or conducting of research with any controlled substance within the District of Columbia shall obtain biennially and maintain current a registration issued by the Director in accordance with this chapter

The Department takes this matter seriously. The purpose of this regulation is to ensure the integrity of the medication supply chain. Registered suppliers maintain records and processes to prevent counterfeit

medications from entering the market. All businesses shipping medications, including controlled substances, into the District of Columbia must be registered with the Pharmaceutical Control Division. The Department recommends that prior to purchasing medications from a manufacturer or wholesale distributor that you receive written documentation from the supplier confirming that they have an active manufacturer and/or wholesaler registration and controlled substance registration where appropriate with the Department of Health.

A prescriber may obtain drugs from a pharmacy for office administration to patient through a written/ telephone facsimile/electronic prescription. However, the prescription must be patient specific as per the requirements in Title 22, Chapter 13, and Section 1301 to 1304. Additionally, prescriptions for controlled substances must be written in accordance with Section 1306 for schedule II and Section 1309 for schedule III, IV and V drugs. A prescription sent from a pharmacy with a label "for office use" or any other language conveying the same message cannot be honored since such prescription will not meet the requirement for valid order.

To review the regulations more completely, visit the Pharmaceutical Control Division website at <http://doh.dc.gov/pcd>. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Patricia D'Antonio, RPh, CGP, Program Manager for Pharmaceutical Control Division at [patricia.dantonio@dc.gov](mailto:patricia.dantonio@dc.gov) or licensing specialist Abena Osae-Ado at [Abena.Osae-Addo@dc.gov](mailto:Abena.Osae-Addo@dc.gov).

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RABIES UPDATE

The District of Columbia Department of Health is pleased to report that, while rabies is present in raccoon(s), bat(s), and other wild animal populations, in 2012 we had no rabies positive cats or dogs. This is in large part thanks to a veterinary community that works to ensure that dogs and cats—including feral cats—maintain current vaccinations. Below are several anecdotes from 2013 that highlight the importance of maintaining vigilance on this issue.

**Raccoon Attack in Georgetown.** On April 13, 2013 a gentleman was standing on the side of a residential Georgetown Street when a raccoon charged toward him, coming out of nowhere, and biting his leg, breaking the skin. A trap was set for the raccoon. The injured man reported the raccoon to be unusually light in color, and several days later, an unusually light colored raccoon was impounded and tested positive for the rabies virus.

**First Positive in Groundhogs Detected.** On April 21, 2013 DC Animal Care and Control received a call about a sick groundhog in the family housing area on Bolling Air Force Base. Base Police reported that a woman was working in her yard when she and her husband were chased by the groundhog, even after throwing things at it to encourage it to leave. The groundhog stayed on the

