

California Veterinary Licensing Requirements

Board Applications

1. Application

Submit a [veterinary eligibility application](#) online to the California Veterinary Board.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) If you have graduated from an [AVMA accredited veterinary college](#), your college must submit proof of graduation to the Board directly.
- 2) If you did not graduate from an accredited veterinary college, you must submit a certificate of completion directly from the [ECFVG](#) or [PAVE](#).
- 3) Must Pass the NAVLE and have your scores sent directly to the Board. You can use the [AAVSB's VAULT service](#) to send your scores for a fee of \$99. If you have not passed the NAVLE within the last 5 years, you must do **ONE** of the following:
 - a. Submit proof of completing 36 hours of CE in the last 2 years.
 - b. Submit proof of practicing clinical veterinary medicine for over 2,500 hours and at least 2 out of the last 3 years.
 - c. You must re-take and pass the NAVLE.

2. Relevant Fees

- **\$984.25 Total:**
 - \$350.00 application fee
 - \$100.00 Veterinary Law Exam fee
 - \$500.00 for the initial license
 - \$34.25 fingerprinting processing fee.



3. Verify Additional Existing Veterinary Licenses:

1. If you currently hold or previously held a license in any other state, Canadian province, or US territory, their licensing board must submit your verification and any disciplinary or enforcement history to the California Board.
 - a. This can be done through the [AAVSB's Vault system](#).

4. Additional Required Testing

1. After submitting your application, you must complete the **Veterinary Law Examination**.
 - If you graduated from University of California-Davis or Western University of Health Sciences in California, then you are exempt from this exam.
 - You can find the law testing guide/relevant approach [here](#). It is an open-book exam.
 - You can [register to take the exam here](#). First, sign the Statement of Confidentiality, after which you will have 40 days to schedule and complete your test.

5. Mandatory Documentation:

1. You will need to submit your fingerprints for a criminal background check to the Department of Justice (including a processing fee of \$34.25).
 - [Fingerprinting Requirements and Instructions](#)
 - Available scan locations can be found [here](#).
 - If applying from out of state, you may email the VMB (vmb@dca.ca.gov) to request a hard card alternative printing packet.

Temporary License:

Reciprocity Temporary License

1. You can apply online for a Temporary License using California's [BreEZe portal](#). Paper application and full instructions can be found [here](#).
2. Eligibility requirements:
 - a. Must currently be licensed in good standing in another state, U.S. territory, or Canadian province for 2 out of the last 3 years with 2,944 hours of clinical practice.
 - b. Must have graduated from veterinary school. If you graduated from a non-AVMA accredited school, you will have to submit your ECFVG or PAVE certificate.
 - c. Must have passed the NAVLE or equivalent.
3. Fees: **\$350.00 Total** — \$150 Application Fee + \$100 Veterinary Law Exam fee.
4. You will also need to submit fingerprints to the Department of Justice, which includes paying a fee of \$34.25.
5. If you didn't graduate from a California veterinary school, you will need to take the VLE (see prior instructions under "Additional Required Testing").
6. Following your application's approval, you will also need to take a 3 day California Curriculum Course, which is offered in March and September.

Renewal & Continuing Education

1. Licenses must be renewed every 2 years. Your expiration date is shown on your license.
2. Must complete **36 hours** of CE every 2 year renewal period.
 - a. California CE [Resources and Information](#) can be found here.
 - b. You are exempt from CE requirements for your first renewal.
3. **REACTIVATION:** Use these links to reactive an [inactive license](#) or [retired license](#). You must submit proof of 36 hours of CE, and your license must be retired less than 5 years.


FAQ:

How do I change my name or address?


 Changing your legal name does not require a new license be issued. You can begin the process using [this form](#).

You can change your address easily using California's [BreEZe portal](#).

How long will it take to process my application?

 The most up to date processing times can be found [here](#). If any documents are missing from your application, the Board will let you know.

What if I don't complete my CE by my license expiration date?

 You may renew as "inactive" or wait to renew until you have completed the hours. In either case, you must cease practice of veterinary medicine until your hours are completed and your license is renewed.

Contact

California Veterinary Medical Board

Phone: (916) 515-5220

Mailing Address:

1747 N. Market Blvd., Ste. 230
Sacramento, CA 95834-2978



Please check your local requirements as state and national guidelines may have changed since last updated on 8/15/2023.