



What does the Veterinary Council do?

The Veterinary Council of New Zealand (VCNZ) protects the interests of the public by making sure that veterinarians are competent and fit to practise.

We do this by:

- only registering veterinarians who are properly trained and qualified
- only registering veterinarians who have good English language skills
- maintaining an online Register of Veterinarians where registration status can be checked
- accrediting and monitoring the educational institutions that train veterinarians
- setting and monitoring the standards veterinarians must meet
- requiring veterinarians to continually update their skills and to recertify annually
- ensuring veterinarians are physically and mentally able to work and taking appropriate action when this is not the case
- receiving and acting on concerns raised about the quality and standard of veterinary treatment
- investigating complaints about the conduct of veterinarians and, if necessary, laying disciplinary charges before a Judicial Committee.

Our profile

VCNZ has seven members. Three are veterinarians elected every three years by the profession. Three (including two lay members) are Government appointees. The remaining member is a veterinary educator.

A number of committees and advisory groups, some with external membership, assist the VCNZ to carry out its statutory functions in relation to:

- registration
- professional standards
- health
- finance and risk
- discipline
- complaints
- competence
- notifications.

Funding

VCNZ receives no government funding. Our income is from the registration and practising certificate fees paid by veterinarians and registration applicants.

Communications

Our regular updates and our website www.vetcouncil.org.nz are VCNZ's main ways of providing information to veterinarians, registration applicants and the public.

If you can't find what you're looking for on our website, please [contact](#) us.

What's the difference between the Veterinary Council of New Zealand (VCNZ) and the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA)?

Sometimes there's confusion about the roles of VCNZ and NZVA.

Although the two organisations can and do work closely together on common issues, VCNZ and NZVA are two distinct and separate entities with different functions.

Veterinary Council of New Zealand	New Zealand Veterinary Association
Primary focus is on the interests of the public.	Primary focus is on the interests of the veterinary profession.
A statutory body set up under the Veterinarians Act 2005.	A not for profit membership organisation that promotes and supports the interests of member veterinarians.
Regulates the whole veterinary profession. To practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand a person must be registered and hold a current practising certificate issued by VCNZ.	Membership is voluntary. Members have access to professional support and mentoring, special benefits and business and professional resources that help mitigate professional risk.
Works with the veterinary profession to develop, set and oversee professional standards.	Assists its members to meet/exceed the required professional standards.
Sets minimum requirements for continuing professional development (CPD).	Promotes continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities and an online CPD recording system for its members.
Governing body includes lay and professional representatives and cannot meet without a lay member present.	Governed by veterinarians for veterinarians - there is no lay representation.
Collects data and publishes an annual veterinary workforce analysis.	Has the primary role in addressing and advocating on workforce and animal health and welfare issues.
Accredits or approves veterinary schools and the programmes they provide for registration (without further examination) purposes	Provides quality assurance programmes to support members in practice, eg Best Practice and Leptosure programmes.
Maintains a publically available Register of Veterinarians.	Connects members with local, national and international colleagues through its Special Interest Branches, Regional Branches, and New Graduate Mentor Programme.
Receives and considers complaints and concerns about veterinarians. Maintains a separate Judicial Committee which considers serious cases of professional misconduct.	Offers access to veterinary professional indemnity insurance and provides advice and support to members subject to a complaint. Responds to questions from the public on the appropriateness of treatment and fees charged and can assist with resolving disputes.
Has statutory powers to remove registration or impose conditions on practice.	Can decline or remove membership if required.
Collaborates with NZVA on prevention, early intervention and support strategies for health impaired veterinarians through the Vets and Stress programme.	Collaborates with VCNZ on prevention, early intervention and support strategies for health impaired veterinarians through the Vets and Stress programme.

We're here to help

For more information please contact us on:

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