



GET TO KNOW your AVMA

As a valued member, you're invited to learn how AVMA operates and see how you can contribute to the conversation.

Here, we'll explain the governance structure of AVMA. Our goal is to introduce you to your AVMA leadership, help you develop your personal leadership skills and connect you with opportunities to join in!

AVMA GOVERNANCE

at a glance

Here's a quick look at AVMA groups and what they do.

AVMA Board of Directors (BOD)

Who are they?

The Board of Directors is the administrative body of the Association. The 18-member board is composed of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Vice President, Treasurer (non-voting), one District Director from each of the 11 geographic districts elected by the veterinarians residing in that district, the House Advisory Committee Chair (non-voting) and the Student AVMA President (non-voting).

What do they do?

The Board determines AVMA's policies within the limits of the AVMA Bylaws and promotes the Association's purposes. The Board may act for and on behalf of the House of Delegates between sessions of the House.

House of Delegates (HOD)

Who are they?

The House of Delegates is composed of AVMA members from 70 states and territories, and allied veterinary medical groups.

What do they do?

Association policies may be set by the House of Delegates, which is made up of one delegate and one alternate delegate from each organization represented. The House of Delegates convenes each summer at the AVMA Convention and each winter at the Veterinary Leadership Conference.

House Advisory Committee (HAC)

Who are they?

The House Advisory Committee consists of seven members elected by the House of Delegates.

What do they do?

The purpose of the HAC is to advise and make recommendations to the HOD and BOD. Each HAC member chairs one of the seven Reference Committees.

Reference Committees (RC)

What do they do?

The RCs review matters before the HOD and make recommendations to the full HOD after deliberations. **There is often much debate at RC meetings. They're a great place to see how decisions get made and you can attend any RC you are interested in!**

Allied Groups

- AAAP—American Association of Avian Pathologists
- AAHA—American Animal Hospital Association
- AHVMA—American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association
- AAIV—American Association of Industry Veterinarians
- AASRP—American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
- ASLAP—American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners
- AABP—American Association of Bovine Practitioners
- AASV—American Association of Swine Veterinarians
- NAFV—National Association of Federal Veterinarians
- AAEP—American Association of Equine Practitioners
- AAV—Association of Avian Veterinarians
- SFT—Society for Theriogenology
- AAFP—American Association of Feline Practitioners
- AAVA—American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture
- SAVMA—Student American Veterinary Medical Association
- AAFSPHV—American Association of Food Safety and Public Health Veterinarians
- AAVC—American Association of Veterinary Clinicians
- USUS—Uniformed Services of the United States

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

REFERENCE COMMITTEES

1. COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION
2. COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC MATTERS
3. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
4. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMICS
5. COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL MATTERS
6. COMMITTEE ON MEMBER SERVICES
7. COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

KEY GOVERNANCE MEETINGS at VLC and convention

District Caucus Meetings

The AVMA Board of Directors (BOD) represents 11 geographic districts. Prior to the HOD Session at the Veterinary Leadership Conference (VLC) and prior to the HOD Session during the Convention, HOD members in each district meet and discuss the matters that will be voted on.

You should attend your district meeting so that you can meet other leaders from your district. You'll want to attend—they're great for networking and give you an opportunity to share your opinions on policies being considered.

HOD Meetings

The HOD holds one, two-day meeting at VLC and one, two-day meeting during Convention. HOD sessions are open to all AVMA members.

Plenary Session (VLC)/Informational Meeting (Convention)

At the Plenary Session and Informational Meeting:

