

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 2022



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
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**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Table of Contents**

Identification of the Board	<b>Page 1</b>
Identification of the Staff	<b>Page 2</b>
Narrative Statement	<b>Page 3</b>
Budget Recommendations	<b>Page 5</b>
Proposed Legislative Recommendations	<b>Page 9</b>
Regulatory Recommendations	<b>Page 10</b>
Goals and Objectives	<b>Page 11</b>
Sunset Audit Recommendations	<b>Page 15</b>

**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Identification of the Board**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Duty Station</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b>Rachel Bergartt</b> Veterinarian, Chair	Juneau	Mar 1, 2016	Mar 1, 2024
<b>Hal Geiger</b> Public Member	Juneau	Mar 1, 2016	Mar 1, 2024
<b>Denise Albert</b> Veterinarian	Denali Park	Mar 1, 2020	Mar 1, 2024
<b>Ciara Vollaro</b> Veterinarian	Achorage	Mar 1, 2022	Mar 1, 2026
<b>Chris Michetti</b> Veterinarian	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2018	Mar 1, 2022

**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Identification of Staff**

**Warren Gordon - Licensing Examiner**

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**Lacey Derr - Records & Licensing Supervisor**

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**Terry Ryals - Records & Licensing Supervisor**

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**Jun Maiquis - Regulations Specialist**

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**Dawn Bundick - Investigator**

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**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Narrative Statement**

The Board of Veterinary Examiners met four (4) times during FY22:

- October 8, 2022
- January 11, 2022
- April 6, 2022
- May 10, 2022

Current Board Members are: Dr. Bergartt, Dr. Geiger, Dr. Albert and Dr. Vollaro.

Our licensing examiner is Warren Gordon.

The Board works with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing.

During FY 22:

- 30 new veterinarian licenses were issued- 0 veterinarian licenses lapsed after the renewal period
- 75 courtesy licenses were issued
- 16 student permits was issued
- 9 temporary permits were issued
- 11 veterinary technician licenses were issued- 0 vet tech licenses lapsed after the renewal period

Dr. Vollaro accepted her appointment to the Board of Veterinarian Examiners on January 12, 2022.

Dr. Michetti announced her resignation from the Board effective on March 23, 2022.

Dr. Bergartt continued to attend and participate in the biweekly Board Chairs meetings, not exclusive to the Health Professions. She brings back relevant information to the Board as well as represents the Board's interests at the bi-weekly board chair and PDMP meetings.

The Board continued to monitor and comment on legislation relevant to the practice of veterinary medicine, mindful of our duty to protect the public. This legislative session was particularly busy as our Board was involved in testifying in support of educating legislators regarding proposed veterinary exemption from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). House Bill 91 that was previously introduced by Representative Holland (A bill to exempt veterinarians from the PDMP) and the House Labor and Commerce Committee held multiple hearings on the bill at which Dr. Rachel Bergartt testified on behalf of the Board in support of HB 91 as well as a companion bill SB 132, which was unanimously supported by the State Veterinarian Licensing Board and has support from the veterinarian community around the state. The broad points of Board support for the bills centered around ineffectiveness of protection of the public in any meaningful way through veterinary participation in the PDMP, human privacy concerns, and fiscal concerns. Additionally, the burden daily reporting places on veterinarians, particularly those in small or rural practices has a direct negative consequence on veterinarians' ability to serve the public.

**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Narrative Statement (continued)**

Senate Bill 132 passed the Senate by a vote of 16-0 and went to the Alaska House of Representatives for consideration. At the Hearing in House Health and Social Services (HHS) Committee, passed 3 amendments for SB 132 and moved it out of committee. The amendments included:

- An amendment that when prescribing a scheduled II, III, or IV controlled substance, the veterinarian will not be required to query the database. (The responsibility would be put on the pharmacists to query and to report to the PDMP.)
- An amendment that would allow practitioners to be exempt from the PDMP requirements when dispensing a prescription of a controlled substance in a quantity intended to last not more than 3 days. (The current regulation is less than 24 hours when dispensing a 24 hour supply of controlled substances in an emergency department and an in patient pharmacy. The intent is to increase this to 72 hours for all practitioners.
- An amendment that would only require veterinarians to log into the PDMP if you are dispensing a controlled substance (gets rid of the daily reporting).

No Board members or licensing examiners physically attended the American Association of State Veterinary Boards meetings this past year due to COVID and due to staff shortages.

The Board did completed a multitude of regulations updates. One of our biggest accomplishments, which drew much public participation and commentary, was the adoption of 12 AAC 68.215, which puts into regulation the parameters of establishing the legal Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VPCR).

The Board is preparing to update their Jurisprudence Examination to accurately reflect the statutes, regulations, and the Veterinary Handbook.

**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Budget Recommendations for FY 2023**

Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board's fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt-supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as "other" so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
10/7/2022	Anchorage	4	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 1,700.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>

**Travel Required to Perform Examinations**

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

**Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

- Airfare:
- Hotel:
- Ground:
- Conference:
- Other:

**Total Estimated Cost:** \$ 0.00

Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report

**Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)**

**Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel** (Rank in order of importance)

#1 Rank in Importance or  Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Sept 15-17, 2022	Charlotte, NC	2	0

**Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) Annual Conference provides an opportunity for representatives of member boards to come together to discuss emerging and emergent topics regarding the profession. License compact and mobility are increasing in availability and the POMP across jurisdictions is of importance to this board. Reimbursement available through AAVSB for attendance.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$200.00	\$200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:			\$500.00	\$500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other			\$500.00	\$500.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): Per Diem				
<b>Net Total:</b>	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,700.00

Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report

**Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)**

**Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel**

#2 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
April 14-15, 2023	Kansas City, Missouri	1	1

**Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

AAVSB Board Basics & Beyond training is geared towards helping new board members and staff learn what their role as a regulator means. Due to the pandemic and staffing shortages, examiner staff and new board members have not been able to attend in several years making this a high priority.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$600.00	\$600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$100.00		\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$500.00			\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$500.00			\$500.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): Per Diem				
<b>Net Total:</b>	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,700.00

**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)**

**Non-Travel Budget Requests**

- Not Applicable       Resources       Examinations  
 Membership       Training       Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
American Association of Veterinary State Boards	AAVSB	\$500.00

**Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

The AAVSB performs daily crucial functions in the process of licensure for all veterinarians. Documents directly from the AAVSB are required as part of the licensing process.