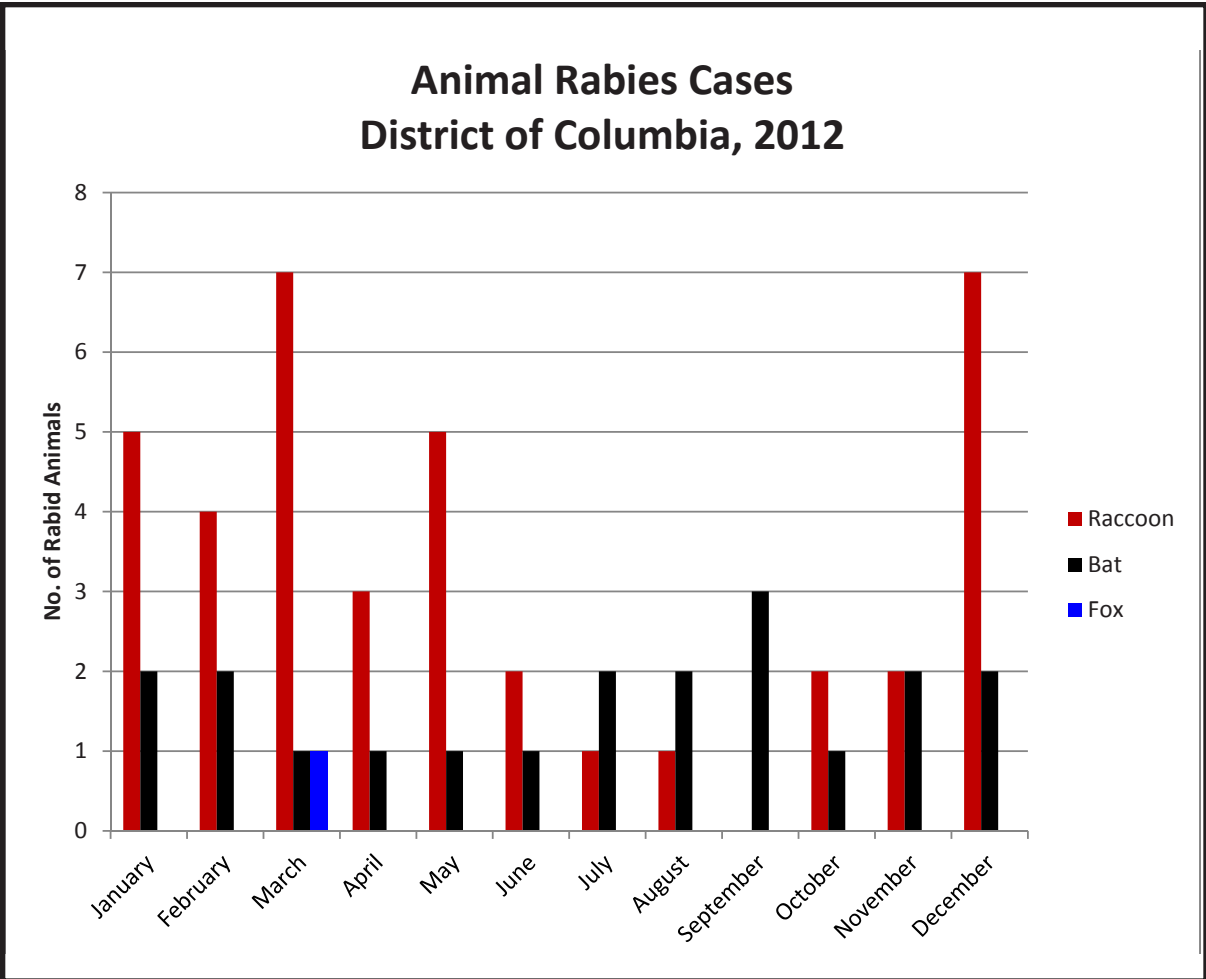
property until the Animal Control Officer arrived and impounded it. Although rabies is uncommon in rodents, it can affect large rodents such as groundhogs. This case represents the first rabies positive groundhog found in the District of Columbia.

**Fox Attacks Woman and Dog.** On February 12, 2012 a woman was walking with her infant near Rock Creek Park in the Adams Morgan neighborhood when a fox ran up to her, bit her leg and ran off. Before Animal Control Officers could arrive on scene, the fox also attacked a dog. The fox was found under some bushes, impounded, and tested positive for rabies the next day.

**Cat from Ft. Dupont Tests Positive.** Although there were no positive cats

in 2012, Department of Health has found one rabies positive cat in 2013. On January 5, 2013, a man brought a stray cat to the DC Animal Care and Control Agency from the Ft. Dupont neighborhood in Southeast DC. The man reported that the cat had been stray in his area for several weeks, and that he had been feeding her. He became concerned when he saw the cat had lost control of her back legs. At the Shelter, the cat bit the man and shelter staff, and tested positive for rabies the next day.

