

Complaint about a veterinary practitioner

Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria



About your complaint

What the Board can investigate

The Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria (the Board) can investigate complaints about the professional conduct of registered veterinary practitioners in accordance with section 21 of the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997*.

Unprofessional conduct is defined in section 3 of the Act. Examples include:

- 'professional conduct which is of a lesser standard than that which the public might reasonably expect of a registered veterinary practitioner'
- 'professional conduct which is of a lesser standard than that which might reasonably be expected of a veterinary practitioner by his or her peers'
- 'providing veterinary services of a kind that are excessive, unnecessary or not reasonably required for an animal's well-being'.

More information about appropriate standards of professional conduct for veterinary practitioners is in the Board's Guidelines at www.vetboard.vic.gov.au

How to act on your complaint

- If you are not satisfied with the services provided by a veterinary practitioner, speaking directly with the veterinary practitioner may help you understand the services they provided and the fees they charged. **Note the Board does not have any power to award refunds or compensation.**
- If you still want to lodge a complaint about the veterinary practitioner's professional conduct, please complete a complaint form.
- If your complaint is about more than one veterinary practitioner, you would need to complete a separate complaint form about each veterinary practitioner.

Assistance with completing the complaint form

Please call 03 9620 7444 during business hours if you have a question or are not able to complete the complaint form.

Complaint privacy

Completed complaint forms are permanently retained in the Board's secure document storage facility. Material relating to a complaint, including correspondence with the Board, is subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

If a complaint proceeds to a Formal Hearing, these hearings are open to the public. Please be aware that in such circumstances your details may be made public unless you have asked for them to remain private.

More information: VPRBV Privacy and Data Protection Policy at www.vetboard.vic.gov.au

COMPLAINT FORM ON NEXT PAGE

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PART 1 – COMPLAINANT, OWNER, AND ANIMAL DETAILS

Name and contact information of the person making the complaint (the complainant):

Title		Family name		Given names	
Mailing address					
Suburb / town			State		Postcode
Email address					
Mobile telephone			Other telephone		
If we need to speak with you, will you need an interpreter?	Yes	No	If yes, what language do you need interpreted?		

Complainant's role in this complaint:

Role	
<i>If you selected other, please describe the role:</i>	

The owner of the animal/s:

➔ Leave this section blank if the owner is the complainant					
Title		Family name		Given names	
Owner's address					
Owner suburb / town			State		Postcode
Owner email address					
Owner mobile telephone			Other telephone		

The animal/s:

Name					
Species		Breed		Colour	
Age					
Sex	Male	Female	Desexed?	Yes	No

PART 2 – THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONER

➔ If the complaint is about more than 1 veterinary practitioner, please complete a separate complaint form for each veterinary practitioner.

Name of veterinary practitioner				
Name of practice				
Street address				
Suburb / town			State	Postcode
Have any other veterinary practitioners or practices (that you do NOT have a complaint about) been involved with this complaint?				
No	Yes	Names of other veterinary practitioners		
		Names of other practices		

PART 3 – THE COMPLAINT

Date veterinary services provided

Date of services	From		To	
If there has been a lapse in time between the complaint event and you making this complaint, please explain why you did not lodge a complaint earlier.				

Summary of your concerns

What is your main concern about the professional conduct of the veterinary practitioner?	
Summarise in a few main points what the veterinary practitioner did (or did not do) that caused you to complain about their professional conduct:	

Description of events

Please describe what happened:

➔ If you need more space, you can attach extra pages

PART 4 – DOCUMENTS AND WITNESSES

Do you have supporting documents about this event?
e.g. veterinary reports, photos, clinical records

Yes

No

If yes, write a list of the documents here.

➔ Please remember to include all supporting documents with your complaint

Did anyone witness the events? Yes No

Name of witness 1

Phone

Involvement

Name of witness 2

Phone

Involvement

Name of witness 3

Phone

Involvement

➔ Please attach a separate signed statement from each witness

Have you made a complaint to another organisation or initiated legal proceedings against the veterinary practitioner, or has the veterinary practitioner initiated legal proceedings against you? e.g. Consumer Affairs Victoria, Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal (VCAT)

No Yes

If yes, what is the organisation's name, what process is underway or completed (e.g. investigation, hearing), and what was the outcome?

IMPORTANT: After you finish this form, you must also sign the Board's COMPLAINT DECLARATION AND CONSENT FORM, which must be emailed or posted back to the Board with the complaint form and other supporting documents.

COMPLAINT DECLARATION AND CONSENT

Fill in then print this page so it can be signed, then email it to us as a PDF or image file

Veterinary practitioner the complaint is about:

Complainant declaration ➔ Before you sign, make sure you read and understand this

I am aware that the Board may provide some or all the information I have provided on the complaint form to the veterinary to the veterinary practitioner and other persons approved by the Board for the purposes of investigating my complaint.

If the Board considers that another regulatory body may find this complaint relevant to their activities (e.g. under the *Drugs and Poisons Controlled Substances Act 1981*, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* etc.), I consent to the Board referring my information to that other body.

Note: The Board will notify you if it refers information to another body for a different regulatory purpose.

I declare that all the information provided on and with the complaint form is true and correct.

I understand that if the complaint proceeds to a Formal Hearing, the hearing will be open to the public to attend.

Name of complainant

Signature

Date signed

NOTE If you are the complainant and the animal owner please complete both declarations.

Owner declaration ➔ Before you sign, make sure you read and understand this declaration

I declare that I am the animal's owner or their duly authorised agent.

I declare that I have read the complaint form and accompanying documentation, and all the information I have provided about this complaint is true and correct.

Name of owner or agent

Signature

Date signed

Owner/agent consent for veterinary practitioners to disclose information

I give my consent for the veterinary practitioner to release clinical records and disclose information to the Board and other persons approved by the Board.

I give my consent for other veterinary practitioners who have treated the animal to release clinical records and disclose information to the Board and other persons approved by the Board.

This consent is for the animal/s whose name/s is/are:

Name of owner or agent

Signature

Date signed

Checklist

I have completed all relevant sections of this form.

I have attached all supporting documents, e.g. clinical records, vet reports, photos, witness statements.

I have completed and signed my sections of the declaration and consent page.

The animal's owner or agent has completed their declaration on the declaration and consent page, and given their consent for information about this complaint to be released and disclosed to the Board and other persons approved by the Board.

How to return forms and other documents

You can either email or post the Complaint form, complaint declaration and consent form, and supporting documents to:

Email communications@vetboard.vic.gov.au

Post Vetboard Victoria
 PO Box 247
 Collins Street West VIC 8007

Next steps

After you submit your complaint:

1. an Investigation Officer may contact you if we need more information from you.
2. an Investigation Officer will keep you informed about the progress of your complaint.

Note that it can take several months to finalise a complaint.

See the Board's website for information about the Board's complaint handling process: www.vetboard.vic.gov.au

Feedback on this form

This is a new form and we would like your feedback on how easy it was to complete. Please choose a number in the scale below, with 1 meaning easy and 5 meaning difficult.

EASY

1

2

3

4

DIFFICULT

5

What is one thing we could do to improve this form **or** one thing you like about this form?