

WI VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD 2022-2023

BIENNIAL REPORT

The Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board (VEB) is a Board composed of eight members: five licensed veterinarians, one certified veterinary technician, and two public members. The VEB members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. VEB members can serve two consecutive four-year terms.

Current Board members serving:

Member	Office	Type	Term Expiration
Lang, Hunter *	Chair	Veterinarian Member	07/01/2027
Holter, Alan*	Vice Chair	Veterinarian Member	07/01/2028
Reese, Amanda*	Secretary	Public Member	07/01/2028
Miesen, Stephanie	Member	Veterinarian Member	07/01/2026
Estelle, Leslie	Member	Veterinarian Member	07/01/2025
Schuh, Lyn *	Member	Veterinary Technician	07/01/2026
<i>Vacant</i>	Member	Public Member	
Solverson, Karl *	Member	Veterinarian Member	07/01/2025

*Serving final term

Strategic Plan, Goals and Accomplishments

The VEB Vision and Mission are as follows:

VISION: Setting the standard of forward-thinking veterinary regulation.

MISSION: To protect the public through a fair regulatory process that instills public confidence in our licensees while remaining agile to the constant advancement of veterinary medicine.

Annually, the VEB reviews their strategic plan and modifies their goals and objectives as appropriate to capture the strategic focus of the VEB. The following were the goals and objectives for the 2022-2023 VEB strategic plan.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Implement rules for the safe practice of telehealth in Wisconsin by the end of 2022.

All VEB forms, documents and the website were updated to reflect the changes made to the practice act related to the practice of telehealth and a notification was sent to all active WI credential holders regarding the changes to rule.

2. AAVSB involvement:

Per the key performance objective set by the VEB, Dr. Beth Venit along with Dr. Tim Kolb with the AAVSB presented at the July 2024 Board meeting on services the AAVSB provides to member boards and credential holders. Additionally, two Board members were able to attend the AAVSB annual meeting as voting delegates taking part in conversation and setting policies intended to increase effectiveness of veterinary medicine regulation in the US, US territories and Canada.

3. Elevate the awareness and utilization of the VPAP program:

The Veterinary Professional Assistance Program platform provider transitioned to Lifeworks, per the sale of the prior provider. The VEB transition to Lifeworks was completed with minimal delay on February 1, 2023, and the VEB was able to obtain an extension of the Lifeworks contract through 2024 from the Department of Administration.

Lyn Schuh, the CVT member of the Board, joined the WVMAs Mental Health Task Force (MHTF), and the WVMA was been provided resources to use in identifying ways the VPAP program can be used to assist the mission of the MHTF:

- Access to review types of presentations/trainings available through LifeWorks
- An orientation to the program specifically for the WVMA mental health taskforce, presented by LifeWorks consultant Shelly Gilmore
- A link to the recorded VPAP orientation

WVMA hosted a reconnect the vets utilizing a VPAP presenter on resiliency, and the VEB worked with WVMA's MHTF and published a guidance clarifying that mental health is a subject pertinent to the practice of veterinary medicine and that education taken on mental health counts for non-scientific continuing education credits necessary for continued licensure.

4. Streamline complaint process by ensuring that new complaints are addressed as quickly and simple cases are expedited as follows:

Initial Contact Goal

VEB investigators made initial contact with the respondent within five business days of complaint receipt, on 91% of cases, excluding cases where DEA is involved or a site visit must be made. This exceeded the goal of 90%.

Screening Committee Materials Goal

Respondents have up to 30 days to respond to the initial request. After that, the investigators must compile the materials and build the case. Cases that are presented to screening must be completed roughly two weeks prior to the committee meeting. Because of these timelines, the goal was to have the screening committee review every case within 90 days of the initial contact. This excluded cases where the respondent obtains legal counsel or requests an extension. This goal was accomplished for 100% of complaints.

CE-Only Cases Goal

Send final decision orders for all “CE Only” cases to the Respondent within 60 days of screening review. “CE Only” cases are cases where there were no violations found, except that the respondent failed to complete the proper number of CE hours in the prior licensing year. VEB investigative staff accomplished this goal for 100% of CE only cases.

Credentials and Complaints

Integral to the VEB’s mission to protect the public is the issuance of veterinary credentials. The VEB issues credentials to veterinarians and veterinary technicians that meet the standards of the profession as set forth in WI Statute, and by enforcing the standards of care established by those same statutes.

The VEB licenses veterinarians and certifies veterinary technicians. Veterinary licenses and veterinary technician certifications are for two years and expire in Dec. of the odd year.

Veterinary Credentials Issued by Biennium				
Biennial Years	Total License Issued	Initial Licenses	Licenses by Endorsement	Renewals
2022-2023	3745	204	184	3357
2020-2021	3340	214	188	2938
2018-2019	3056	139	302	2615
2016-2017	2746	113	158	2475

CVT Credentials Issued by Biennium				
Biennial Years	Total License Issued	Initial Licenses	Licenses by Endorsement	Renewals
2022-2023	2550	145	628	1777
2020-2021	2149	134	273	1742
2018-2019	1911	266	234	1411
2016-2017	1541	158	98	1285

The VEB regulates the practice of veterinary medicine in Wisconsin and enforces rules to ensure all credential holders are meeting minimum standards of the profession. The VEB reviews all complaints submitted against credential holders, and those alleged to be practicing without an appropriate credential.

Complaints and Investigations					
Biennial Years	Total Complaints	Complaints Open for Investigation	Percent of complaints open to investigation	Complaints as a percent of licensees	Investigations as a percent of licensees
2022-2023	314	103	33%	5%	2%
2020-2021	262	68	26%	5%	1%
2018-2019	242	59	24%	5%	1%
2016-2017	130	41	32%	3%	1%

Veterinary Professional Assistance Program

In 2021 the VEB implemented the Veterinary Professional Assistance Program (VPAP). This program has the same benefits as the more commonly known employee assistance programs. It provides for counseling and mental health services, to include substance abuse, as well as providing for more work-life balance assistance such as assisting with finding child or elder care, providing limited financial or legal advice, resources on workplace relationships, diet, fitness, etc.

The below table provides a high-level summary of the program usage since implementation.

Year	Utilization Rate	Activity
Jan 2023 to Dec 2023	0.69%	Counseling/Work-life
	7.61%	Website Resources/Trainings/ Seminars/Manager Consults/Life Coach
Jan 2022 to Dec 2022	0.80%	Counseling/Work-life
	4.20%	Website Resources/Trainings/ Seminars/Manager Consults/Life Coach
Jan 2021 to Dec 2021	0.80%	Counseling/Work-life
	7.60%	Website Resources/Trainings/ Seminars/Manager Consults/Life Coach

For further information about the VEB, rules, guidance documents, FAQs and information on VPAP benefits, please visit us online [DATCP Home Veterinary Examining Board \(wi.gov\)](http://www.wisconsin.gov)