**Other Items with a Fiscal Impact**

- Not Applicable

**Cost Per Event:**

**Number of Events:**

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

**Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

**Summary of FY 2023 Fiscal Requests**

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$4,000.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$6,400.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$500.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	- \$ 5,400.00
Other:	\$0.00
<b>Total Requested:</b>	<b>\$5,500.00</b>

**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2023**

**No Recommendations**

The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

- Veterinary Exemption from the PDMP.
- Change the title of Temporary License to Supervised.

Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report

**Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2023**

**No Recommendations**

The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

- Put an application deadline on temporary permit applications.

**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Goals and Objectives**

**Part I**

**FY 2022's goals and objectives and how they were met:**

- **Continue membership in the American Association of Veterinary State Boards and send two members (one voting member and one alternate) to the national regulatory Board meeting if the meeting is scheduled in the western states.**  
Membership was maintained throughout FY2022.
- **Continue to implement, monitor, develop and review as necessary the jurisprudence state examination. The Board has discussed the jurisprudence exam.**  
The method of administering the exam was deemed satisfactory regarding ease of access and timeliness.
- **Continue licensing veterinarians and veterinary technicians and continue monitoring continuing education hours.**  
The Board currently licenses veterinarians and technicians and has monitored CE hours.
- **Continue to review and evaluate current statutes and legislative proposals and develop new proposals as needed.**  
The Board has been very active in reviewing, evaluating, and commenting on proposals.
- **Resolve ongoing investigations/litigation in a timely fashion through direct involvement of the Board in the early review process.**  
The Board promptly responds to investigation requests. We have no current litigation issues.
- **Continue to update as necessary the Veterinary Handbook. A mailing of the Handbook will occur following a major revision.**  
The Board continues to evaluate the Veterinary Handbook. Revisions occurred in FY2022.
- **Continue to pursue the mission and vision statements of the Board.**  
The mission statement is now read at the beginning of each meeting to set the tone for every meeting.

**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part I (continued)**

**FY 2022's goals and objectives and how they were met:**

- **Continue to monitor continuing education programs and requirements.**

The Board actively monitors (and has posted) guidelines for licensees seeking CE approval of non-RACE approved programs.

- **Continue to monitor budget as it pertains to the self-supporting fees.**

Fiscal responsibility is of paramount importance to the Board. The Board will need to address issues relating to a significant increase in investigatory fees resulting from POMP alleged violations, despite the well-known problems with the POMP. The Board will develop a resolution to convey continued investment in and ownership of our budget. Current challenges also include a suspension of scheduled fee increase due to COVID 19 financial impact.

**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part II**

**FY 2023's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.**

**Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:**

- Continue membership in the American Association of Veterinary State Boards and send two members (one voting member and one alternate) to the national regulatory Board meeting if the meeting is scheduled in the western states.
- Continue to implement, monitor, develop and review as necessary the jurisprudence state examination.
- Continue licensing veterinarians and veterinary technicians and continue monitoring continuing education hours. Currently, the Board has enacted an emergency regulation regarding waiver of CE requirements for the 2020 renewal period. This will be reevaluated for 2023.
- Continue to review and evaluate current statutes and legislative proposals and develop new proposals as needed.
- Resolve ongoing investigations/litigation in a timely fashion through direct involvement of the Board in the early review process. Continue to update as necessary the Veterinary Handbook. A mailing of the Handbook will occur following a major revision.
- Continue to review and evaluate current regulations for veterinarians and veterinary technicians and regulatory fees and develop new regulations as needed.
- The Board has struggled with crafting regulations related to the POMP due to a lack of educational resources, Dr. Bergartt met with POMP staff, Regulations staff, Dept of Law staff and OLE Warren Gordon to work on access to resources and additional training information.
- Continue to monitor continuing education programs and requirements.

**Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report**

**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part II (continued)**

**FY 2023's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.**

**Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:**

- Continue to monitor budget as it pertains to the self-supporting fees. Fiscal responsibility is of paramount importance to the Board. The Board will need to address issues relating to a significant increase in investigatory fees resulting from POMP alleged violations, despite the well-known problems with the POMP. The Board will develop a resolution to convey continued investment in and ownership of our budget. Current challenges also include a suspension of scheduled fee increase due to COVID 19 financial impact.
  
- Continue to pursue the mission and vision statements of the Board.

Board of Veterinary Examiners  
FY 2022 Annual Report

Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 03/18/2016

Board Sunset Date: 06/30/2025

**Audit Recommendation:**

Board chair writes the annual report and staff assists to ensure the information is correct and complete before submitting the final version to the division.

**Action Taken:**

Board chair authored the report with assistance of fellow board members. It is reviewed and approved on the record.

**Next Steps:**

N/A

Completed:  No  Yes

If yes, date completed: 06/28/2019