

**169.13 Discipline of licensees.**

1. The board of veterinary medicine, after due notice and hearing, may take disciplinary action against a licensee if it determines that a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine is guilty of violating any of the grounds for discipline in [this section](#).

2. The board is authorized to discipline licensees in any of the following ways:

a. Impose a civil penalty against the licensee in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars. If the board imposes a civil penalty, all of the following apply:

(1) The collection of the civil penalty may be enforced in a civil action brought by the attorney general on behalf of the board.

(2) Moneys collected in civil penalties shall be deposited in the general fund of the state.

b. Revoke or suspend a license to practice veterinary medicine.

3. Any of the following actions or offenses constitutes grounds for discipline:

a. Knowingly making a misleading, deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent representation in the practice of the profession.

b. Being convicted of a felony in a court of this state or another state, territory, or country. Conviction as used in this paragraph includes a conviction of an offense which if committed in this state would be deemed a felony without regard to its designation elsewhere, or a criminal proceeding in which a finding or verdict of guilt is made or returned, but the adjudication or guilt is either withheld or not entered. A certified copy of the final order or judgment of conviction or plea of guilty in this state or in another state is conclusive evidence.

c. Violating a statute or law of this state, another state, or the United States, without regard to its designation as either felony or misdemeanor, if the statute or law relates to the practice of veterinary medicine.

d. Having the person's license to practice veterinary medicine revoked or suspended, or having other disciplinary action taken by a licensing authority of another state, territory, or country. A certified copy of the record or order of the suspension, revocation, or disciplinary action is conclusive or prima facie evidence.

e. Knowingly aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising a person to unlawfully practice veterinary medicine.

f. Being adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction. The adjudication shall automatically suspend a license for the duration of the license unless the board orders otherwise.

g. Being guilty of a willful or repeated departure from, or a failure to conform to, the minimal standard of acceptable and prevailing practice of veterinary medicine as defined in rules adopted by the board, in which proceeding actual injury to an animal need not be established; or the committing by a veterinarian of an act contrary to honesty, justice, or good morals, whether the act is committed in the course of the practice or otherwise, and whether committed within or without this state.

h. Demonstrating an inability to practice veterinary medicine with reasonable skill and safety by reason of illness, drunkenness, excessive use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or other type of material or as a result of a mental or physical condition.

i. Having willfully or repeatedly violated lawful rules adopted by the board or violation of a lawful order of the board, previously entered by the board in a disciplinary hearing.

4. a. The board, upon probable cause, may compel a veterinarian to submit to a mental or physical examination by designated physicians. Failure of a veterinarian to submit to an examination constitutes an admission to the allegations made against that veterinarian and the finding of fact and decision of the board may be entered without the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence. At reasonable intervals, a veterinarian shall be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate that the veterinarian can resume the competent practice of veterinary medicine with reasonable skill and safety to animals.

b. A person licensed to practice veterinary medicine who applies for the renewal of the person's license as required by [section 169.12](#) gives consent to submit to a mental or physical examination as provided by this paragraph when directed in writing by the board. All objections shall be waived as to the admissibility of the examining physician's testimony or examination reports on the grounds that they constitute privileged communication. The

medical testimony or examination reports shall not be used against a veterinarian in another proceeding and are confidential except for other actions filed against a veterinarian to revoke or suspend that person's license.

[S13, §2538-e; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2799; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §169.36; C79, 81, §169.13]

[83 Acts, ch 115, §8](#); [2009 Acts, ch 41, §64](#); [2025 Acts, ch 134, §35](#)

Referred to in [§169.14](#), [272C.3](#), [272C.4](#)

Section amended