

Board Mission and Organization

The mission of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board is to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine under Chapter 4741 of the Ohio Revised Code. In order to do this, the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board is empowered to examine and license veterinarians and veterinary technicians; review and investigate complaints; take disciplinary actions for violating any provision of Chapter 4741 of the Revised Code; and mandate ongoing continuing education.

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board is fully committed to improving the practice of veterinary medicine and its delivery to consumers.

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board is an agency of the state of Ohio, which was established by an act of the Ohio Legislature. The Board's authority is found under Chapter 4741 of the Ohio Revised Code. It is charged with enforcing the laws and rules that regulate the practice of veterinary medicine in Ohio. The Board licenses veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians. Those authorized to practice veterinary medicine by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board are referred to as "Licensees."

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board also handles complaints about its

licensees and may directly discipline those providers who violate the public health and safety standards set by the legislature and the Board. Complaints which do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board may be referred to other, more appropriate agencies.

Who are the Members of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board?

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board has seven members: five are veterinarians licensed in the state of Ohio, one is a registered veterinary technician, and one is a public member. All members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Ohio Senate and serve for a term of five years. The Board meets for one day each month. Meetings, including administrative hearings, are open to the public. You may obtain a list of meeting dates by calling the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board at (614) 644-5281 or at www.state.oh.us/ovmlb.

Rule Making Authority

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board was created to enforce the law regulating the practice of veterinary medicine in Ohio. To accomplish this regulation, the Ohio General Assembly authorized the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board to develop and enact certain other components of the regulations called rules.

It is important to state that rules are not laws, but can have the effect of laws once enacted. Rules essentially provide the detail that the law lacks. A rule cannot change the law or create a new law. A rule can only clarify the authority already stated in the law.

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board is required to write specific rules. Other rules may be written, so long as the rule has existing authority from the enabling law. Section 4741.03(C)(9) of the Ohio Revised Code states that the Board shall:

(C) In addition to any other duty required under this chapter, the board shall do all of the following:

(9) Adopt rules, in accordance with Chapter 119. Of the Revised Code, which are necessary for its government and for the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

The Rule-making Process

Rules are written to better explain a process or regulatory requirement associated with the law. Proposed rules are routinely discussed in open session at a regular monthly business meeting. The Board may appoint one of its members to create a committee to investigate the need to create a rule. If deemed necessary, the Board will draft a proposed rule for consideration. From this

point on, the Board must comply with Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The proposed rule whether new, amended, or rescinded, is filed with the Secretary of State, the Joint Committee on Agency Rule and Review, and Legislative Service Commission. The rule can then be accessed on the registerofohio.gov web site. A public notice of a hearing is also published on the Register of Ohio and on the Board's web site. The public notice must state the Board's intention to adopt a rule, provide a summary of the rule and the reason for adopting or amending an existing rule. A date, time and place for the public hearing is announced. A copy of the proposed rule is also available by phoning or e-mailing a request to the board office.

Comments from the public on any proposed rules may be sent to the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board in writing or stated in person at the public hearing.

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board is also required to review its rules every five years and determine if a rule could be rescinded or amended.

Participation in the Rules Writing Process

Individuals or groups may participate in the rule-making process at many points. The public can:

- 1) provide comment during the initial discussion phase of the rule proposal or amendment. This can be done at a board meeting during the open forum part of the agenda or written correspondence that will be reviewed by the board during discussion dealing with rules;
- 2) recommended changes in rules: new rules, amend existing rules, or rescinding rules;
- 3) asking the board to participate in any exploratory or investigative committee concerning a rule proposal; or
- 4) providing verbal or written testimony as a proponent or opponent of a proposed rule at a public rules hearing.

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board believes that the rule-making process requires the input of all interested parties. All comments or testimony on proposed rules are welcomed.

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Rule-Making Process

**77 S. High Street, 16th Fl.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-
6108
614-644-5281
www.ovmlb.ohio.gov**