

State of New Mexico
Board of Veterinary Medicine

SUSANA MARTÍNEZ
Governor



Rebecca J. Washburn, DVM
Chair

Frances R. Sowers
Executive Director and CFO

New Mexico statute established the Board of Veterinary Medicine in 1931 to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine in New Mexico. New Mexico's veterinarians are responsible for protecting the state's meat, milk and poultry industries; the public from zoonotic disease; and the health and welfare of companion animals, your pets. The Board works closely with the Boards of Pharmacy and Livestock, the Department of Health, and the Solid Waste Bureau as well as the USDA, DEA and several other federal agencies.

The Board's constituency consists of the general public and the professionals in the field of veterinary medicine. All licensure is renewable on an annual basis; facilities providing medical care to animals are inspected biennially. The Board licenses doctors of veterinary medicine, veterinary technicians, bovine artificial insemination and pregnancy diagnosis technicians, and veterinary facilities.

The Board conducts inspections of veterinary facilities throughout the state of New Mexico and facilities located just outside of the state's borders. The Board's Facility Inspector inspects the physical plant and all records and assists the licensee manager of the facility with any difficulties being encountered in the practice. If deficiencies cited in an inspection report are not corrected within a reasonable length of time, the facility is presented to the Board for possible disciplinary action.

The Board also provides a process in which the public may file a complaint relative to a perceived lack of adequate medical services. The Board's Investigator conducts investigations of the complaints. A complaint review committee reviews the Investigator's reports and presents the complaints to the Board for resolution. If warranted, and the complaint is egregious, disciplinary action is initiated by the Board.

Doctors of veterinary medicine work in research, academia, pathology, public health, slaughter houses, inspection facilities, and biomedical research. This work is performed within the medical, livestock and food preparation plant industries. Doctors of veterinary medicine work closely with dairy farms, feed lots and ranches in protecting the nation's food supply to include illegal food animal products in an effort to keep diseases such as Mad Cow and Hoof and Mouth from contaminating food and herds. Doctors of veterinary medicine work closely with international groups to keep food and animals safe throughout the world.

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