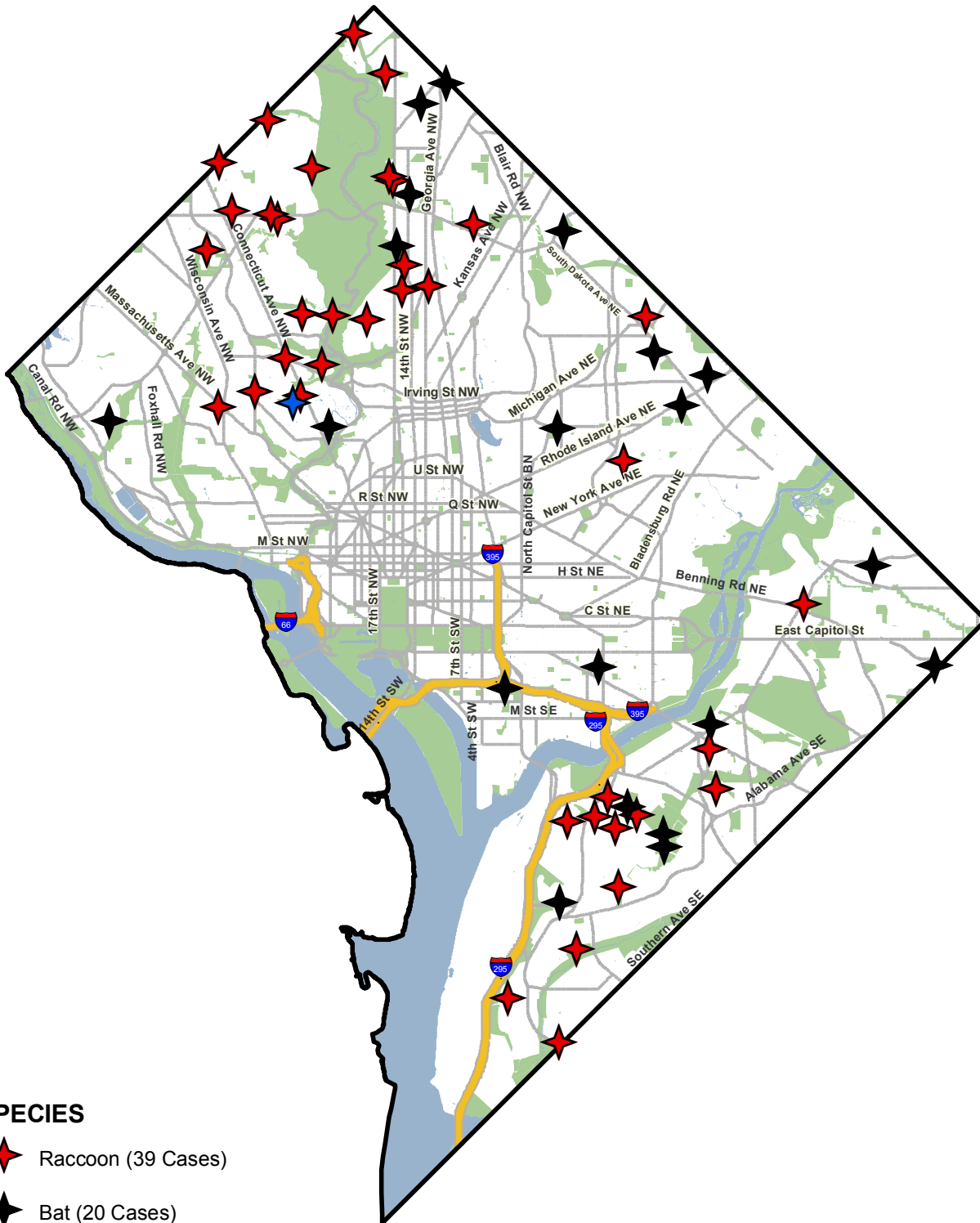
For more information,  
please visit:  
[www.doh.dc.gov](http://www.doh.dc.gov)








# Animal Rabies Cases

## District of Columbia, 2012

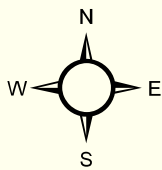


**SPECIES**

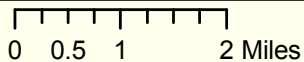
-  Raccoon (39 Cases)
-  Bat (20 Cases)
-  Fox (1 Case)

