

January 31, 2019

Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair  
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair  
Senator Arnie Roblan  
Senator Chuck Thomsen  
Representative Teresa Alonso Leon  
Representative Christine Drazan  
Representative Mark Meek  
Representative Mike Nearman

Dear Co-Chairs and Members:

Thank you for hearing our budget request. I am Lori Makinen, executive director of the Oregon Veterinary Board.

Program Information

The Veterinary Board is an Other Fund agency statutorily established in 1903, with authority under the Veterinary Practice Act, ORS ch. 686.

The Board's eight members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Members include five practicing veterinarians from Astoria, Baker City, Beaverton, Klamath Falls, and Portland; two public members from Portland; and one Certified Veterinary Technician from Oregon City.

The Board licenses veterinarians, veterinary interns, Certified Veterinary Technicians and Certified Euthanasia Technicians.

Biennium	Veterinarians/Interns	Certified Vet Techs	Euthanasia Technicians
09-11	2,044	1,078	113
11-13	2,407	1,197	115
13-15	2,534	1,283	129
15-17	2,588	1,331	138
17-19 *	2,518	1,297	123

\*As of January 2019

Board administrative staff includes one director, one ¾ time administrative assistant, one complaint investigator and one facility inspector. Work entails office and agency administration; license application review and approval; issuing licenses; complaint investigation and clinic inspections.

## Resources

The Board continues to share space, IT software/hardware, equipment and administrative support with six other Health Professional Regulatory agencies in the Portland State Office Building.

Migration is underway to a new database system for improved storage and retrieval, online license renewals, and public access to licensee information.

The Board's website provides resources for licensees, including applications, Continuing Education options, information on additional credentials, and links to relevant laws, rules and policies. Current agency structure ensures that assistance is provided immediately or within hours.

The Board continues to streamline the application and renewal process. Applicants may obtain all needed materials online; when the application file is complete, the license is issued that or the next day. Licenses may be renewed online with a credit card without processing fees.

## Consumer Complaints and Investigations

The Board delegates authority to staff to make determinations on whether a complaint falls under the Board's disciplinary purview. Complaints found to be within the Board's jurisdiction are either referred to the Board for review or reevaluated by a rotating investigative committee that recommends resolution to the full Board. A report of staff-resolved complaints is provided to the board at each meeting. The most common consumer complaints concern veterinary fees and veterinarians' communication and attitude. When necessary, the Board relies on board-certified experts or consultants for specialty cases. An assistant attorney general advises the Board on complaint and investigation matters.

Complaints and subsequent discipline most commonly involve: Diagnostic and treatment procedures; recordkeeping; pain management; and substance abuse or diversion.

The Board strives to resolve disciplinary matters through settlement. The Board has reviewed 266 cases as of February 2017, and settled 23 through stipulated agreement. Civil penalties range from \$250 to \$1,000 depending on the nature of the violation. Most cases are resolved through settlement, and penalties or administrative costs are customarily waived as a part of settlement. There is currently one contested case hearing decision pending.

## Rulemaking

Rules were adopted during the biennium to: 1) require licensees to report unprofessional conduct (already a requirement in ORS 676) and; 2) reduce some requirements for license eligibility for Certified Veterinary Technicians. Pending rulemaking will address clarifying veterinary dentistry within Certified Veterinary Technician scope of work, and veterinary telemedicine, which is the use electronic communications regarding an animal's health status. The Board is reviewing telemedicine rules adopted by other states and Canada for adaptability to Oregon's regulatory system.

## Facility Inspection

HB 2474 allowed non-veterinary ownership of veterinary practices and provided authority for the Board to register and inspect veterinary facilities, with an annual fee of \$150 and position authority for one

FTE inspector. Due to factors including a hiring freeze, and database issues, routine inspections began in August 2017.

<b>Required inspections completed within 3 years prior to the current date: (Does not include repeat inspections)</b>									
Report Date	Total Facilities	Due for Inspection	Physical Inspections Completed	AAHA Certified	Wildlife Foundations	House Call only Facilities	Mobile Units	Inspection Completion Rate:	Inspection Backlog Rate:
01/25/2019	666	441	132	60	2	1	30	34%	66%

### Legislation

The Board has proposed SB 70, which closes a loophole allowing unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine, and SB 71, which allows euthanasia facilities to order pain medication as required by guidelines of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Association of Shelter Veterinarians.

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In conclusion, approval of the Board's 2019-21 budget is respectfully requested. We welcome your questions.

Sincerely,

Lori Makinen, Executive Director

### Licensee Distribution by County

County	Veterinarian	Intern	CVT
Baker	10		
Benton	50	4	28
Clackamas	260	17	191
Clatsop	16	1	3
Columbia	14	2	8
Coos	19		4
Crook	10	1	7
Curry	11	2	2
Deschutes	96	6	65
Douglas	43	2	12
Gilliam	1		
Grant	4		
Harney	4		
Hood River	13		3
Jackson	96	2	32
Jefferson	5		2
Josephine	30		16
Klamath	26	1	14
Lake	6		1
Lane	141	8	75
Lincoln	18		7
Linn	41	2	12
Malheur	15	3	3
Marion	102	5	40
Morrow	1		
Multnomah	322	28	200
Polk	16		12
Tillamook	13		2
Umatilla	28		10
Union	7	2	2
Wallowa	8		1
Wasco	10		6
Washington	194	9	154
Wheeler	1		
Yamhill	46	1	13