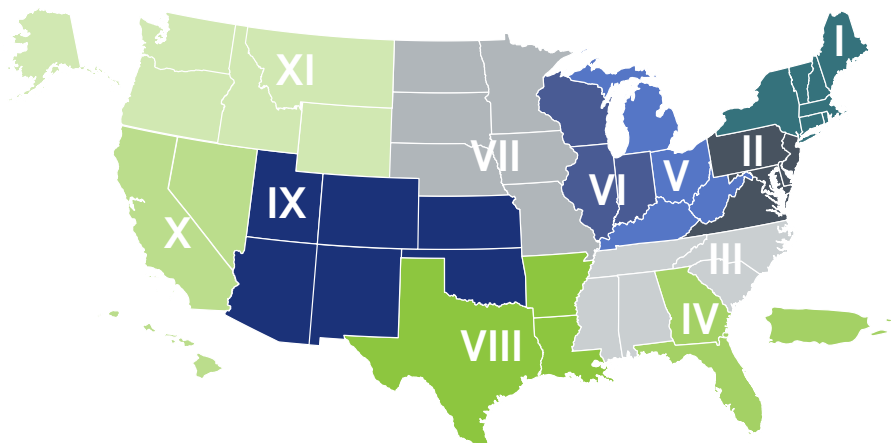
- Updates of AVMA activities may be shared from the AVMA CEO and other staff, and groups such as the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF), AVMA Political Action Committee (PAC), AVMA Insurance Trust and others

At the Formal Session

The Session opens with the Veterinary Information Forum, which is an open discussion for AVMA HOD members where they address high-profile issues of significant importance to AVMA members and the profession. Reference Committee recommendations are made and HOD votes are cast.

- Votes are cast electronically, and all votes on policies are displayed immediately
- Outcomes for elections are not displayed by delegation, so you cannot see how your representative votes in these

Want to know what items will be voted on in the formal session? Speak to your delegate or alternate delegate to see the formal agenda. It's a great opportunity to get to know your representatives! Or, the items to be voted on are also available at AVMA.org under Governance.



Find your district:

- **DISTRICT I**—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
- **DISTRICT II**—Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia
- **DISTRICT III**—Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee
- **DISTRICT IV**—Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico
- **DISTRICT V**—Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia
- **DISTRICT VI**—Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin
- **DISTRICT VII**—Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
- **DISTRICT VIII**—Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas
- **DISTRICT IX**—Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah
- **DISTRICT X**—California, Hawaii, Nevada
- **DISTRICT XI**—Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

For more information, visit:

avma.org



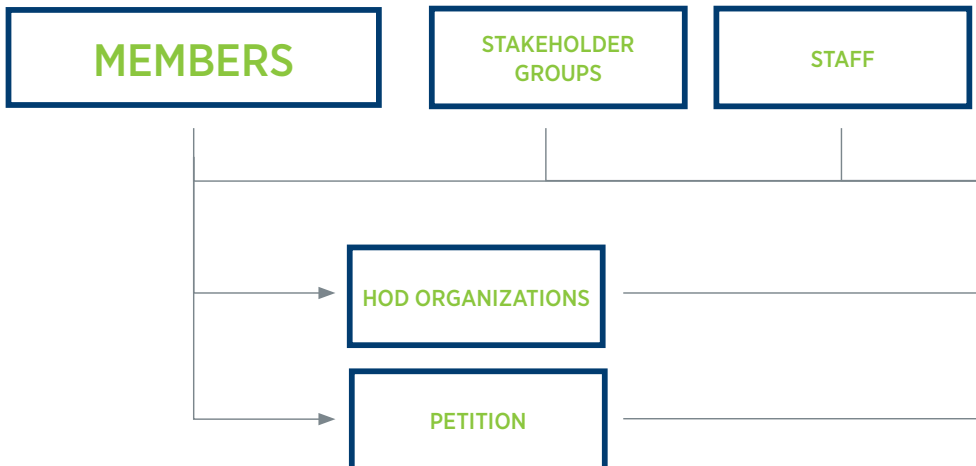
www.avma.org | 800-248-2862

PATHWAY FROM issue to AVMA policy



Stage 1: Identify the issue

Issues are continually identified—through clinical experience, discussion among colleagues, publication review and more. They're then directed to the appropriate volunteer group for consideration.



There are several paths an issue can take to become policy—and several ways it can begin. We encourage you to get involved and help us shape policy.



