

**Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine  
Biennial Report  
July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2002**

**I. General Information**

**A. Board Mission and Major Functions**

**Mission**

The mission of the Board of Veterinary Medicine is to promote, preserve and protect the public health, safety, and welfare by and through the effective control and regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine.

**Functions**

**Setting and administering educational and examination standards for initial and continuing licensure**

- Reviewing knowledge, skills and abilities expected of veterinarians to aid in determining what requirements to set for initial and continuing licensure
- Setting licensure requirements through the legislative and rules process
- Developing and administering the state veterinary jurisprudence examination to determine candidate knowledge of Minnesota statutes and rules governing the practice of veterinary medicine
- Reviewing continuing education programs submitted by sponsors or individuals to determine if they meet requirements
- Reviewing individual applicant/licensee documentation of completion of requirements for initial and continuing licensure

**Responding to inquiries, complaints and reports from the public and government agencies regarding licensure and conduct of applicants, permit holders, licensees and unlicensed practitioners**

- Accepting complaints and reports from the public, licensees and government agencies
- Deciding, in consultation with the board attorney, if a complaint is jurisdictional and if so whether and what type of action to pursue to resolve the matter
- Referring inquiries and complaints to the attorney general's office or other agencies as appropriate
- Responding to complainants and agency reports by informing the complainants/agencies of action taken to resolve their complaints

**Pursuing disciplinary action with licensees as deemed necessary based upon results of investigations conducted in response to complaints/reports.**

- Setting standards of conduct and a basis for disciplinary action through the legislative and rules process
- Obtaining information directly from the licensee and securing investigation and fact finding information from other parties and agencies in response to complaints

- Holding conferences with licensees to identify their role and responsibility in a matter under investigation
- Obtaining voluntary agreement to disciplinary action or pursuing disciplinary action through a due process, contested case hearing and potential court action

**Providing information and education about licensure requirements and procedures and standards of practice to applicants, the public and other interested audiences.**

## **B. Major activities during the biennium**

The following major activities were accomplished by the board during the biennium:

- Developed and launched an agency website, providing easy public access to licensure process, complaint process, disciplinary actions, and other board information
- Adoption of rule authorizing cease and desist orders by the board against persons engaged in the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine, or from violating or threatening to violate the statute, rule or order which the board has the authority to enforce
- Successfully completed an investigation of several disciplinary cases regarding the dispensing of prescription drugs without a valid client-patient relationship
- In cooperation with the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, completed the transition of the national licensing examinations to a computer-based format

## **C. Emerging issues regarding regulation of veterinarians**

- Establishment of standards for a veterinary-client-patient relationship to determine when prescription drugs may be dispensed, and for what length of time and amount
- Minnesota state licensure of all faculty veterinarians at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
- With the advance of technology and knowledge in veterinary medicine, the “standard of practice” is changing and some veterinarians may not adapt or may not choose to adapt.
- The unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine, both direct hands-on treatment and indirect treatment through advice and sale of drugs and vaccines over the Internet, is a growing problem both within Minnesota and nationally.

# **II. Board’s Members, Staff, and Budget**

## **A. Board composition**

Statute requires the board to have seven members. Members are appointed by the Governor for staggered four-year terms. The names of persons holding the seats as of June 30, 2002 are listed below:

- 5 licensed veterinarians—Dr. Ken Greiner, Elbow Lake; Dr. Ron Kuecker, Windom; Dr. Fred Mehr, Cold Spring; Dr. Lorna Reichl, St. Paul; Dr. Joanne Schulman, Minneapolis
- 2 public members—Ms. Lynn Green, Morgan; Ms. Susan Osman, Minnetonka

## B. Employees

The board has one and three-quarter FTE positions. They are a three-quarter-time executive director and a full-time office manager.

## C. Receipts and disbursements and major fees assessed by the board

Item	FY 2001	FY 2002
Receipts	\$293,345	\$268,771
Disbursements	\$254,214	\$257,721

Fee	Amount
Jurisprudence Examination	\$50
Application	\$50
Initial License	\$200
Biennial Active License Renewal	\$200
Biennial Inactive License Renewal	\$100

## III. Licensing and Registration

### A. Persons licensed as of June 30, 2002

2,779

### B. New licenses issued during biennium

Fiscal Year	# Licensed
2001	113
2002	106

## IV. Complaints

### COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	FY 01	FY 02
Number of Complaints Received	43	46
Number of Complaints per 1000 Licensees	16	17
Complaints by Type		
Incompetence	30	33
Unprofessional Conduct	10	11
Chemical Dependency	1	0
Unlicensed Practice	1	1
Sanitation	1	1

## OPEN COMPLAINTS

	FY 01	FY 02
Number of Complaints Open	16	13
<3 months	2	2
3-6 months	4	6
6-12 months	4	4
>12 months*	6	1
*The complaints open more than one year are due to a combination of lengthy/complex investigations and difficult negotiations regarding a disciplinary settlement of the complaint.		

## CLOSED COMPLAINTS

	FY 01	FY 02
Number of Complaints Closed	43	44
Disposition of Closed Complaints		
Revocation	2	0
Suspension	0	0
Conditional License	4	1
Civil Penalty	0	0
Agreement for Corrective Action	13	5
Referral to HPSP	1	0
Dismissed	22	37
Cease and Desist	1	1

## TREND DATA

	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
Number of Persons Licensed (Veterinarians)	2658	2740	2728	2742	2763
Number of Complaints Received	47	50	55	43	46
Number of Complaints per 1000 Licensees	18	18	20	16	17
Number of Open Cases as of 6/30	16	17	23	16	13