

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 12, 2023**

At 8:01 a.m., President Azure Holland, DVM, called to order the regular meeting of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board. This meeting was held at the Board office and virtually through Zoom. Board members present in person were, Azure Holland, DVM; Kent Dean, DVM; Ronald Komich, DVM; Susan Bull, DVM and Michael Martin, DVM; Robin Lazaro, RVT and Mr. Timothy Gold. Also present in person were Tod J. Schadler, DVM, Executive Director and Board Attorney, Matthew Skidmore. Allen Cannedy, DVM was present via Zoom.

President Azure Holland, DVM reviewed for the Board the Governor's and the North Carolina Ethics Commission's statements on recognizing and avoiding conflicts of interest. She also reviewed G.S. § 90-179 of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.

The following guests were in attendance via Zoom: Ed Faulkner, DVM, President, NCVMA; Maureen Susi, RVT, President of NCAVT; John McHugh, Director of State Legislature, ASPCA; Claire Holley, Executive Director, NCVMA; Jennifer Shultz, DVM, past President, NCVMA; Jon Carr, Attorney, NCVMA; Shannon Bass, DVM, Vice President, NCVMA; Jacklyn Phillips, RVT, Owner, Clinical Consultant; Heather Henderson, student at Cape Fear Community College; Stephanie Parker, RVT; Lissa

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Cannady, RVT; Stacey Hathaway, RVT; David Cowan, RVT; Justin Pedley, RVT; Gail Thomssen, North Carolina State Director-Government Relations, The Humane Society of the United States; Monica H., RVT; Karyn Smith, DVM, Secretary/Treasurer, NCVMA; Marguerite Gleason, DVM, President-Elect, NCVMA; Dante Martin, DVM, Immediate Past President, NCVMA; Rachel Scott, RVT; Nicholas Horn, RVT; Susan Thomas, RVT; Brittany Rochte; Megan Kelly, RVT; Rachel Stern, RVT; Kim Browning; Michelle Patterson, RVT; Mitzi Morgan; Nancy Berdeen; Kristen Seawell; Paisley, RVT; Pinnacle Pet Training and Raisa Velez- Contreras, NCVMB Student Liaison. Joining in person were Patricia Norris, DVM, Director, Veterinary Division Animal Welfare Section of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Joseph Jordan, PhD, CEO, NC Physician's Health Program (NCPHP); Officer Frank, State Capital Police.

The November 10, 2022 Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Changes were recommended regarding grammar. Ronald Komich, DVM made a motion to accept minutes after corrections were made and Susan Bull, DVM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business – None

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President's Report:

None

North Carolina Professional Health Program (NCPHP) Report:

Joseph Jordan, PhD presented his report in person and gave an update on the North Carolina Professional Health Program.

State Veterinarian's Report:

Michael Martin, DVM gave an update on the status of avian influenza and stated it continues to be a concern with most states now testing positive. He also updated the Board on the recent findings of Equine Infection Anemia cases in North Carolina and gave an update on the Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease.

Continuing Education Committee Report:

Ronald Komich, DVM, reported the committee met via zoom on December 9, 2022. Those present were Tod Schadler, DVM, Executive Director (NCVMB); Allen Cannedy, DVM; Ronald Komich, DVM (Chair) and Keith West, Deputy Director (NCVMB). The Committee provided the continuing education hours for each state as requested in the previous board

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meeting. The Committee made a recommendation to allow all continuing education to be obtained online with 75% interactive and 25% non-interactive. The Board discussed the proposal and sent the proposal back to Committee to provide a clear definition of what is interactive continuing education and non-interactive continuing education. Dr. Schadler asked all board members to email the Committee with what they want in the Rules. Dr. Holland tabled the discussion without a vote.

Boarding Committee Update:

Michael Martin, DVM reported the committee met via zoom on December 16, 2022. Those present were Tod Schadler, DVM, Executive Director (NCVMB); Michael Martin, DVM (Chair); Kent Dean, DVM; Keith West, Deputy Director (NCVMB); Matt Skidmore, NCVMB Attorney; Patricia Norris, DVM, Director, Veterinary Division Animal Welfare Section of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Christopher McLennan, Attorney, (NCDA&CS). Dr. Martin stated the Committee discussed inspections for boarding facilities. Dr. Martin stated that a rules change would be needed for AWS rules to allow the NCVMB to inspect boarding facilities that only provide boarding services to clients with a valid VCPR. In addition, a form should be drafted for all boarding facilities

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to indicate the type of boarding service offered, either client only or general public.

At 9:49 a.m. the board took a break and reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

Legislative Committee Update:

Veterinary Facility Permit - Deputy Director Keith West reported that the Pre-Review by the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) has been completed. The Legislative Committee reviewed the pre-review. After reviewing, the Legislative Committee scheduled a meeting with Brian Liebman, Attorney with the Office of Administrative Hearing, for December 8, 2022. After meeting with Brian Liebman and further discussion with the Legislative Committee, the Committee revised the Veterinary Facility Permit rule language and will be resubmitting for Pre-Review again for feedback. Pre-Review will take at least 30 days to provide a response. The Committee asked to defer the conversation concerning rules until feedback has been provided by OAH.

RVT Title Protection (Proposed Amendments to the Veterinary Practice Act) - Deputy Director Keith West reported the following amendment will be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration this

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month. This amendment was approved by the Board at the November 10, 2022 meeting:

90-187.6 Veterinary technicians and veterinary employees.

(a) “Veterinary technicians” and “veterinary student interns”, before performing any services otherwise prohibited to persons not licensed or registered under this Article, shall be approved by, and registered with the Board. The Board shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the qualifications, registration, discipline, and revocation of registration of these persons, under this Article and rules issued by the Board.

