

To the Committee Members;

I am writing to ask that the extension of the veterinary board be for 2-3 years instead 8. The Alaska veterinary board has an ongoing history of blocking the non-profit services needed to solve the problems of rural Alaska. A shorter renewal period for the Alaska board will send a strong signal that the board needs to change policies and support regulatory changes that help solve the veterinary problems of rural Alaska.

I am a veterinarian who provided low and no cost veterinary care throughout rural Alaska from 1999-2009. During that time, I performed over 35,000 spays and neuters in a total of 72 rural Alaska communities. This was done with the help of over 100 local volunteers and dozens of non-profit veterinary groups. I have an excellent reputation throughout rural Alaska. Many Alaskan veterinarians consider these surgeries a crime against their income instead of commendable action. The Alaska veterinary board past and present has shown hostility towards this veterinary care.

I continue to work with many non-profit veterinary groups. I actively do high volume spay and neuter clinics for 8 veterinary organizations, I consult and help an additional four. My intimate contacts with these groups has shown me that there are hundreds of veterinarians willing to donate their time and money to help in areas underserved by veterinary care, including Alaska.

Currently these non-profit veterinarians are not welcome in Alaska. Attempts to be licensed under the special event courtesy license or a permanent license (as with myself) are met with hostility and the demand to limit the number of surgeries as well as what veterinary care can be done and where. On my recent veterinary application, I was required to do no more than ten surgeries per day. I routinely do 40-100+ surgeries per day. I am nationally known as one of the best spay neuter veterinarians in the country. This hostile attitude by the board is a reason I have withdrawn my veterinary application.

The lack of veterinary care in rural Alaska causes a huge expense to Alaska's budget. In a six-year period, in one region of Alaska alone, there were almost 1000 reported dog bites. Many of the people being treated for these bites are having their medical care paid for by the state. The cost to the state is no doubt in excess of several million dollars annually. Added to this are the many social and mental health impacts of seeing animals suffer and die needless deaths. I strongly believe it is one of the root causes of many societal problems in rural Alaska.

There are many easy policy changes the veterinary board could do to allow and welcome outside help to solve the rural veterinary care crisis. I would be happy to discuss proposed changes at any time. Please send the signal to the board that changes need to happen. Please limit the extension of the board to 2-3 years instead of 8.

Thank you

Eric Jayne DVM 808-265-5018