

Pathways to Policy

Policy / Action:

Once a policy is approved by Executive Board or the House of Delegates, it is official and immediate. It is recorded in the AVMA policy library and reported in *JAVMA* and on the AVMA website.

Executive Board / House of Delegates:

These groups discuss the recommendations/resolutions, evaluate the facts and reasoning used to develop the recommendation or resolution, and vote on the recommendation/resolution. A majority vote is generally required for action. Recommendations/resolutions can be approved, disapproved, or referred back to the original source or another volunteer group for consideration and input.

Recommendation / Resolution:

A recommendation (from a council, committee or task force) or a resolution (from an organization represented in the House of Delegates, the Executive Board or a petition of 50 members) is presented to the voting body for consideration.

Councils / Committees / Task Forces:

These groups, which are composed of volunteers, evaluate the issue and evaluate its relevance and importance to the AVMA and the veterinary profession. They seek opinions from relevant experts; review the appropriate scientific literature or resources; gather input from colleagues; and determine the issue's implications on related areas of veterinary medicine. If warranted, they write a recommendation for consideration by the Executive Board.

Members / Stakeholder Groups / Staff:

Issues are identified on an ongoing basis through environmental scanning, clinical experience, discussion among colleagues, review of publications and federal and state documents, council or committee members, and more. The issues are then directed to the applicable volunteer group (e.g., council, committee, task force or House of Delegates' organizations) for consideration.

Stage 5:

Policy is created

Stage 4:

Policy makers discuss and decide

Stage 3:

Make a recommendation or resolution

Stage 2:

Expert evaluation

Stage 1:

Identify the issue

