

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board  
Raleigh, North Carolina, May 7, 2020**

At 8:08 a.m., President Susan Bull, DVM called to order the regular meeting of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom. Present also were the following Board members: Drs. Kent Dean, Doug Meckes, Kim Gemeinhardt, Ronald Komich, and Azure Holland; Robin Lazaro, RVT; and Mrs. Krissie Newman. Also present were Board Attorney, George Hearn; Executive Director, Dr. Tod J. Schadler; and Student Liaison Priya Allen.

Dr. Bull reviewed with the Board the Governor's and the North Carolina Ethics Commission's statement 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 introduced: Natalie Young, PharmD, Director of Realo; Maureen Susi, RVT, President of North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians (NCAVT); Jeannie Losey, RVT; Gail Thomssen with Humane Society of the United States; Heather Hopkinson, RVT; Laura Ruterbories, RVT; Rachel Stern, RVT; Brenda Stevens, DVM, Past President of NCVMA; Claire Holley, Executive Director of North

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Carolina Veterinary Association; Ms. Townsend; Steven Marks, BVSc, Associate Dean, North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine; David Marshall, DVM; Kelley Jeffer, DVM; Dr. Joseph Jordan, CEO of North Carolina Professional Health Program) NCPHP.

The March 5, 2020 Board meeting minutes and the March 19, 2020, and April 6, 2020 Board meetings by Emergency Phone Conferences were reviewed. Dr. Komich, seconded by Dr. Holland, moved to approve the March 5, March 19, and April 6, 2020 Board minutes with corrections. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Reports:**

**State Veterinarian's Report:**

Dr. Meckes reported that eleven turkey farms in North Carolina and two farms in South Carolina have tested positive for low path influenza. The birds on these farms had to be depopulated. When these farms test free of the virus, they can repopulate. Samples from a total of ninety farms in North Carolina were collected for the virus.

North Carolina has two pork processing plants which are operating at 50% capacity. There is no way to effectively depopulate pigs, but the state is working on carbon dioxide units for humane euthanasia.

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There are fourteen poultry processing plants in North Carolina that are in a similar situation as the pork processing plants.

There will be a pending shortage of meat due to the processing plants either shutting down or operating at a lower capacity.

**North Carolina Professional Health Program (NCPHP) Report:**

Dr. Joseph Jordan, CEO of NCPHP, gave an updated report on current participants in the program. There are currently four veterinarians under contract with a potential of two referrals.

June 7, 2020, Dr. Jordan will be giving a virtual continuing education program for the Carolina Veterinary Hospital.

Soon, the NCPHP will have virtual support groups for healthcare providers to interact with counselors.

**President's Report:**

Dr. Bull created a new legislative committee of Dr. Komich, Dr. Gemeinhardt, and Mrs. Krissie Newman as chair. They are to work on clarifying and updating G.S. § 90-187.10 (6).

Dr. Gemeinhardt, on behalf of the Nomination Committee, made a motion to nominate the following for the Executive Committee: Dr. Bull, President; Mrs. Robin Lazaro, Vice President; Mrs. Krissie Newman,

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Secretary/Treasurer. This motion was seconded by Dr. Komich and was approved unanimously.

**Legislative Committee –Telehealth:**

The proposed rule 21 NCAC 66.0211 Veterinary Telehealth draft received good preliminary feedback from a staff attorney at the Rules Review Commission. Revisions will be sent to the Board and reviewed at next Board meeting.

**AAVSB:**

Dr. Gemeinhardt reported that there has been no decision if the annual meeting will happen. Board Basics class has been rescheduled for August 14-15, 2020 in Kansas City, Missouri. VTNE testing centers are closed. Some states are allowing students to take the exam before graduating.

At 9:30 a.m. the Board took a break and reconvened at 9:40 a.m.

**Registered Veterinary Technician Working Group:**

Robin Lazaro, RVT, explained the Group's objectives.

- Better define the RVT title and include title protection, add Veterinary Technologist and Veterinary Assistant definitions

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- Address the lack of reciprocity and amend our rules to ease transfer of RVTs licensing in our state
- Better define the scope of practice for RVTs

**Chief Inspector's Report:**

Dr. David Marshall, Chief Inspector, reported that due to the shutdown of most inspections, there were only 32 inspections done since the last Board meeting. Discussion was held about when to restart inspections. June 1, 2020 is a tentative date. It was suggested to call facilities and set up an appointment for inspections to help reduce risks.

**Attorney's Report:**

Mr. Hearn reported that the North Carolina legislature passed a bill to give Agency/Boards regulatory flexibility to: 1) delay collection of fees/fines accessed; 2) delay renewal dates of licensees; 3) delay education requirements required by an agency.

