



## STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (SBVME) is the unit of State government charged with regulating the practice of veterinary medicine in this State. Its mission is to protect the public and the health and welfare of animals in this State through: 1.) licensure of veterinarians, veterinary hospitals, and veterinary technicians; 2.) effective discipline of veterinarians, owners of veterinary hospitals, and veterinary technicians, when warranted; and 3.) adoption of reasonable standards governing the practice of veterinary medicine in this State.

Please use the attached form for filing a complaint against a licensed veterinarian, veterinary hospital owner, or veterinary technician in this State. After completing the attached form, please send it to:

**State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
Maryland Department of Agriculture  
50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Suite 203  
Annapolis, MD 21401**

Shortly after receiving the complaint, the SBVME shall notify the complainant whether the subject of the complaint falls within its regulatory authority (*e.g.*, whereas a complaint alleging substandard care is within the SBVME's regulatory authority, a fee dispute is not). If the complaint falls within the SBVME's regulatory authority, the SBVME, when appropriate, may take the following steps:

1. Request treatment records from the veterinarian who is the subject of the complaint and any other veterinarian who treated the animal;
2. Send a copy of the complaint to the veterinarian, and request the veterinarian to provide a written response to it;
3. Send a copy of the veterinarian's response to the complainant, and provide the complainant an opportunity to submit a written rebuttal to the veterinarian's response;
4. If the complaint alleges substandard care, submit the information it receives to an appropriate veterinary expert for review and comment;
5. After obtaining this information, determine whether there is sufficient evidence to believe that the veterinarian has violated the Practice Act and, if so, take appropriate action; and
6. Subject to certain statutory limitations, notify the complainant of its intended action.

If you have any questions, please contact the SBVME at (410) 841-5862.