Positivity in Chronological Order

Date Prepared by	Animal Control Species
01/02/12	Raccoon
01/02/12	Raccoon
01/08/12	Raccoon
01/20/12	Raccoon
01/23/12	Raccoon
02/04/12	Raccoon
03/07/12	Raccoon
03/12/12	Raccoon
03/20/12	Raccoon
03/21/12	Raccoon
04/10/12	Raccoon
05/16/12	Raccoon
05/22/12	Bat
05/30/12	Raccoon
06/05/12	Raccoon
06/12/12	Raccoon
06/13/12	Raccoon
06/15/12	Bat
07/17/12	Bat
08/04/12	Bat
08/05/12	Bat
08/05/12	Bat
08/05/12	Bat
08/05/12	Bat
08/06/12	Raccoon
08/07/12	Raccoon
08/08/12	Bat
08/10/12	Bat
08/10/12	Bat
08/10/12	Bat
08/11/12	Raccoon
08/21/12	Raccoon
08/27/12	Bat
08/29/12	Bat
09/01/12	Bat
09/02/12	Raccoon
09/04/12	Raccoon
09/10/12	Raccoon
09/11/12	Raccoon
09/12/12	Raccoon
09/21/12	Raccoon
10/01/12	Raccoon
10/04/12	Bat
10/15/12	Bat
10/16/12	Raccoon
10/20/12	Raccoon
10/25/12	Bat
10/26/12	Raccoon
10/27/12	Raccoon
10/31/12	Bat
11/01/12	Raccoon
11/01/12	Raccoon
11/06/12	Bat
11/07/12	Bat
11/16/12	Fox
11/18/12	Raccoon
11/28/12	Raccoon
12/03/12	Raccoon
12/05/12	Raccoon
12/12/12	Raccoon
12/17/12	Bat
12/24/12	Raccoon



Scale: 1:112,000



Data Source:  
Department of Health (DOH) and  
Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO)

Prepared by: DC GIS

Date: April 4, 2013

**Coordinate System:**

NAD 1983 StatePlane Maryland FIPS 1900

Information on this map is for illustration only. The user acknowledges and agrees that the use of this information is at the sole risk of the user. No endorsement, liability, or responsibility for information or opinions expressed are assumed or accepted by any agency of the DC Government.

## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### ASHLEY GALLAGHER, DVM

Dr. Ashley Gallagher is a veterinarian at Friendship Hospital for Animals. After graduating from University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in 2006 she accepted a position into Friendship's highly competitive, yearlong internship program. After this she stayed on as a staff veterinarian with duties that include seeing appointments as well as elective and emergency surgeries. Dr. Gallagher writes her blog Friendship Tails to inform the community about all the exciting things that happen at Friendship as well as offer a source of reliable information on the Internet for pet owners. She also created the Polite Puppy, a manners and wellness care class designed to help new dog owners raise a happy and healthy dog.

Dr. Gallagher lives in Northwest DC with her husband, four dogs and three cats—needless to say with this crew there is never a dull moment in the Gallagher house.



**Dr. Ashley Gallagher with Frank**

### LEANNE J. LIPTON, BS, DVM, CVA, CVSMT, CVC, CVTN, CVFT

At the University of Vermont Dr. Lipton earned her BS in Animal Science in 1987. She then attended graduate school at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks where she studied Marine Biology. In 1998 she graduated from the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine. She then completed an internship studying under various veterinary specialists in Suburban Chicago. The following year she completed a surgical internship in Charleston, SC. During the first 5 years of general practice Dr. Lipton also conducted research at the University of Georgia School of Veterinary Medicine, as well as practiced Emergency and Critical Care Medicine at several emergency practices.

Dr. Lipton became certified in Veterinary Acupuncture in 2005 through the Chi Institute of Chinese Medicine. She studied Veterinary Chiropractic at the Healing Oasis and Wellness Center. Additional certifications have also been earned at the Chi Institute (programs approved by the University of Beijing).

