

## **Part 1 – Agency Profile**

### **Agency Overview**

The mission of the Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine is to promote the public health, safety and welfare by safeguarding the people and animals of Idaho by establishing and enforcing professional standards in the licensure and regulation of veterinary health professionals.

The Board's revenues are dedicated funds generated from licensing and certification fees paid by veterinarians, certified veterinary technicians, certified euthanasia technicians, and certified euthanasia agencies. The Board receives sporadic additional revenue in the form of administrative fines and reimbursements for investigatory and legal expenses associated with discipline settlements. These funds are allocated between the Board's four major areas: 1) Investigation and prosecution of complaints, 2) Veterinary licensing, 3) Veterinary technician certification, 4) Euthanasia agency and euthanasia technician certification.

The Board consists of six members, five veterinarians and one public member, appointed by the Governor from various geographic regions of the state. Veterinary members serve a five-year term, while the public member serves a three-year term. Each of the five veterinary members serves four years as a veterinary board member and a fifth year as liaison officer, reviewing and mediating complaints. The board member serving the fourth year of appointment is the president of the board. The Board's office is located in Boise in the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) headquarters. The Board contracts with the ISDA for office space, along with fiscal, IT, and human resources support. The Board's daily business is conducted by a full-time executive director and a full-time technical records specialist II. Investigations are assigned to a contracted veterinarian.

### **Core Functions/Idaho Code**

**Complaint Investigations/Discipline** – safeguard the people of Idaho by initiating and conducting investigations on all matters relating to the practice of veterinary medicine, veterinary technology, and euthanizing of animals, and prosecute violations of the Idaho Veterinary Practice Act. (Title 54, Chapter 21, Idaho Code)

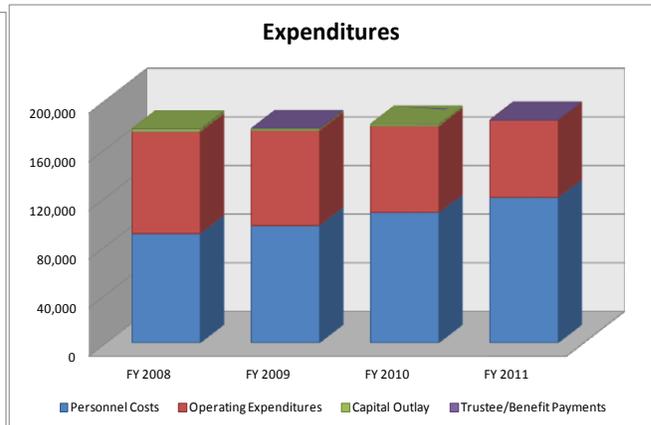
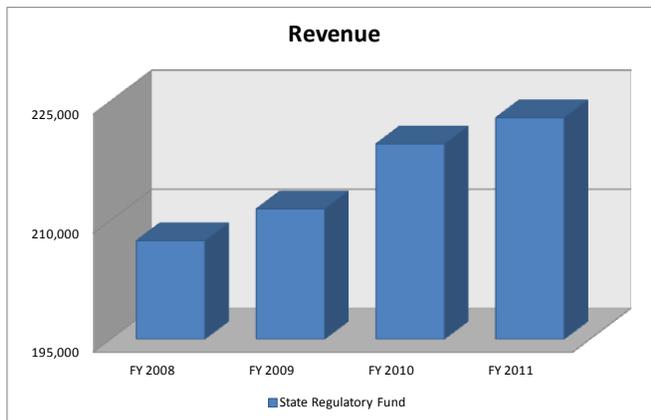
**Veterinary Medicine** – determine qualifications for issuance and renewal of licenses, set grounds for discipline, establish standards of professional conduct. (Title 54, Chapter 21, Idaho Code)

**Veterinary Technology** – determine qualifications for issuance and renewal of certifications, set grounds for discipline, and set supervision standards. (Title 54, Chapter 21, Idaho Code)

**Certified Euthanasia** – appoint a Certified Euthanasia Task Force, determine qualifications for certification of euthanasia agencies and euthanasia technicians, set grounds for discipline, and provide approved euthanasia training to allow purchase and use of approved drugs by certificants to euthanize injured, sick, homeless or unwanted pets and animals in a humane manner. (Title 54, Chapter 21, Idaho Code)

### Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
State Regulatory Fund	<u>207,400</u>	<u>211,400</u>	<u>219,600</u>	<u>222,900</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>207,400</b>	<b>211,400</b>	<b>219,600</b>	<b>222,900</b>
Expenditure	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personnel Costs	89,900	96,500	107,400	119,700
Operating Expenditures	84,000	78,200	71,000	63,700
Capital Outlay	2,200	1,600	1,600	0
Trustee/Benefit Payments	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>176,100</b>	<b>176,300</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>183,400</b>



### Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
New Veterinary Licenses Issued	55	51	35	52
New Veterinary Technician Certifications Issued	17	31	11	11
New Euthanasia Technician Certifications Issued	14	9	13	12
New Euthanasia Agency Certifications Issued	2	0	3	0
Veterinary License Renewals	1089	1077	1046	1043
Veterinary Technician Certification Renewals	182	187	196	200
Euthanasia Technician Certification Renewals	45	50	68	61
Euthanasia Agency Certification Renewals	17	19	20	21
Written Complaints Received	20	20	23	14
Complaints Prosecuted*	3	6	5	1
Warning Letters and Letters of Caution Sent	6	5	9	1

\*Due to their legal complexity, complaint prosecutions may not be completed in the fiscal year the complaint was filed.

