



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board

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February 10, 2023
900 Court Street NE
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Dear Education Subcommittee of Joint Ways and Means Committee:

It was a privilege to present the budget and overview for the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board to you on Wednesday, February 8th. I wanted to provide a response to questions posed following my presentation.

Response to Sen. Frederick's question about adjusting testing fees in order to make licensing more accessible:

OVMEB administers the Jurisprudence Exam and the price is established in Oregon Administrative Rule 875-010-0006 (2)(a):

An application form completed and signed by the applicant and the Oregon Jurisprudence Exam / Regional Disease Test fee of \$75.00;

This cost is collected when applicants submit their application. A change in that fee would require a rule change. This fee adjustment is something the Board and agency can review as a viable way to ease licensure, while considering the impact on the agency budget.

The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) administers the following:

The North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE), the fee is \$720.00.

Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), the fee is \$340.

OVMEB has a long history and strong partnership with AAVSB. We could discuss the idea of fee adjustments with them in response to this national trend in shortage of licensed veterinarians.

Response to Rep. McLain's question about the national veterinarian shortage in terms of differences with small and large animal veterinarians and geographical considerations.

First, this problem is truly nationwide and complex. To further illustrate my previous points, more Americans are [getting pets](#), while the number of people going into the veterinary profession has not been keeping pace. By 2030, the U.S. will need nearly [41,000 additional veterinarians](#) and [nearly 133,000 credentialed vet techs](#), according to a recent Mars Veterinary Health report. Any solutions are likely years off. The current strain is going to continue for some time.

Other articles on the shortage of veterinarians Oregon specific:



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1. <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/09/10/oregon-veterinarians-struggle-through-the-pandemic/>
2. <https://www.oregonlive.com/news/2021/09/staffing-crisis-at-veterinary-clinics-leaves-pet-owners-scrambling-to-find-care-enduring-long-waits.html>
3. <https://www.wweek.com/culture/2022/01/26/portlands-animal-medicine-shortage-means-our-pets-have-to-wait-for-a-doctor/>
4. <https://localtoday.news/or/critical-shortage-of-veterinarians-puts-portland-area-pets-at-risk-portland-tribune-37027.html>

Here is the breakdown of Oregon veterinarians by specialty and county:

Small Animal: 1878

Mixed: 400

Large Animal: 173

Counties	CVTs	Small Animal Veterinarians	Mixed Animal Veterinarians	Large Animal Veterinarians
Baker	1		7	2
Benton	3	56	17	6
Clackamas	27	206	11	17
Clatsop	1	14	2	2
Columbia	4	10	8	1
Coos	2	11	6	
Crook	6	4	7	3
Curry		6	10	
Deschutes	15	67	26	9
Douglas	6	13	26	4
Gilliam			1	
Grant	1		2	1
Harney	1		3	2
Hood River	1	9	4	
Jackson	12	75	18	6



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Jefferson		1	3	1
Josephine	4	22	10	2
Klamath	3	17	7	5
Lake	2		6	
Lane	11	117	11	5
Lincoln	2	13	3	
Linn	3	27	16	5
Malheur	1	3	7	2
Marion	12	63	14	3
Marrow			1	1
Multnomah	27	342	12	3
Out of State	54	322	102	66
Polk	2	20	5	1
Sherman			1	
Tillamook	1	5	4	3
Umatilla	2	7	16	4
Union	4	3	5	1
Wallowa	1	1	4	1
Wasco	1	4	5	
Washington	19	166	13	5
Wheeler			1	
Yamhill	5	29	6	12

Any steps OVMEB can take to ease access to licensure while still maintaining our public safety mandate will be considered and implemented where appropriate.

I very much appreciate these questions as they highlight areas where OVMEB can potentially focus to help support the industry and consumers during this challenging time.

Please reach out if I can provide any other information

In partnership,

Peter J. Burns

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