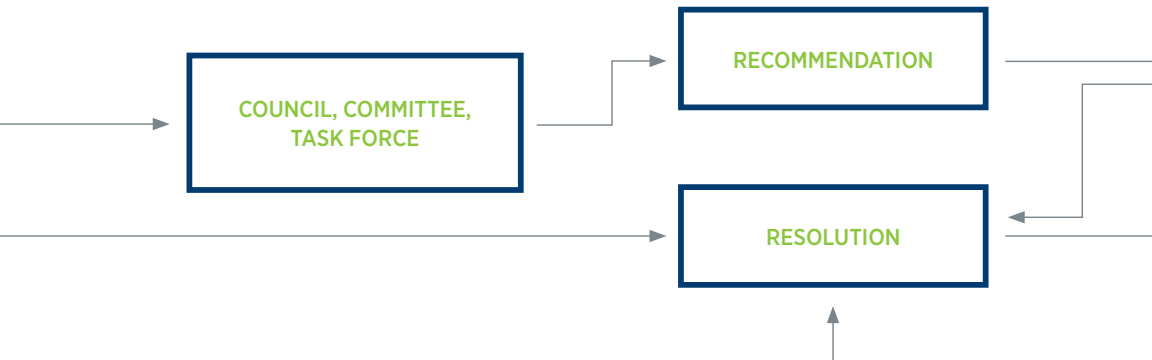
Stage 2: Expert evaluation

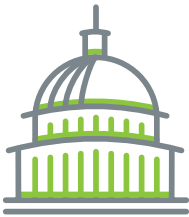
A volunteer council, committee or task force evaluates the issue and its importance to the AVMA and our profession, seeking input from relevant experts, colleagues and scientific resources. If appropriate, it recommends consideration by the BOD.



Stage 3: Make a recommendation or resolution

Recommendations, resolutions or a petition by at least 50 members are presented to the voting body for consideration.





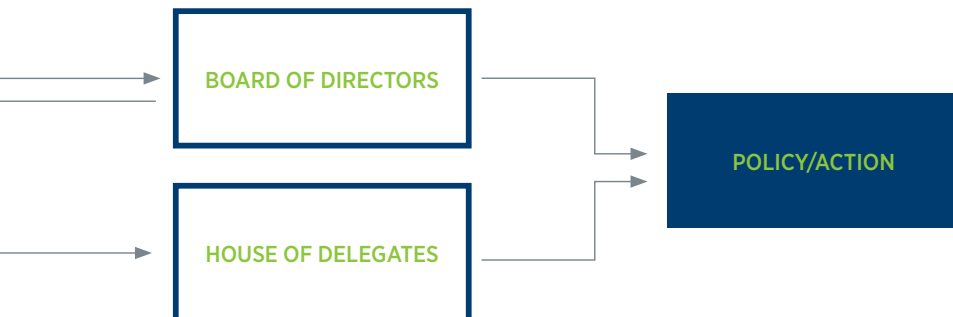
Stage 4: Policymakers discuss and decide

The BOD and HOD evaluate and vote on recommendations/resolutions. They may be approved, disapproved or referred for further refinement and input.



Stage 5: Policy is created

Once a policy is approved by the BOD or HOD, it immediately becomes official policy.



GET INVOLVED

Want to take an active role in the AVMA and all that we do? We'd love to have your help and input. These FAQs are a great place to start.

How do I volunteer?

The best way to get involved is to run for election to a council or committee of interest. You can find more information and all open positions at avma.org/volunteer.

How do I sign up for alerts and news?

Visit the **email subscription center** to select what type of news and alerts you would like to receive. Find the subscription center under "Subscriptions" on your member dashboard, or click on "Newsletters" under the "News" tab of the website.

How do I look up AVMA Leaders?

On the AVMA website, of course! Just looking for your state? ". When you sign into your membership account, your leaders are front and center on your dashboard. For a full leadership roster, click AVMA Leadership Roster, located on the right-hand side of the page.

How do I find AVMA Bylaws?

The AVMA Bylaws are located in the "About" section of the website as well.

Where can I find current AVMA Policies?

You guessed it—on the AVMA website. Find AVMA policies under the "Resources & Tools" tab.



a quick guide to AVMA
GOVERNANCE
