

Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development

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Division of Corporations, Business  
and Professional Licensing

**Board of Veterinary Examiners**

# **Annual Report**

Fiscal Year 2025



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

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*This report is required under Alaska Statute 08.01.070(10).*

**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2025 Annual Report**

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**Board Membership *(as of the Date This Report was Approved)***

**Date of Final Board Approval: 5/30/2025**

Hal Geiger, PhD, Public Member, Juneau. Date Appointed: 3/1/2020; Term Expires: 3/1/2024  
Ciara Vollaro, DVM, Veterinarian, Anchorage. Date Appointed: 3/1/2022; Term Expires: 3/1/2026.  
Sarah Johnson, DVM, Veterinarian, Anchorage. Date Appointed: 9/19/2024; Term Expires: 3/1/2027  
Denise Albert, DVM, Veterinarian, Denali Park. Date Appointed: 3/1/2024; Term Expires: 3/1/2028  
Robert Gerlach, VMD, Veterinarian, Anchorage. Date Appointed: 12/5/2024; Term Expires: 3/1/2028

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**Accomplishments**

Regulatory changes were initiated and finalized, including updates to the VCPR, Continuing Education requirements, and exam requirements.

Investigations were conducted in the interest of public protection.

Consent Agreements entered with licensees regarding disciplinary action.

Continuation of licensing new veterinarians and veterinary technicians, as well as issuing license renewals.

Conducted continuing education audits for licensees.

Board Members represented Alaska at the American Association of Veterinary State Board's 2024 annual meeting in September 2024.

The Board Chair presented the Annual Board Update at the Alaska Veterinary Medical Conference in October 2024.

Welcomed two new board members, filling all but one vacancy.

Sent new board members to attend Board Basics and Beyond Training to expand their knowledge and skills needed to be an effective regulator.

Identified needed statutory changes and began the process to pursue them.

Provided feedback and position to the Governor regarding Alaska HB 70 (Emergency Med Svcs; Operational Canines)

Provided support for Alaska HB 178 (Professional Licensing; Temp Permits).

Provided support for Alaska HB 131 (Nursing Licensure; Multistate Compact).

Continued to update the public regarding matters of interest

Invited and hosted guest speakers at Board meetings relevant to veterinary licensing (e.g. Dr. Beth Venit from the Safe Haven Program).

Reviewed the annual budget and provided feedback to the Division.

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**Activities**

Special Board Meeting - September 9, 2024  
AAVSB Annual Conference - September 2024  
Board Meeting - October 3, 2024  
AKVMA Conference - October 10-12, 2024  
Special Board Meeting - November 8, 2024  
Board Meeting - February 14, 2025  
Special Board Meeting March 21, 2025  
AAVSB Executive Directors Summit - March 26-27, 2025  
Board Basics & Beyond Training - March 28-29, 2025  
Special Board Meeting April 1, 2025  
Board Meeting April 23, 2025

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### Needs

Travel approval for 2 members to attend the annual AAVSB Meeting in September, 2025.

Travel approval for 1-2 board members to attend Board Basics and Beyond training (particularly if board gets new member).

Travel approval for 1 in-person board meeting so as to provide an opportunity to engage licensees, members of the public, or legislators as necessary.

Travel approval for 1 board member to attend the AKVMA annual symposium to represent the board.

One board member to fill the current vacancy that was termed out March 2024 (that member will continue to serve until the seat is filled).

Board will be looking at possibly implementing a "Safe Haven" program for licensees to provide help and support to those that are struggling with substance abuse, suicide, etc.

Regulatory: Board will provide appointed members to testify in regard to Senate Bill 98 (BOVE) extending the board until June 30th, 2031.

Regulatory: Board will explore potentially joining the Controlled Substances Advisory Board to better serve our licensees.

Statutory: Board will continue to provide counsel on HB70 (Emergency Medical Svcs; Operational Canines) as it moves forward in the legislative process.

Statutory: Board will explore changes to both AS 08.98.165 and AS 08.98.184 to allow more flexibility for licensing.

Regulatory: Board will continue looking at regulations regarding medical records and emergency veterinary services.