

How can you help?

The VMB is committed to successfully achieving its mission to protect California's consumers and animals. You can assist by reporting suspected violations of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, such as practicing in an unsafe or unprofessional manner or unlicensed persons illegally providing care; and informing the VMB of issues that affect the practice of veterinary medicine.

Who does the VMB regulate?

Veterinarians
Registered Veterinary Technicians
Veterinary Hospitals
Mobile Practices
House call Services

For additional information, you can contact:

California Veterinary Medical Board
1420 Howe Avenue, Suite 6
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 263-2610
(866) 229-0170 (Toll Free)
Email: vmb@dca.ca.gov

*Visit our website at
www.vmb.ca.gov
for up-to-date information*

Veterinary Medical Board

*Consumer
Protection
Agency*

What is the Veterinary Medical Board?

The Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) is a state governmental agency established by law to protect consumers and animals by regulating the practice of veterinary medicine. The VMB is responsible for ensuring this protection through proper licensing of veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians, and veterinary hospitals through vigorous, objective enforcement of the California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act. A seven-member board serves as the decision making body for the VMB.

Who serves on the Board?

The seven-member board is composed of three public members and four professional members. The Senate Rules Committee, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Governor each appoint one public member. The Governor of California appoints the four professional members. Each Board member serves a four-year term and can be re-appointed. A member can serve a maximum of two full terms.

How does the VMB protect consumers?

The VMB accomplishes consumer and animal protection by:

- Establishing educational standards for licensure.

The VMB sets educational standards for veterinarians and veterinary technicians, that individuals must meet to become licensed.

- Administering examinations that measure minimum competency and are job related.

All veterinarians must have passed the national licensing examination, California State Board Examination and the Veterinary Law Examination or meet criteria for reciprocity and be cleared through a background check for conviction of any crime which might make the applicant ineligible for licensure.

- Establishing minimum standards of practice.

The VMB establishes minimum standards of practice to which all veterinarians must adhere. The standards are to ensure the safety of consumers and animals.

- Maintaining an enforcement program to protect consumers and animals.

If a person violates the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, the VMB may take disciplinary action against the veterinarian's or veterinary technician's license. Grounds for discipline focus on behaviors that place consumers and

animals at risk of harm, including negligence, incompetence, fraud, deception and unprofessional conduct. The disciplinary action is dependent on the nature and severity of the violation and what is necessary to protect the public. The disciplinary action becomes a part of the veterinarian's or veterinary technician's file and is accessible to the public.

- Establishing consumer education programs.

The VMB's mission is to ensure consumer and animal protection. The VMB also distributes written information on veterinary examinations, premise permits and pet information.

How do I verify if my veterinarian/veterinary technician is licensed?

The VMB encourages calls from consumers to verify if a person is licensed. A person may contact the VMB during normal business hours for phone verification, or can look up a licensee on the VMB's website at www.vmb.ca.gov.