

KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR



VICTORIA WHITMORE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

1740 W. ADAMS STREET, SUITE 4600, PHOENIX, AZ 85007

PHONE (602) 364-1738 FAX (602) 364-1039

VETBOARD.AZ.GOV

September 21, 2023

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor of Arizona
via email: cramos@az.gov

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2023

Dear Governor Hobbs:

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2203, the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board submits the following as its annual report.

LICENSING

- At the close of FY 2023 the agency oversaw the practice of:

	FY23*	FY22	FY21*	FY20	FY19*
Licensed Veterinarians	3265	3250	2968	2885	2598
Certified Veterinary Technicians	1322	1386	1282	1263	1127
Licensed Veterinary Premises	960	1031	1112	974	927
Licensed Animal Crematories	16	16	14	16	16

* FY19, 21 and 23 were license renewal years. Historically, a decrease in licensees is seen in the first 6-9 months following the renewal period. However, over the entire year, the numbers tend to rebound to previous levels or exceed them.

- Licenses/Certificates issued:

	FY23**	FY22	FY21*	FY20*	FY19
Veterinarians	324	270	263	295	247
Certified Veterinary Technicians	111	84	101	130	117
Veterinary Premises	232	201	201	165	207
Animal Crematories	4	1	3	1	2

*Circumstances around COVID may have impacted application submittals in FY21 and FY20.

**Due to the high demand of veterinarians nationwide, there was more mobility with individuals seeking licensure for temporary and full-time positions.

- Licenses/Certificates denied – FY23:
 - Veterinarian: 1 (due to failure to complete the State exam)
 - Certified Veterinary Technicians: 1 (due to failure to complete the State exam)
 - Premises: 0
 - Animal Crematory: 0
- There were 32 Temporary Veterinary Licenses issued.

INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS

- During FY 2023, the Board received 161 new complaints and 51 complaints had been carried over from FY 2022 for a total of 212 cases. (Carry-over from FY2022 was related to the need to cancel some meetings due to COVID in FY20 and FY21).
 - 168 of these were reviewed by the Investigative Committee/Investigative Division in FY23.
 - 44 of the 212 total cases were carried over to FY 2024 for Investigative Committee and Board review.
- The A.M. Investigative Committee held 12 meetings
- The P.M. Investigative Committee held 12 meetings
- The average number of days from receipt to the Investigative Committee was 123 days.
- The average number of days from receipt to the Board's Initial Investigative Review was 123 days.
 - **Due to COVID-19-related concerns, some cases were delayed in FY20 and FY21, resulting in a much higher number of cases to process in FY21, FY22, and FY23 due to the carry-over.
- The average number of days from receipt to Informal Interview was 186 days.
 - **Due to COVID-19-related concerns, some cases were delayed in FY20 and FY21, resulting in a much higher number of cases to process in FY21, FY22, and FY23 due to the carry-over.

BOARD ACTIONS

- The Board held 12 meetings in FY23.
- During FY 2023, the Board conducted the following:
 - 155 Initial Investigative Reviews
 - 23 Informal Interviews
 - 0 Formal hearings
- 24 Consent Agreements were offered; 21 were issued.
- 8 Board Orders were issued.
- 22 Letters of Concern were issued, which are non-disciplinary actions.

- Of the cases resolved by the Board, 29 cases involved discipline, resulting in the following:

Revocation	0
Suspension	2
Probation	22
Censure	3
Civil Penalty	7
Practice Restrictions	1

UNLICENSED PRACTITIONERS

- There were 18 new cases opened regarding unlicensed practitioners with outcomes as follows:
 - 9 closed
 - 7 forwarded to the County Attorney and Attorney General's Office
- 2 cases had been carried over from FY2022. 2 cases were carried over to FY2024.

FACILITY INSPECTIONS

- Staff completed 262 facility inspections

If you should need any further information, please contact Victoria Whitmore, Executive Director at 602-542-8150 or Victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov.

Sincerely,



On Behalf of the Board

Victoria Whitmore
Executive Director