Dr. Lipton is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association. She also has interests in nutrition, Chinese herbs, homeopathy, Chinese therapeutic massage, physical therapy, orthotics and prolotherapy. She finds combining different modalities very effective in the treatment of her patients.

Dr. Lipton enjoys surfing, yoga, ballet, Tai-Chi and Qi Gong, rock climbing, hiking, camping, rowing/crew, travel and movies. She also appreciates humor and many forms of music.



**Dr. Leanne Lipton with  
Monty a.k.a. Voldemorte**



## LISA LAFONTAINE, CONSUMER MEMBER

One of the nation's most respected animal welfare professionals, Lisa LaFontaine is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Washington Humane Society (WHS). She brings to WHS extensive leadership and strategic capability in the field, and experience leading a successful capital campaign that resulted in a state-of-the-art animal adoption and community center for her prior organization.

Upon her arrival, Ms. LaFontaine quickly made positive policy and procedural changes at WHS, while crafting a solid, forward-thinking vision for the future of the organization as a progressive animal welfare agency. Leveraging WHS's status as the open-access shelter in the nation's capital, Ms. LaFontaine effectively cultivated relationships with organizations within the private and public sectors.

Under her leadership WHS dramatically increased the live release rate for animals throughout the District and advocated for new legislation before City Council. Legislative progress during her tenure includes the Animal Protection Amendment of 2008 and the Wildlife Protection Act.

She has recruited a high quality executive leadership team to WHS, who work with her to introduce ground-breaking services and programs. Under her leadership, WHS opened the National Capital Area Spay & Neuter Center, which has sterilized nearly 40,000 animals to date; and developed CatNiPP, a trap-neuter-return program

serving the Metro DC region.

WHS also opened a Behavior & Learning Center that houses innovative programs such as Dog Tags and the PACK. Dog Tags is an animal assisted therapy program that garners much national and international attention and support for WHS, as it brings together homeless dogs and wounded soldiers to enable the dogs to find homes more quickly and the soldiers to recover from post-traumatic stress disorder. The PACK is a dynamic running group made up of 200+ District residents who regularly run with adoption candidate dogs in DC and Federal Parks.

For seven years prior to joining WHS, Ms. LaFontaine was CEO of the Monadnock Humane Society, an open admission, full service adoption and learning center in New Hampshire. There she led the transformation of the organization into a leading regional agency providing comprehensive services to animals and people.

Ms. LaFontaine served for six years on the Board of the New England Federation of Humane Societies, leading the Board as President. During her tenure she concentrated on collaborative programs and education among member organizations, identifying and sharing best practices and building relationships between animal protection groups. Throughout her career she has provided training, mentoring and consultation to humane societies and animal welfare professionals.



**Ms. Lisa LaFontaine with Lila**

Since 2009, Ms. LaFontaine has been on the Board of the National Federation of Humane Societies. She serves on its Best Practices and Strategic Planning Committees, and is working on the plan to end euthanasia of homeless animals across the country by the year 2020. She is Vice-Chairman of the Board of the National Federation.

Ms. LaFontaine and her husband Matt Kayhoe share their home with their four-legged family that includes, dog Guinevere; cats Crystal and Gregory Xavier Pibb, the former WHS Mascot; and an ever rotating and always welcomed family of foster animals.

**Attend an open session of the Board of Veterinary Examiners. The Board meets on the third Thursday of every month at 899 N. Capitol Street, NE, Second Floor, Washington, DC. (We are located across the street from Gonzaga High School.) Open Session begins 9:30 AM.**

## ELTON GAVIN GEORGE VYFHUIS, DVM

Dr. Elton Gavin George Vyfhuis is a native of Washington, DC, born in June of 1975 at Freedmen's Hospital; now known as Howard University Hospital. He is the middle of five children and of Guyanese heritage.

Dr. Vyfhuis's love of medicine, animals, and the art of science made a career in veterinary medicine the clear choice. He completed his undergraduate work at University of Maryland Eastern Shore. While earning his degree he also served in the United States Army Reserves as a Veterinary Food Inspector.

