

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, September 11, 2025**

At 8:02 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; Edward Faulkner, DVM; Ronald Komich, DVM; Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM; Robin Lazaro, RVT; Tim Gold; and Michael Martin, DVM. Board member Allen Cannedy, DVM was present via Zoom. Also present in person were Keith West, Executive Director; Melissa Bowman, Deputy Director; Matthew Skidmore, Board Attorney; Jennifer Kendrick, Executive Director, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA); Nicky McNeely, RVT, Vice President, North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians (NCAVT); and Sydney MacDonald, NCVMB secondary student liaison.

The following guests were in attendance via Zoom: Kim Lewis, President, RVT (NCAVT); Karyn Smith, DVM, President (NCVMA); Erin Clark, RVT, former NCAVT Board member; Jon Carr, Attorney and Lobbyist (NCVMA); and Paige Harrington, DVM, President- Elect (NCVMA).

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 N.C.G.S. § 90-179 of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.

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The July 10, 2025, Board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with one recommended correction. Ronald Komich, DVM made a motion to accept the minutes and Andrea Genrty- Apple, DVM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

None

President's Report:

None

North Carolina Professional Health Program (NCPHP) Report:

Joseph P. Jordan, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, was not present to provide the NCPHP report.

Nomination Committee Report:

Ronald Komich, DVM reported the recommendations for the July 2025 to July 2026 term. A vote on the recommendations was made and the vote passed unanimously.

2025- 2026 Board officers:

President- Azure Holland, DVM

Vice-President- Edward Faulkner, DVM

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Sec/ Treasurer- Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM

Board member Tim Gold announced that he will be stepping down from the board. Mr. Gold thanked everyone for their support.

State Veterinarian's Report:

Michael Martin, DVM reported the update in the status of swine disease cases and case numbers, HPAI influenza and the USDA's approach and strategy. Dr. Martin also reported on the New World Screwworm status, how it is being handled and threat status.

Legislative Committee Update:

Executive Director, Keith West reviewed proposed changes to the Practice Act regarding supervision definitions, veterinary technician registration, summary emergency orders, issuing temporary permits during state of emergencies, and permitted services for staff and veterinary technicians.

Mr. West advised that Animal Policy Group would like the Board to review the requirement that applicants licensed in another state must have actively practiced veterinary medicine in three of the five preceding years. Mr. West stated he would provide all interested parties a copy of the proposed legislation and request that feedback be provided no later than October 9, 2025.

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Facility Inspection Report:

Executive Director, Keith West provided a report on all of the inspections since the last meeting totaling 242 inspections with 2 serious violations that were both resolved. Robert Bakal, DVM completed 47 inspections, Andrew Horne, DVM completed 74 inspections, Marisol Iannuzzi, DVM completed 38 inspections, Marjorie McFetridge, DVM completed 34 inspections, and Nicolette Peer completed 49 inspections.

Mr. West noted that he has suspended looking for someone to fill the Eastern Piedmont inspector position. The counties in that area have been divided up between three current inspectors. He will determine in January if an additional inspector is still needed and re-post the job if it is determined an inspector is needed in that area.

Mr. West also reported that there are 76 facilities left that have not submitted their facility permit, therefore they are not in compliance. Mr. West presented a suggestion to the board that he and Deputy Director, Melissa Bowman, draft a notice that advises those facilities to submit their permit by a provided deadline or it will be considered a serious violation with a board-initiated complaint being issued. This letter will be sent via certified mail. The board agreed unanimously.

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Attorney's Report:

Board Attorney, Matthew Skidmore stated that the number of complaint cases continue to rise. A total of 33 closing letters were completed this month and close to 100 cases have been reviewed so far this year with that number being more than ever before.

Mr. Skidmore stated that he and Executive Director, Keith West, will have a discussion of hiring an investigator to review cases before they are sent to their assigned committee to determine if there is enough evidence to justify the case moving forward.

Student Liaison's Report:

Secondary Student Liaison, Sydney MacDonald introduced herself to the board. She announced classes have begun for the fall semester and provided details on the upcoming activities at NCSU CVM to promote the school's veterinary program. She also announced that Primary Student Liaison Bec Mitchell will be attending the AAVSB conference.

AAVSB Conference Report:

Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM asked for feedback from Board members about the bylaw amendments and resolutions to be voted on at the upcoming AAVSB

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conference.

At 9:45 a.m. the Board took a break and returned at 10:00 a.m.

Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director, Keith West reported that the board's finances remain in good standing. Mr. West presented the status report of the number of active Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians and stated that the number of applications continue to increase.

Mr. West reported that the Board's audit was complete and a summary will be provided to Board members once received from the auditor.

At 10:14 a.m., pursuant to G.S. § 143.318.11 (a)(3) and (6), a motion was made to go into closed session by Michael Martin, DVM and seconded by Edward Faulkner, DVM to discuss the active litigation in Case No. 25CV001172-910 pending in Wake County Superior Court with the Board's attorney against a chiropractic case. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 10:30 a.m., a motion was made to leave closed session by Michael Martin, DVM and Robin Lazaro, RVT seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

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None

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

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 10

- a. 2025065-10 – Letter of Caution
- b. 2025074-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- c. 2025075-10 – Continued
- d. 2025077-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- e. 2025083-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- f. 2025084-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- g. 2025087-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- h. 2025088-10 – Letter of Reprimand
- i. 2025091-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- j. 2025092-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- k. 2025095-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause

Edward Faulkner, DVM, made a motion, seconded by Andrea Gentry-Apple, DVM, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 10. The report from Committee 10 was approved unanimously.

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These decisions are preliminary and will not be final until the decisions are 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.

Edward Faulkner, DVM read into the minutes the decisions from Committee on Investigation No. 13.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 13

- a. 2025069-13 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- b. 2025070-13 – Continued
- c. 2025071-13 – Letter of Caution
- d. 2025072-12 – Letter of Caution
- e. 2025073-13 – Letter of Reprimand
- f. 2025076-13 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- g. 2025078-13 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- h. 2025081-13 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- i. 2025089-13 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause

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- j. 2025094-13 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- k. 2025097-13 – Continued

Michael Martin, DVM made a motion, seconded by Robin Lazaro, RVT, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 13. The report from Committee 13 was approved unanimously.

These decisions are preliminary and will not be final until the decisions are 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.

Other Business:

Executive Director, Keith West will begin the process of hiring a part time investigator to review complaint information and determine if a complaint should move forward.

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Approval of Expenses:

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

Final Review and Summary of Action Items:

Executive Director, Keith West reminded Board members of the upcoming AAVSB meeting, the October 9th deadline for Board member comments for proposed legislation, and provided the 2026 Board meeting dates.

A motion to adjourn made by Edward Faulkner, DVM, seconded by Michael Martin, DVM, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith West
Executive Director