# Veterinary Medicine, Board of — Small Agency Profile

mn.gov/boards/veterinary-medicine/

## AT A GLANCE

- 3330 veterinarians served, 2866 active licenses, 464 inactive licenses
- 60% of Minnesotans estimated to own animals
- Veterinarians renew licenses every two years
- Average of 150 new licensees yearly
- 71 complaints from the public investigated annually
- Funding by fees, no general fund dollars
- Two full time staff persons

## PURPOSE

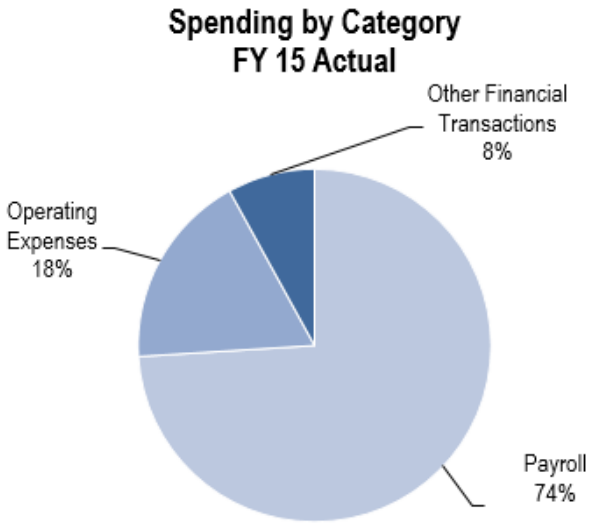
The mission of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) is to promote, preserve, and protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and animals. We achieve this through the effective control and regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine on behalf of animals and their owners. We ensure Minnesota veterinarians 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 effectively to maintain current standards for the practice of veterinary medicine in Minnesota. These services include assessment of veterinarians' qualifications for licensure, investigation and remediation of public complaints pertaining to veterinary medicine, and provision of public access to disciplinary and corrective actions. To prevent substandard veterinary care, we monitor veterinarians' ongoing completion of continuing education and communicate strategies to optimize veterinarians' professional conduct.

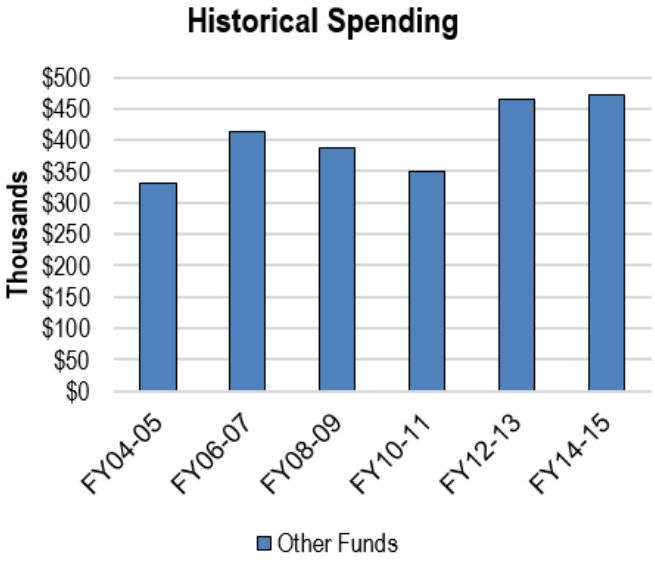
The Board of Veterinary Medicine's work significantly contributes to the following statewide outcomes:

- **Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals**
- **People in Minnesota are safe**
- **Efficient and accountable government services**

## BUDGET




*Source: BPAS*




*Source: Consolidated Fund Statement*

The Board is funded by licensure fees. 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. The Board receives no general fund dollars.

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 in Minnesota by careful review of credentials
- examine each license applicant's knowledge of standards of veterinary practice, laws, and rules
- evaluate declarations of any criminal charges, license discipline or insufficient continuing education
- hold veterinarians accountable for their professional conduct based on legal, ethical and professional standards
- require veterinarians to stay updated on advances in veterinary medicine through continuing education
- investigate complaints pertaining to veterinarians 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 performance
- register professional firms practicing veterinary medicine
- 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 when requested
- collaborate with the other MN government agencies: Board of Pharmacy, Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Health Professionals Services Program, Board of Animal Health, Department of Health, Racing Commission
- collaborate with federal government agencies: Drug Enforcement Agency, US Department of Agriculture, and Internal Revenue Service

2. Education:

- inform veterinarians of any regulatory changes that impact the practice of veterinary medicine
- provide education on regulatory issues via: written materials on our website, direct mail, and presentations at veterinary conferences and the University of Minnesota.
- assist the public by relaying information regarding the scope of practice of veterinary medicine, complaint process and past corrective and disciplinary action for veterinarians
- address questions posed by the media, legislature, veterinarians, public, agencies, firms, and associations

## RESULTS

| ***Type of Measure*** | ***Name of Measure*** | ***Previous*** | ***Current*** | ***Dates*** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Quantity | Number of licensees | 3,249 | 3,330 | FY15 & FY16 |
| Quality | Percent of license renewals done online/electronically | 87% | 84% | FY15 & FY16 |
| Quantity | Number of complaints against licensees | 60 | 74 | FY15 & FY16 |
| Quantity | Number of complaints against non-veterinarians | 14 | 23 | FY15 & FY16 |
| Quantity | Professional firm renewals | 348 | 494 | FY15 & FY16 |

*Source is the Small Board Licensing System.

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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 9100.