**Student Liaison:**

Priya Allen reported on the virtual learning at NCSU-CVM. She commended the faculty for the tremendous effort it has taken to give all online classes, especially labs.

Heather Hopkinson, RVT, explained that RVTs are helping with Zoom rounds at NCSU-CVM, acting as clients in cases for students.

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Brenda Stevens, DVM, explained some concerns about clinical rotations left for the 2020 graduating class. They will be done virtually, but they only have two rotations left. Hopefully they will be able to see patients on a limited basis soon.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Dr. Schadler presented an update on licensing activities and a finance report.

The Chiropractic Board has a new Executive Director who has responded to the letter Dr. Bull sent on November 11, 2019. A meeting will be scheduled with their Board and our Executive Committee.

The "Online Complaint" process is going smoothly. There are more complaints being filed through this method.

Dr. Schadler congratulated the staff for working remotely successfully and to the Board for all the virtual meetings going smoothly.

At 10:50 a.m. the Board took a lunch break and reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

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**Report of Committee on Investigations No. 1**

- a. 2019058-1 – Nicholas Michael Calo, DVM (Wilmington Animal Healthcare Veterinary Hospital) – Drs. Jeff Ward & Stacy Ward – Consent Order approved by the Board
- b. 2019049-1 – Thomas Joseph McEntegart, DVM; Kathleen Moira Aicher, DVM; Sarita Andrea Miles, DVM; Katharine Davis Mauro, DVM; Rae Grace Hutchins, DVM; Rachel Anne Shoemaker, DVM; Nicole Marie Piscitelli, DVM; Kelsey Marie Jorge, DVM; Maureen Elizabeth Levesque, VDM (VSH of the Carolinas-Cary) – Ms. Alexandra Fishman – No Probable Cause, Dismissed
- c. 2020003-1 – James O. Arnold, DVM (Harmony Heights Animal Hospital) – Ms. Linda Talley – Continued
- d. 2020005-1 – Thomas Jesse Watson, DVM (Carolinas Veterinary Medical Hospital) – Ms. Maryanne P. Dailey – No Probable Cause, Dismissed
- e. 2020011-1 – Sean Michael Greenlaw, DVM; Bobbi Jo Kotrba, DVM (Craven Animal Hospital) – Ms. Kathryn Johnson – Letter of Reprimand for Dr. Greenlaw; No Probable Cause, Dismissed for Dr. Kotrba
- f. 2020009-1 – Susan Michele Rohrer, DVM; Charles Arbie Joplin, DVM (Atlantic Animal Hospital & Pet Resort) – Ms. Susannah Reynolds – Letter of Reprimand for Dr. Rohrer; No Probable Cause, Dismissed for Dr. Joplin

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A motion was made by Dr. Gemeinhardt to accept the Consent Order for Dr. Nicholas Michael Calo, Complaint 2019058-1, and seconded by Mrs. Lazaro. This motion was approved.

Dr. Gemeinhardt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Komich, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 1. The report of Committee 1 was approved unanimously.

**Report of Committee on Investigations No. 9**

- a. 2019057-9 – Matthew Cannon Merriman, DVM (Town & Country Veterinary Hospital) – Ms. Debbie W. Holt – No Probable Cause, Dismissed
- b. 2020002-9 – Julianne Martin Davis-Christ, DVM; Mary Sutton Godwin, DVM (Mitchell Village Animal Hospital) – Ms. Jeannen Mechelle Stone – No Probable Cause, Dismissed for both
- c. 2020006-9 – James L. Williams, DVM (Dogwood Animal Hospital) – Ms. Mackenzie Erin Robinson – No Probable Cause, Dismissed
- d. 2020004-9 – Joshua Duke Foster, DVM (Northwood Animal Hospital) – Mr. Edward & Kathryn Levick – No Probable Cause, Dismissed
- e. 2020012-9 – Allison Elizabeth Jones, DVM; Marnie Horton Gallagher, DVM (Mint Hill Animal Clinic) – Ms. Sherry Washington – No Probable Cause, Dismissed for both

Dr. Dean made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gemeinhardt, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 9. The report from Committee 9 was approved.



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**Closed Session:**

At 1:22 p.m. Dr. Gemeinhardt made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Krissie Newman to go into a closed session, pursuant to G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6). The motion passed unanimously.

At 2:00 p.m. the Board returned to its open meeting.

Dr. Gemeinhardt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Komich, to implement the actions made during closed session. Motion was approved.

Dr. Dean, seconded by Mrs. Lazaro, RVT, made a motion to approve the meeting's expenses. It was approved unanimously.

The Board having no further business, a motion to adjourn made by Dr. Gemeinhardt, seconded by Mrs. Krissie Newman, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tod J. Schadler, DVM  
Executive Director