

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

June 24, 2021

Held by Conference Call

Joint OPEN Meeting Minutes

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

Dr. Callahan called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes. In a motion by Dr. Reed, seconded by Dr. Joung, the minutes of the May 27, 2021 joint Board Meetings were approved

Veterinary License Applications Approvals.

In a motion by Dr. Calvert, seconded by Dr. Joung, the Board voted unanimously to approve veterinary license applications for Drs. Jeffrey Bowersox, Nicole Cilli, and Michael Braunstein

Sanitation Reports. Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James reported on inspections they have conducted since the last Board meeting. In a motion by Ms. Chaput, seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to accept the sanitation reports.

CE Approval Requests.

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board voted unanimously to approve CE requests #492, #493, #494, #495, #506, #515.

In a motion by Dr. Radue, seconded by Dr. Reed, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests submitted by Dr. Saporito for RVTs only but the CEs were too simplistic for veterinarian CEs.

Ms. Orlando also asked the Board if, in the future, they would agree to allow licensees to avoid uploading certificates of CE but to still require info about the CEs, as storage costs for the documents is increasing and uploading them is the major source of complaints among licensees. Board members agreed that it could move forward with that next year, but that they wanted to conduct a random audit for compliance so it had to be made clear that licensees would have to keep proof of completion.

Hospital Closure Checklist (Draft). Ms. Husk and Ms. Spirt presented the Board with a list of items that needed to be done by hospitals that were closing, whether the facility was closing voluntarily or the result of license surrender. A final list will be developed.

Question: Euthanasia. A veterinarian noted that the current regulation language is vague and asked what would happen if a pet sitter brought in a critically ill dog that needed to be euthanized and the owner could not be located. Although each case would be taken on its merits, generally speaking, the Board agreed that such a case should be documented as completely as possible so that all actions taken are clearly in the best interest of the animal.

Question: Cutting Prescription Pills. A veterinarian asked if it was “illegal” to cut pills for clients. Board members agreed that, in general, there was nothing wrong with it; however, certain drugs, especially those sensitive to light, should not be pre-cut because it impacts their effectiveness. If they are cut, it should be clear on the label that the pills have already been cut. The Board also asked the staff to check with the Pharmacy Board to find out if they had any such regulations.

Other Business

AAVSB Conference (Sept. 30- Oct. 2, 2021 – Denver, CO). Ms. Chaput agreed to represent the Board at the meeting. One other Board member could attend and should let Ms. Orlando know if they want to go.

In-Person Board Meetings. The Board has been meeting via Google Meets since March 2020. The Board will meet in person for the August 2021. The virtual meetings have been working well and will be continued on a monthly basis, with one in-person meetings held each quarter.

Lifting of State of Emergency. Governor Hogan announced the emergency would be lifted at the end of June. This means the Order Modifying Time Limit, which extended the amount of time a veterinarian could renew prescription without an exam from 12 to 18 months, will expire on July 31.

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Ms. Chaput, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session to perform administrative functions outside the scope of the Open Meetings Act, in accordance with § 3-103(a)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article. The administrative functions to be performed include discussion of the specific matters identified on the Board Agenda. In the alternative, I move to close the meeting pursuant to the following Section 3-305(b):

(7) To obtain advice of counsel;

(8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;

(12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;" and

(13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.