

My name is Cindy Munson and I'm from Mesquite. On September 30, 2005, our beloved Shih Tzu, Stempy, passed away due to a bad veterinarian. We believe the vet board unjustly dismissed our complaint in 2006. Since that time, we have driven many miles and spent countless hours monitoring the activities of the Texas Vet Board.

The board's first priority is to protect the public. This board is deficient in many areas in fulfilling that priority. One of those areas is access to the disciplinary records of Texas veterinarians. In 2008, because of all the hoops that were and are necessary for the average consumer to jump through to find the full disciplinary history of licensees, my husband, Greg, launched the Texas Veterinary Records website, texasveterinaryrecords.com.

This consumer site maintains a summary of all disciplinary action taken against Texas veterinarians for the entire available history of the board. The board used to maintain an online disciplinary summary similar to what is on Greg's website. However, the board removed this summary around 2014.

Since the beginning of his consumer site, Greg has gone to great lengths to obtain all of the board's agreed orders and final orders, upload them, and make them easily accessible to the public. If a Texas veterinarian has ever been disciplined by the board, their name will appear alphabetically on Greg's website. The licensee's name is a clickable link to the actual copy of the agreed order or final order associated with the listed violation.

When the board removed the disciplinary summary in 2014 from their own site, they started making some agreed orders available online by a search function. They have never had both a summary and all agreed orders accessible online at the same time on their website. So, Greg has essentially had to do the job of the board by making this information easily accessible and on demand.

This is also information that the public is actively seeking. Since the creation of texasveterinaryrecords.com in 2008, the site has received in excess of 77,000 visitors. The website is still growing in reach and today averages over 1,200 visitors a month. Imagine the reach this information could have if it were as easily accessible on the board's website as it is on the Texas Veterinary Records consumer website.

Since the board seems incapable of making ALL information easily accessible on their website of their own accord, I am here today to urge you to mandate that the board restores the online disciplinary summary and that ALL orders – NO OMISSIONS for any category of violations - are easily accessible on their website simply by clicking a link for each and every action. Veterinary consumers and / or members of the public should not have to do the board's job for them. Thank you.