### Performance Highlights

The Board started the process to increase fees charged to licensees and certificate holders. Careful review of the Board's fiscal position indicated the Board must increase revenue to avoid depleting the reserve fund to an unacceptably low level; fees were last increased in 1999. The Board prepared detailed financial extrapolations and will set the new fees at levels that should not need to be increased for at least ten (10) more years, barring unforeseen circumstances.

The Board also recognized the need to purchase new licensing software in the near future. The Board's current licensing software is considerably outdated; malfunctions are frequently experienced due to a programming language no longer supported by Microsoft. New web-based software will allow for online renewals as well as provide many self-service options for licensees and certificate holders. A survey of licensees and certificate holders indicated that 76% of veterinarians, 81% of certified veterinary technicians, and 77% of euthanasia agencies/technicians would renew online if this option were made available. Board staff is researching all software options and will go through the state purchasing process.

The Certified Euthanasia Task Force (CETF) recommended that a new domestic animal chemical capture course be developed to train law enforcement officers certified as euthanasia technicians in the procedures to use dart guns, blow pipes, and other remote means to capture animals posing a threat to public health and safety. This technique may be used when an animal cannot be captured by normal physical means. Prior to the new course, law enforcement certified euthanasia technicians obtained their chemical capture training through a cooperative agreement between the Board and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). However, the IDFG course was geared toward chemical capture of wildlife, rather than domestic animals. Dr. Jeff Rosenthal, under the authority of the Idaho Humane Society, developed a new course that will be implemented in August 2011. The new course manual was reviewed and approved by both the Board and the CETF.

The CETF also recommended, and the Board agreed, that interested veterinarians from the Boise area be recruited to serve on the CETF. Having a new Boise-area veterinarian CETF member will save on the costs of performing Certified Euthanasia Agency (CEA) inspections for the CEAs located in the southwest Idaho region. Currently, significant travel costs are incurred to have a CETF member from northern Idaho perform these required inspections. A newsletter article was published in the Board's May 2011 newsletter soliciting an additional veterinarian for the CETF and a response has been received from an interested individual.

The Board converted to the idaho.gov format, giving its website a consistent look and feel to the websites of other state agencies. Enhancements were also added during this process to include the Board's past meeting minutes and newsletters for ease of public review.

In addition, the Board presented legislation that successfully passed and became effective July 1, 2011. Four (4) statutes were revised as follows:

1) Idaho Code § 54-2105(8)(f) was removed; it required national veterinary examination candidates to be preapproved by the Board. The National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners now approves candidates based on State-provided criteria.

2) Idaho Code § 54-2115 (1)(c) was added to provide the Board with the ability to invoke disciplinary sanctions against a veterinarian or veterinary applicant who has been found to have cheated or committed other improprieties in the taking of the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE).

3) Idaho Code § 54-2104 (2)(y) was added to allow an exception for licensure for a qualified, licensed veterinarian from another jurisdiction to practice at a publically-owned or AZA accredited Idaho zoo on a temporary basis under specified terms and conditions. This license exception protects the public's investment in the event that an Idaho-licensed veterinarian is unavailable or unqualified to provide the necessary care for an exotic animal species.

4) Idaho Code § 54-2115A was added to give the Board express authority to impose a waiting period of up to ten (10) years for reapplication after application denial, as well as impose the same time period for license suspensions and revocations.

The Board also successfully revised several rule sections to provide greater clarity as follows:

- 1) Rule 004 was amended to identify a fax number for filing of official documents,
- 2) Rule 150 was amended to clarify a set time period of twelve (12) months for examination of an animal in order to maintain a valid veterinarian/client/patient relationship,
- 3) Rule 201 was revised to clarify the three (3) specific categories of approved euthanasia, pre-euthanasia sedation, and chemical capture drugs. This rule change also outlaws the use of carbon monoxide gas euthanasia chambers at certified euthanasia agencies, and restricts chemical capture to euthanasia technicians classified as law-enforcement officers.
- 4) Rule 205 was modified to remove unnecessary verbiage regarding injections, reorganize a section on animal restraint and human safety, clarify euthanasia technician reinstatement procedures, and add a requirement that law enforcement euthanasia technicians using chemical capture must recertify in chemical capture every third year.

**Part II – Performance Measures**

Performance Measure	2008	2009	2010	2011	Benchmark
1. Review and process new applications from veterinarians and veterinary technicians	72	82	46	63	100 %
2. Review and process renewal applications from veterinarians and certified veterinary technicians	1267	1264	1242	1243	100 %
3. Review and process new applications from euthanasia technicians and euthanasia agencies	14	9	16	12	100 %
4. Review and process renewal applications from euthanasia technicians and euthanasia agencies	62	69	88	82	100 %
5. Triage formal written complaints and send to appropriate person in a timely manner	20	20	23	14	100 %
6. Approve valid continuing education courses	70	78	71	110	100 %
7. Fulfill requests for license verifications and public record lists of licensees	140	117	117	132	100 %

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