



Maryland Veterinary Medical Association

VETERINARIANS ARE THE EXPERTS

Your Evidence-Based Information Source for Animal Health and Welfare in Maryland



Who is the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA)?

Established in 1886, MDVMA is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization comprised of licensed Maryland Veterinarians and members of the veterinary team.

MDVMA Legislative Committee

The Legislative committee of the MDVMA represents our members for the purposes of monitoring legislation that impacts Maryland's veterinary profession and the patients we serve. As a part of this advocacy, our support or opposition of any proposed legislation is consistent, professional, and based on the impact the legislation would have on the veterinary community, our patients, and public health.

Why Should You Listen to What Veterinarians Have to Say?



Intensive Education Provides Veterinarians with a Broad Range of Knowledge and Skills

Veterinarians are equipped to deal with a variety of animal health issues and are uniquely qualified to consider the well-being of all animals – companion, exotic, livestock, food, large, and laboratory. Areas of expertise include but are not limited to suitable housing, proper diet, behavior, training, and humane euthanasia.



Animal Welfare and Veterinarians

Concern for animal welfare is embedded in core documents that express the fundamental duties of veterinarians toward animals and society. These core documents include the Veterinarian's Oath, the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics, and the AVMA Animal Welfare Principles.

MARYLAND VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Veterinarians Also Protect Public Health, the Environment, and Food Security

In addition to animal health and welfare, veterinarians take an oath to protect public health, the environment, and to conserve the resources necessary to support them. Veterinarians' work spans everything from agriculture and the critical safety of our animal and plant food supply, to the scientifically proven health benefits of the bond between pets and people.



TRUSTED

Veterinarians are Trusted by Society to Make Animal Care Decisions

Historically, veterinarians are amongst the most trusted professionals rating high or very high on honesty and ethics. This is based on the founding principle of veterinary medical ethics that states, *"a veterinarian is only to be influenced by the welfare of the patient, needs of the client, the safety of the public, and the need to uphold the public trust vested in the veterinary profession."*



Veterinarians Must Maintain the High Standards Set by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

This not only includes base requirements for initial licensure but continued maintenance through yearly required continuing education, facility standards, and complying with all regulations that govern the profession. This ensures that practicing veterinarians are kept up to date on the ever-evolving nature of veterinary medicine.



Visit [MDVMA.org/Legislative](https://www.mdvma.org/Legislative) for more information.