Table of Contents
Board of Veterinary Medicine

Agency Profile 1

Board of Veterinary Medicine — Agency Profile

https://mn.gov/boards/veterinary-medicine/

AT A GLANCE

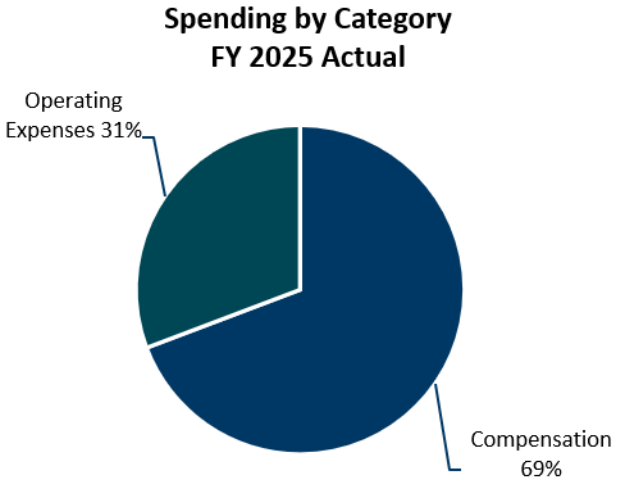
- 3,830 veterinarians served: 3,562 active licenses and 268 inactive licenses
- 60% of Minnesotans estimated to own animals
- Veterinarians renew licenses every two years
- Average of 222 new licensees yearly
- 103 complaints from the public investigated annually
- Three full-time staff persons

PURPOSE

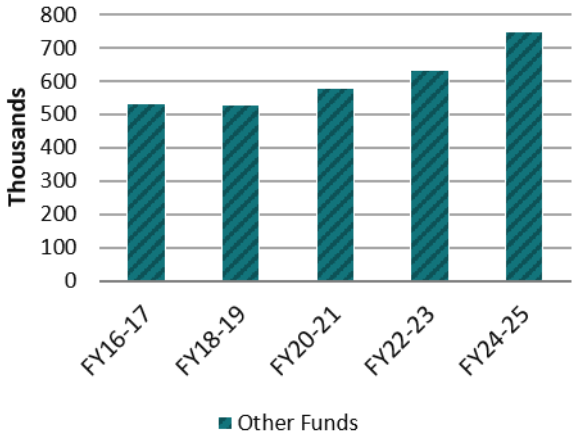
The mission of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) is to promote, preserve, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and animals. We achieve this through the effective control and regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine on behalf of animals and their owners. We ensure Minnesota veterinarians and veterinary technicians have the education and skills needed to become licensed, and that they will work to optimize animal health. We curb the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine that endangers animals and the public.

We work constructively to maintain current standards for the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary technology in Minnesota. These services include assessment of veterinarians' and veterinary technicians' qualifications for licensure, investigation and remediation of public complaints pertaining to veterinary medicine and veterinary technology, and provision of public access to disciplinary and corrective actions. To prevent substandard veterinary care, we monitor veterinarians' and veterinary technicians' ongoing completion of continuing education and communicate strategies to optimize veterinarians' and veterinary technicians' professional conduct. Additionally, during emergencies such as the pandemic, we work closely with the Governor's Office to classify veterinarians as essential workers and find tools to minimize transmission of the virus to their staff and clients.

BUDGET



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Board is funded by licensure fees and receives no general fund dollars. Minnesota Statutes section 214.06, subdivision 1(a) compels the Board to collect fees in the amount sufficient to cover direct and indirect expenditures. Funds are deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the state government special revenue fund. From this fund, the Board receives a direct appropriation to pay for agency expenses such as salaries, rent, costs associated with disciplinary/contested cases, and operating expenditures. It also pays statewide indirect costs through an open appropriation.

In addition to Board operations, licensure fees fund activities that support multiple boards and/or other agencies. Some of these are: the Administrative Services Unit (inter-board), Health Professionals Services Program (inter-board), Office of the Attorney General for legal services, and the Criminal Background Check Program (inter-board).

STRATEGIES

To accomplish our mission, we utilize the following strategies:

1. **Regulatory:**
   - Ensure license applicants are qualified to practice veterinary medicine and veterinary technology in Minnesota by careful review of credentials, including the criminal background check.
   - Examine each license applicant's knowledge of standards of veterinary practice and veterinary technology, laws, and rules.
   - Evaluate declarations of any criminal charges, license discipline or insufficient continuing education.
   - Hold veterinarians and veterinary technicians accountable for their professional conduct based on legal, ethical, and professional standards.
   - Require veterinarians and veterinary technicians to stay updated on advances in veterinary medicine and veterinary technology through continuing education.
   - Investigate complaints pertaining to veterinarians, veterinary technicians, or unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine.
   - Take corrective or disciplinary action if a risk to human or animal safety is identified and determine what course of action will improve a veterinarian's or veterinary technician's performance.
   - Register professional firms practicing veterinary medicine and update the database via annual reports.
   - Facilitate license application, license renewal, and filing of complaints via our interactive website.
   - Provide other states with verification of the license status of a veterinarian or veterinary technician when requested.
   - Collaborate with the other MN government agencies: Board of Pharmacy, Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Criminal Background Check Program, Health Professionals Services Program, Board of Animal Health, Governor's Office, Department of Health, Racing Commission, and Department of Revenue.
   - Collaborate with federal government agencies: Drug Enforcement Administration, US Department of Agriculture, and Internal Revenue Service.
   - Participate in committees and programs presented by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards pertaining to current regulatory issues and best practices to address these in Minnesota.
   - Participate as an ex-officio member of the board of directors of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association to provide input on current issues facing the veterinary profession in Minnesota.
2. **Education:**
   - Inform veterinarians and veterinary technicians of any regulatory changes that impact the practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary technology.
   - Provide education on regulatory issues via written materials on our website, newsletters, direct mail, and presentations at veterinary conference, webinars, and the University of Minnesota.
   - Assist the public by relaying information regarding the scope of practice of veterinary medicine, veterinary technology, complaint process and past corrective and disciplinary action for veterinarians or veterinary technicians.
   - Address questions posed by the media, legislature, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, public, agencies, firms, and associations.

RESULTS

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend (FY 2024)	Most recent data (FY 2025)
Number of Veterinary licensees (active and inactive)	Quantity	Automated Licensure Management System	3,753	3,830
Number of Veterinary Technician licensees (active and inactive)	Quantity	Automated Licensure Management System	NA – first licensing year 2026	(2026 data) 2473
Percent of license renewals done online/electronically	Quality	Automated Licensure Management System	77%	86%
Number of complaints against licensees	Quantity	Automated Licensure Management System	176	222
Number of complaints against non-veterinarians	Quantity	Automated Licensure Management System	28	18
Professional firm renewals	Quantity	Automated Licensure Management System	532	549
Emails requiring a response responded to within one business day	Quality	Random one week sample of board inbox	86%	100%

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

The Board delivers services that have not yet been evaluated using randomized controlled trials or quasi-experimental methods. While the public protection functions of professional licensing boards are not typically subject to randomized controlled trials, substantial evidence supports the underlying theory that regulatory oversight reduces the risk of harm by establishing minimum qualifications, requiring continuing education, investigating complaints, and imposing corrective action when practitioners fail to meet professional standards.

Our statutory, legal authority is granted by M.S. 156. (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=156)

Other statutes and rules that significantly apply to the function of our board and the practice of veterinary medicine include M.S. 13, M.S. 14, M.S. 151, M.S. 152, M.S. 214, M.S. 319B, and MN Rules 6800 and 9100.