

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
**Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners**  
**December 7, 2017**

Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

**Minutes of Team B Meeting**

**Team Members:** Dr. Heather Hendler, Dr. Perry Crowl, Dr. John Stott, and Ms. Victoria Wright-Conner. **Staff in attendance:** Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Investigator Susan Husk, Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James, and Office Secretary Britney Branch. Dr. Hendler called the meeting to order at 8:54 a.m.

**Approval of the Minutes:** In a motion by Dr. Stott, seconded by Ms. Wright-Conner, the minutes of the October 26, 2017, meeting of Team B were unanimously approved.

In a motion by Dr. Crowl, seconded by Dr. Stott, the team voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session pursuant to the applicable provisions of the General Provisions Article.

**Closed Session**

There was an administrative discussion of complaints, investigations and matters before the Board. In a motion by Dr. Stott, seconded by Ms. Wright-Conner, the team unanimously voted to adjourn.

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**Joint Open Meeting**

**Board Members Present:** Board President David Handel, Board Vice President Dr. Heather Hendler, Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Dr. Perry Crowl, Dr. John Stott, and Ms. Victoria Wright-Conner. **Staff in attendance:** Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Investigator Susan Husk, Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James, and Office Secretary Britney Branch. Dr. Handel called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

**Presentation:** Maryland Department of Agriculture Policy on Media Relations - Communications Director Julie Oberg. Ms. Oberg distributed the department's media policy, which pertains to employees as well as Board members. She encouraged Board members to reach out to her or her staff at any time.

**Presentation:** VIP PetCare Partitions for Limited Use Facilities. VIP PetCare demonstrated a proposed new system of mobile partitions to be used in pet stores as limited use hospitals around the state. VIP set up a display of the unit for Board members and inspectors to view and inspect.

**Approval of Minutes:** In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Stott, the minutes of the October 26, 2017 joint meetings were unanimously approved, as presented.

**Veterinary License Application Approvals** – Applications were approved from Dr. Eume Jung, Dr. Heike Jung, Dr. Kathryn Keyda, Dr. Tray Kroll, and Dr. Kaelynn Moury.

**Acceptable Continuing Education Certificates from USDA:** There was a discussion about whether USDA-APHIS course work should be approved for CE credit. In a motion by Dr. Handel, seconded by Dr. Stott, the Board voted to allow USDA APHIS Accreditation Courses to count toward a veterinarian's annual CE

requirement for any veterinarian, as of January 1, 2018. Other federally offered courses will be considered for CE credit on a case by case basis. Dr. Callahan voted against the motion. All others approved.

**Sanitation Reports:** Inspectors Morgan and James reported on the inspections of veterinary hospitals that they have conducted since the October meeting. In a motion by Ms. Chaput, seconded by Dr. Stott, the Board voted unanimously to accept the reports.

**Discussion on PDMP Registration Process and CDS Permitting Process:** The Maryland Department of Health (MDH), Office of Controlled Substances Administration, will require prescribers to register with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program before they issue or renew a CDS permit providing MDH can do so in a timely manner, without causing delay in issuing the permits. MDH has asked various stakeholders, including the SBVME, to comment by December 30, 2017, on any issues with the PDMP or CDS permitting process. The issues of concern to be included in the Board's response will include the following:

- Information provided to veterinarians when PDMP registration was first announced was unclear to veterinarians, and many did not know whether they had to register or not. Some who have registered said they are still uncertain if they are to renew or "refresh" their registration every six months. Going forward, the Board wants to ensure that veterinarians are properly notified of any requirements or changes that pertain to them.
- The Board, including its members who are veterinarians, received complaints that the PDMP online registration process caused a lot of frustration and was not built to include veterinarians or veterinary medicine. The Board suggests that one of the first questions asked when registering should be, "Are you a veterinarian?" and then ensure the questions that follow pertain to veterinarians and not to human doctors.
- The CDS process is always lengthy and must be done on paper rather than online. The Board did not anticipate the PDMP registration process interfering with the CDS process.

**Re-Launch of the Veterinary Technician Committee:** The staff met with Dr. David McKeown, chair of the Veterinary Technician Committee, and developed a timeline and materials for soliciting new members for the committee. Those materials were presented to the Board for review. The staff will begin soliciting applications in the new year.

**Revised Veterinary License Application:** Ms. Orlando asked Board members to review the Veterinary License Application and be prepared to discuss any proposed edits during the January meeting.

#### **Legislation and Regulation Update**

- Minimum Standards for Animal Shelters. These regulations will move forward over the next few weeks.
- Veterinary Practice Act for 2019. Staff has discovered a number of inconsistencies in the act and would like to work on a bill for the 2019 legislative session that would address those inconsistencies. Board members expressed no objection.
- Animal Cruelty Regulations. Staff is continuing to draft these regulations, in cooperation with the department's principle counsel.

#### **Other Business:**

- 2018 Meeting Dates: Board meeting dates for 2018 have been scheduled for the fourth Thursday of every month.
- Board staff is working with MVMA staff to host a training session on January 16, 2018, to help veterinarians comply with the new Animal Cruelty Reporting Law.
- AAVSP has released a draft policy for telehealth/telemedicine and has asked for comments by February 28. The policy was presented and will be discussed during the January meeting.
- Board members discussed the possibility of requiring all licensees to take pharmacology courses or at least, require pharmacology courses for those hospitals and practitioners who have repeated problems with managing drugs. Board members agreed that they want to take the courses themselves before requiring them.

In a motion by Dr. Stott, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session pursuant to the applicable provisions of the General Provisions Article.

There was an administrative discussion of complaints, investigations and matters before the Board. Dr. Handel adjourned the joint closed meeting at 1:54 p.m.

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**Minutes of Team A Meeting**

**Team Members Present:** Board President David Handel, Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, and Ms. Lynn Chaput. **Staff in attendance:** Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Investigator Susan Husk, Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James, and Office Secretary Britney Branch. Dr. Handel called meeting to order at 1:57 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Handel, the minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved, as presented.

In a motion by Dr. Handel, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the team voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session pursuant to the applicable provisions of the General Provisions Article.

**Closed Meeting**

There was an administrative discussion of complaints, investigations and matters before the Board. In a motion by Dr. Handel, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the team unanimously voted to adjourn at 3:08 p.m.