

Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development

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Division of Corporations, Business  
and Professional Licensing

## **Veterinary Examiners**

# **Annual Report**

Fiscal Year 2024



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).*

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

**Date of Final Board Approval:** 7/19/2024

Rachel Bergartt, DVM, JD, Veterinarian, Juneau. Date Appointed: March 1, 2016; Term Expires: March 1, 2024.  
Ciara Vollaro, DVM, Veterinarian, Anchorage. Date Appointed: March 1, 2022; Term Expires: March 1, 2026.  
Denise Albert, DVM, Veterinarian, Denali Park. Date Appointed: March 1, 2020; Term Expires: March 1, 2028.  
Hal Geiger, PhD, Public Member, Juneau. Date Appointed: March 1, 2016; Term Expires: March 1, 2024.

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**Accomplishments**

Regulatory changes initiated (currently in progress) and regulatory changes finalized.  
Investigations conducted in the interest of public protection.  
Consent Agreements entered into with licensees in the interest of public protection.  
Continuation of licensing new veterinarians and technicians, as well as effectuated renewal of licenses.  
Board Chair presented Annual Board Update at the Alaska Veterinary Medical Association conference, Oct 2024.  
Board Members represented Alaska's Board at the American Association of Veterinary State Board's 2023 meeting.  
Partnership with AAVSB for streamlining jurisprudence exam and decreasing cost to veterinary applicants.  
Partnership with AAVSB for streamlining Veterinary Technician exam application.  
Identification of necessary statutory changes and plans for implementation.  
Updates to Jurisprudence Exam finalized.  
Discontinuation of Veterinary Handbook and replacement with up-to-date relevant website resources.  
Invited and Hosted guest speakers at Board meetings relevant to licensing (e.g. University of Alaska Anchorage Veterinary Technician Education Director, and AAVSB panelists speaking on pathways to licensure/license portability matters, etc.).  
Provided feedback to Governor regarding Executive Orders (e.g. EO 124 regarding Alaska's "Clean list.")  
Reviewed budget and provided feedback/analysis to Division with efforts to minimize increases while maintaining self-sustainability.  
Conducted Continuing Education Audits.  
Reviewed/accepted/denied requests for credit for Continuing Education courses utilizing standardized protocol.  
Provided notification via website of related matters of public interest (e.g. CDC updated canine import requirements, FDA changes to Over-the-Counter antibiotic availability).

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**Activities**

Board Meeting – July 7th, 2023  
Board Meeting – August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Board Meeting – September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Board Meeting – October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Board Meeting – November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Board Meeting – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
Board Meeting – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Board Meeting – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Board Meeting – June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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**Needs**

Statutory Changes- Board will likely pursue statutory authority to regulate Animal Euthanasia Permits as well as conforming changes to regulations.

Statutory Change- AS 08.98.180 the word “exams” needs to be updated to the singular “exam.”

Statutory Change- AS 08.98.180- clarifying language needs to be updated to reflect that temporary licenses are not valid once results of NAVLE exam are published.

Regulatory Change- Board will be looking at regulations putting forth requirements for medical record keeping, regulations regarding emergency availability of veterinarians, regulations regarding definition of “medical” with regards to continuing education.

Board Vacancies- The Board currently has 3 seats available – 1 has remained vacant for XXX years, 1 veterinary seat termed out in March 2024 (that member will continue to serve until seat is filled), and 1 public member seat that termed out in March 2024 (that member will continue to serve until seat is filled).

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

Travel approval for 2 members to attend the annual AAVSB meeting.

Travel approval for 1-2 members to attend the “Board Basics and Beyond” AAVSB meeting (particularly if the Board gains 3 new members).