

**Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine
Biennial Report
July 1, 1998 to June 30, 2000**

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 and the licensure, control and regulation of persons who practice veterinary medicine within this state.

Functions

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

- Reviewing knowledges, 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:

- Revision of statutes and rules to eliminate obsolete provisions and effect positive and less cumbersome veterinary licensure procedures
- Development, in house, of new computer database programs that have significantly increased licensee and applicant database reliability, efficiency and depth of data retrieval and have streamlined the license renewal process
- Participation in a cooperative effort with other state boards of veterinary medicine and the National Board Examination Committee to replace the paper and pencil national board examinations in veterinary medicine with a computer based examination

C. Emerging issues regarding regulation of veterinarians

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. Investigative and legal costs incurred in response to these activities could exceed the board's financial resources in future years.

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, 2000 are listed below:

- 5 licensed veterinarians—Dr. Meg Glattly, Eagan; Dr. Ken Greiner, Elbow Lake; Dr. Ron Kuecker, Windom; Dr. Fred Mehr, Cold Spring; Dr. Fran Smith, Lonsdale
- 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 1999	FY 2000
Receipts	\$275,432	\$287,340
Disbursements	\$296,775	\$281,096

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, 2000

2,728

B. New licenses issued during biennium

Fiscal Year	# Licensed
1999	112
2000	122

IV. Complaints

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	FY 99	FY 00
Number of Complaints Received	50	55
Number of Complaints per 1000 Licensees	18	20
Complaints by Type		
Incompetency	30	33
Unprofessional Conduct	17	19
Chemical Dependency	2	1
Unlicensed Practice	1	1
Sanitation		1

OPEN COMPLAINTS

	FY 99	FY 00
Number of Complaints Open	20	30
<3 months	9	7
3-6 months	4	5
6-12 months	4	12
>12 months*	3	5
*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 99	FY 00
Number of Complaints Closed	45	40
Disposition of Closed Complaints		
Revocation		1
Suspension	11	
Conditional License	2	1
Civil Penalty	1	
Agreement for Corrective Action	6	6
Referral to HPSP	1	
Dismissed	24	32

TREND DATA

	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
Number of Persons Licensed (Veterinarians)	2681	2670	2658	2740	2728
Number of Complaints Received	31	34	47	50	55
Number of Complaints per 1000 Licensees	12	13	18	18	20
Number of Open Cases as of 6/30/00	7	4	16	17	23