No person shall use the title “registered veterinary technician” or “veterinary technician” or any other words, letters, or symbols, including, but not limited to, the abbreviation “R.V.T.” with the intent to represent that the person is authorized to act as a registered veterinary technician, unless that person meets the requirements of NCAC 21 Chapter 66 Section .0303.

Facility Inspection Report:

Deputy Director Keith West reported that there have been 120 inspections since the last meeting. Marjorie McFetridge, DVM, performed 40 inspections, Kelly Jeffer, DVM, performed 36 inspections, Nicolette Peer,

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DVM, performed 35 inspections, and Robin McFerren, DVM, performed 9 inspections. There were 4 serious violations issued.

Attorney's Report:

Mr. Skidmore reported that 17 disposition letters were completed and there were currently 16 in the new batch. He stated a total of 133 disposition letters were completed for 2022.

Student Liaison Report:

Student Liaison Raisa Velez- Contreras had to leave the meeting due to school commitment before giving a report.

Executive Director's Report:

Tod J. Schadler, DVM Executive Director presented the status report of the number of active Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians. He reviewed the NCVMB's finances and accounts. Discipline/Civil Monetary payments are still up to date. He stated the Board received a civil monetary penalty check in the amount of \$10,000 from a 2021 case.

Old Business: None

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At 10:29 a.m., pursuant to G.S. § 143.318.11 (a)(6), to discuss personnel issue matters, a motion was made to go into closed session by Susan Bull, DVM and seconded by Michael Martin, DVM. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 12:49 p.m., Michael Martin, DVM made a motion to leave closed session and Robin Lazaro, RVT seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Kent Dean, DVM read into the minutes the recommendations from Committee on Investigation No. 8.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 8

- a. 2022081-8 – Jenny Kate Larson, DVM (Holly Ridge Veterinary Hospital
*no longer with the facility/lives out of state) – Ms. Sara Jo Murdoch –
Letter of Reprimand
- b. 2022084-8 – Daniel James Wilson, DVM (A Country Veterinary Clinic)
– Ms. Toni Webber – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- c. 2022093-8 – Barry L. Stuart, DVM (CVS Referral Hospital Matthews) –
Ms. Jill Krantz – Dismissed, No Probable Cause

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- d. 2022080-8 – Lora Elizabeth Evans, DVM (Boulevard Animal Hospital) – Ms. Veronica Butcher – Letter of Caution
- e. 2022078-8 – Julie Ann Uherka-Parker, DVM (Pet Emergency Clinic of Pitt County) and Frank T. Batten, DVM, (Pet Emergency Clinic of Pitt County) – Ms. Janice Thompson – Letter of Caution (Dr. Parker) and Dismissed, No Probable Cause (Dr. Batten)
- f. 2022089-8 – Ericka Yvette Richardson, DVM and Lora Elizabeth Evans, (North Hills Animal Hospital & Resort *Dr. Richardson no longer works at facility) – Ms. Michelle Marut – Dismissed, No Probable Cause (both)
- g. 2022092-8 – Lora Elizabeth Evans, (North Hills Animal Hospital & Resort) – Ms. Alison Brown – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- h. 2022097-8 – Gregory Arthur Arnold, DVM (Carolina Veterinary Specialists-South Charlotte Med) – Ms. Kellie Loscher – Dismissed, No Probable Cause

Ronald Komich, DVM made a motion, seconded by Michael Martin, DVM, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 8. The report from Committee 8 was approved unanimously. These decisions are preliminary and will not be final until the decision is accepted into the minutes, the decision is drafted by the Board Attorney and is approved by the Committee chair and then mailed to the licensee and complainant. In the case of a letter of reprimand, the licensee has 15 days from its receipt to reject it and request a hearing. If a rejection occurs, the case is returned to the Committee for review and action.

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Robin Lazaro, RVT read into the minutes the recommendations from Committee on Investigation No. 10.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 10

- a. 2022068-10 – Rebecca Margaret Slivka, DVM (Northwood Animal Hospital) – Mr. Camden Vaughn – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- b. 2022074-10 – Kaitlyn S. Schei-Childs, DVM (Walnut Animal Hospital) – Ms. Amber Clark – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- c. 2022076-10 – Alexandria Ann Davis, DVM (Animal Care Clinic of Rural Hall) – Ms. Kala Tharington – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- d. 2022083-10 – Jon Christopher Dick, DVM (Magnolia Animal Hospital) – Ms. Patricia Shealey – Continued
- e. 2022085-10 – Dennis D. Emerson, DVM (Southside Animal Hospital) – Mr. Mark Smiley – Continued
- f. 2022082-10 – Isabella Brynn Gaidis, DVM (Urgent Vet Pet Clinic-Chapel Hill) – Ms. Jodi Caquelin – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- g. 2022091-10 – Kelly Elizabeth Triana, DVM (Sedgefield Animal Hospital) – Ms. Rachel Moore – Dismissed, No Probable Cause

Susan Bull, DVM made a motion, seconded by Kent Dean, DVM, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 10. The report from Committee 10 was approved unanimously. These decisions are preliminary and will not be final until the decision is accepted into the minutes, the

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decision is drafted by the Board Attorney and is approved by the Committee chair and then mailed to the licensee and complainant. In the case of a letter of reprimand, the licensee has 15 days from its receipt to reject it and request a hearing. If a rejection occurs, the case is returned to the Committee for review and action.

Other Business: None

Approval of Expenses:

Michael Martin, DVM made a motion to approve the Board's expenses, and it was seconded by Robin Lazaro, RVT. The expenses were approved unanimously.

The Board having no further business, a motion to adjourn made by Michael Martin, DVM, seconded by Kent Dean, DVM, passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tod J. Schadler, DVM
Executive Director