Dr. Vyfhuis attended veterinary school at Tuskegee University in Alabama. After graduation in 2002, he returned to Washington and began his veterinary career at Adams Morgan Animal Hospital. He practiced general veterinary medicine with a heavy emphasis on exotic animals. Dr. Vyfhuis served for a time as the Veterinarian of Record for the Washington Humane Society overseeing both the New York Avenue and Georgia Avenue locations as well as the Spay-Neuter Center. He is still an integral member, facilitator and mentor for monthly spay and neuter clinics with Washington Humane Society and other local organizations.



**Dr. Elton Vyfhuis** with (from left to right): Rico (turtle), Snickers (snake), ET (bird on shoulder), Mango (bird on head), "SSSasha" (snake on his lap), George (turtle), and Ubu (dog). Not pictured: Timmy and Ppeah (parrots).

Currently Dr. Vyfhuis is co-owner of Paws, Purrs and Exotics Animal Hospital, the first African American owned animal hospital in Alexandria, Virginia. He holds a veterinary license in the District, Maryland and Virginia. He has occasionally crossed state lines into Delaware to help participate with bat and turtle rehab and research efforts. Dr. Vyfhuis is very active in the community. He annually

returns to his alma mater, UMES, to lecture to up and coming veterinary students as well as acting as a mentor to church groups, classrooms, Girl Scouts, and afterschool programs.

Dr. Vyfhuis has quite a menagerie at home including a fourteen-year-old rescue Chowbrador named UBU. His other pets include two ball pythons, two tortoises, and four birds.

Outside of work Dr. Vyfhuis is a huge sports fan, particularly basketball, football, pool, futbol and volleyball. He has been a member of the Panquility Steel Band Orchestra for the past four years playing throughout the area. Travel is also a passion. Dr. Vyfhuis is proud to be a member of the District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Board and aims to represent veterinarians citywide.

## SPOTLIGHT ON: ATLAS DISTRICT VETERINARY HOSPITAL (ATLASVET)

After residing on Capitol Hill for many years, Dr. Matthew Antkowiak and Dr. Christopher Miller decided to build a veterinary hospital of their own amongst the neighbors and friends that make this neighborhood the best in the District. The Atlas District Veterinary Hospital (AtlasVet) was conceived in 2010, and opened to the general public on January 23, 2012. The location is 1326 H St NE directly across from the historic Atlas Theater.

Dr. Antkowiak was formerly an ER veterinarian with SouthPaws Veterinary Specialists and Referral Center in Fairfax for fifteen years and Dr. Miller was with Caring Hands Arlington for six. AtlasVet is based on incorporating high quality veterinary medicine, the latest technology, a friendly, knowledgeable staff and creating an establishment that reflects the diversity and energy that personifies the H Street Corridor.

AtlasVet has a strong internet presence and has embraced social media. In addition to the website ([www.atlasvetdc.com](http://www.atlasvetdc.com)), AtlasVet has a handle on Twitter (@atlasvetdc) and Instagram (atlasvetdc) as well as a very large following on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/atlasvetdc](http://www.facebook.com/atlasvetdc)). Through social media, AtlasVet has been able to reach a broad demographic and keep clients informed on unique events, changes due to weather or traffic, and general day-to-day happenings at the clinic.



Adopting a novel approach to client and animal comfort, AtlasVet has built a clinic with retractable tables (most doctors choose to sit on the rugs with their patients), an inviting and spacious lobby, and a ventilation system that is constantly refreshing the quality of air. The staff that populates AtlasVet is primarily DC based (85%), and many staff members are able to walk or bike to work. The staff makes AtlasVet the fun and friendly, yet professional clinic it was meant to be, where client service and patient care is paramount.



**Disclaimer:** The above article was written by and on behalf of the facility being spotlighted and does not reflect Board or the Department of Health endorsement or agreement.

