

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
February 27, 2020
Maryland Department of Agriculture – 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis

Minutes - Joint OPEN Meeting

Board Members: Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, President; Dr. Heather Hendler, Vice President; Dr. Christine Calvert, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Dr. Karena Joung, Ms. Patricia Quimby, Dr. Peter Radue. Staff Present: Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Director Susie Husk, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James, Administrative Specialist Britney Branch.

Dr. Callahan called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes. In a motion by Ms. Chaput, seconded by Ms. Quimby, the minutes of the January 23, 2020 Joint Board Meetings were unanimously approved.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals. In a motion by Dr. Hendler, seconded by Dr. Calvert, the veterinary license applications from Drs. Breiteneicher, Chivvis, Compton, Holloway, Latimer, May, Rood, Scruggs, Shelton, and Swanson were approved.

In a motion by Dr. Joung, seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the veterinary license application for Dr. Rullan.

Sanitation Reports. Inspectors Morgan and James reported on sanitation inspections conducted since the January meeting. In a motion by Dr. Joung, seconded by Ms. Chaput, the Board voted unanimously to accept the sanitation reports as presented.

CE Request Reviews. Requests for CE approval that were submitted since the last minute were uploaded for review. The list was unusually long because of two requesters who submitted multiple requests.

In a motion by Dr. Calvert, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the Board voted unanimously to approve all CE request submitted.

Ms. Orlando noted that the Board accepts all RACE approved courses without additional approval. She asked if the Board wanted to accept all CE offerings by state and regional Veterinary Medical Associations as well.

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board agreed to accept all CEs offered by state and regional Veterinary Medical Associations without additional approval.

Legislative Session Update:

- *Reauthorization Legislation.* Ms Orlando reported that the hearing on HB 549 was held on February 19 and voted out of subcommittee. The hearing on SB 394 is scheduled for March 10.
- *Cease and Desist Legislation.* SB 189 passed the full Senate with amendments proposed by the department and was voted out of the subcommittee in the House. We do not expect any opposition to the bills.
- *Other Legislation.* The hearing on HB 445-Declawing Cats was also heard at the same time but has not yet been voted on. The board is not taking a position on this bill.

RVT Committee Chairman. Ms. Orlando noted that former Board President Dr. David Handel is interested and willing to chair the RVT Committee. In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Handel to lead the committee.

Virginia Tech Invitation to Present. Dr. Joung, Dr. Calvert and Ms. Chaput indicated they would be available to present at Virginia Tech on April 28. Ms. Orlando asked them to hold the date while she confirmed with the university.

Prescriptions Policy Clarification. A written clarification of the policy was provided for consideration. After some discussion and suggested edits to reinforce the fact that veterinarians are not responsible for the quality of the products that consumers purchase from a third-party provider, Dr. Callahan asked the staff to share it with the MVMA Board for their feedback before distributing.

External Veterinary Mentors. Ms. Spirt noted that disciplinary actions are more frequently requiring or suggesting that a veterinarian work with a practice mentor to help them in a particular area, such as record keeping or discharge instructions. The Board asked the staff to work with MVMA and local VMAs to develop a list of volunteer veterinarians who would be willing to act as mentors.

Veterinarian Questions

Euthanasia Services. A veterinarian interested in providing euthanasia services at a crematorium asked if he needed an additional license, such as a Limited Use license. The Board asked the staff to determine if he intended to store drugs and other items, such as sharps and syringes, at the facility, and whether the services would be performed regularly or intermittently.

Reactivating Clients. A veterinarian who was recently advised by the Board to inform clients when he was “firing” them as clients asked if he could charge a \$250 reactivation fee for returning clients. Board members gave no advice on the wisdom of charging such a fee but instead advised that clients must be informed of costs before they are incurred.

Announcements and Other Business

- The Maryland Healthcare Professionals Program will make a presentation to the Board during its May meeting.
- Companies that must be reported on Financial Disclosures are Bank of America, BB&T, Citibank, US Bank and Wells Fargo
- A new contractual investigator has been hired and will begin work April 1.
- The NAVLE is available for up to 3 board members to take. Dr. Callahan expressed interest in taking it if it could be done at home and not at a testing center.

Confidentiality of Records. Draft text for a newsletter was also presented for consideration. Edits were recommended.