

Live Scan Fingerprints and License Renewals

By Grant Miller, DVM, CVMA Director of Regulatory Affairs



The California Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) is notifying most licensees that Live Scan fingerprints are required as a condition of license renewal, even if their fingerprints were taken at the time of original licensure.

Live Scan is an electronic fingerprinting technology that transmits fingerprints directly to a database that can be accessed by the licensing agency. The Live Scan fingerprint requirement is not new. This regulation took effect in 2012 when the California Business and Professions Code Section 144 was changed to require licensing boards to search both the California Department of Justice (DOJ) and the FBI fingerprint databases when granting licenses. Only the DOJ was required prior to that. California regulatory boards then underwent rulemaking to bring current licensees into compliance. The California Code of Regulations Title 16, Section 2010.05 states, in part, the following:

As a condition of renewal of a license, a veterinarian who was initially licensed prior to January 1, 1960,

a registered veterinary technician who was initially licensed prior to January 1, 2004, or any licensee for whom an electronic record of the submission of fingerprints no longer exists or was never created, shall furnish to the Department of Justice a full set of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal history record check and to undergo a state and federal level criminal offender record information search conducted through the Department of Justice.

Licensees should read their renewal notice carefully to determine if Live Scan fingerprints are required.

In recent years, an online licensing system called BreEZe was implemented by the VMB and other regulatory boards. When renewing a license, the VMB recommends that all licensees use BreEZe, which may be accessed at vmb.ca.gov. If the renewal process is completed on BreEZe but the online application status shows it is pending, it is likely that Live Scan fingerprints

are needed. To obtain Live Scan fingerprints, complete the following steps:

1. Download the VMB's Request for Live Scan Fingerprints form from vmb.ca.gov. Special conditions may apply for out-of-state renewals.
2. Take the completed form to a Live Scan provider. A list of providers may be found on the California DOJ website. Mobile services are available.
3. Ensure that the Live Scan technician enters your name and social security number to exactly match VMB records (including any hyphens in your name).
4. Scan and email completed forms to VMB@dca.ca.gov with the subject line of "Live Scan, [license type] [license #]" (e.g., Live Scan, Veterinarian License #123456).

The authorized Live Scan provider transmits fingerprints electronically. If this is successful, your license should renew in BreZE within a few business days.

If you completed all of the license renewal steps prior to your current license expiration, including Live Scan fingerprints, but are still seeing a pending status on BreZE, your expired license will remain valid under the California Business and Professions Code Section 121.

This law states:

No licensee who has complied with the provisions of this code relating to the renewal of his or her license prior to expiration of such license shall be deemed to be engaged illegally in the practice of his or her business or profession during any period between such renewal and receipt of evidence of such renewal which may occur due to delay not the fault of the applicant.

As used in this section, 'license' includes 'certificate,' 'permit,' 'authorization,' and 'registration,' or any other indicia giving authorization, by any agency, board, bureau, commission, committee, or entity within the Department of Consumer Affairs, to engage in a business or profession regulated by this code or by the board referred to in the Chiropractic Act or the Osteopathic Act.

If you experience issues with renewing a license or permit online, contact the VMB at 916.515.5220. ■

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