## BOARD SEEKING EXPERT WITNESSES

The DC Board of Veterinary Examiners is looking to retain expert witnesses in the field of veterinary medicine to assist the Board in reviewing disciplinary cases.

Interested individuals do not need to be licensed in DC but should have been practicing medicine for at least 5-10 years. Additional qualifications (preferred) include:

- having taught or published on the subject
- having served as expert witnesses in other settings
- membership in professional organizations
- active participation in professional organizations.

Financial compensation \$150 per hour per review.

Please submit resume to:

***Mailing Address***

Panavee Vongjaroenarat  
Assistant Attorney General, Office of the General Counsel  
Department of Health  
899 N. Capitol St., NE, Second Floor  
Washington DC 20002

***Phone***                    202-478-5746

***Email***                      panavee.Vongjaroenrat@dc.gov

### PLEASE NOTE:

**The business addresses of all veterinarians with a DC license will be public information.**

## OPEN SESSION

THE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

cordially encourages veterinarians to attend the **Open Session** of its monthly meetings!

The Board meets on the third Thursday of every month, at 9:30 am,  
on the second floor of

899 N. Capitol Street, NE, Washington DC 20002  
(a few blocks from the Union Station metro stop).

For further information, please contact Lakisha Thompson at (202) 535-2323.

## FILING A COMPLAINT WITH THE BOARD

To file a complaint against a licensed DC Veterinarian, submit a letter of complaint that includes copies of the pertinent documents. The letter must also include the complainant's address and other contact information so that the complainant may be contacted as necessary and notified of any findings.

PLEASE NOTE: THE COMPLAINT FORM IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE AT  
<http://doh.dc.gov/node/192802>

### Mail the complaint to:

DC Board of Veterinary Examiners  
 899 N. Capitol Street, NE  
 First Floor  
 Washington, DC 20002

### If the complaint alleges unlicensed activity, mail the complaint to:

Supervisory Investigator  
 899 N. Capitol Street, NE  
 First Floor  
 Washington DC 20002

Or fax the complaint about unlicensed activity to (202) 442-4924.

Please be advised that the health professional licensing boards do not have jurisdiction over fee disputes, except for billing for services that were not provided. If there is a fee dispute with a health professional, seek redress through the civil courts.

## BOARD ORDERS

JUNE 2011 - APRIL 2013

There were  
**no Board Actions**  
**against licensees**  
**June 2011 - April 2013.**

## WHEN YOU MOVE... OR CHANGE YOUR NAME

Licensees sometimes forget to inform the Board of Veterinary Examiners of a move or name change. If the correct address is not on file, the renewal form may not be received. **All name and address changes must be submitted in writing to our office within 30 days of the change.** Please include name, address, email address, Social Security number, and license number. For a name change, please enclose a copy of the certificate of marriage, divorce decree, or court order that authorizes the change. Fax the request to (202) 724-5145, or mail the request to:

DC Board of Veterinary Examiners  
 Attn: Address/Name Change  
 899 N. Capitol Street, NE  
 First Floor  
 Washington, DC 20002



Government of the District of Columbia  
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor



Health Professional  
Licensing Administration

**Address**

DC Board of  
Veterinary Examiners  
899 N. Capitol Street, NE  
First Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

**Phone**

(202) 535-2323

**Fax number**

(202) 442-4817

**Webpage**

[www.doh.dc.gov](http://www.doh.dc.gov)

**DC Government website**

[www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov)

**Current Members  
of The District of Columbia  
Board of Veterinary Examiners**

Julie Garnier, DVM  
Chairperson

Ashley Gallagher, DVM  
Board Member

Leanne J. Lipton, BS, DVM, CVA,  
CVSMT, CVC, CVTN, CVFT  
Board Member

Elton G. G. Vyfhuis, DVM  
Board Member

Lisa La Fontaine  
Consumer Member

Acting Director, Department of Health  
Joxel Garcia, MD, MBA

**Board Staff**

**Board Executive Director/Veterinary Medical Officer**

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Phone: (202) 724-8813

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