

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes for August 28th, 2025

Meet by Google Meets at 10:30 AM

Joint Meeting Minutes

Board Members: Dr. Christine Calvert, President; Ms. Patricia Quimby, Vice-President; Dr. Heidi Schmechel; Ms. Lynne Chaput; Dr. Peter Radue, Dr. James Reed, Dr. Justin Sobota.

Staff: Nathaniel Boan, Executive Director; Susan Husk, Assistant Director; Cindy Spirt, Assistant Attorney General; Tonya Kendrick-Green, Licensing Administrator; Pegeen Morgan, Inspector; Ellen James, Inspector; Sarah Hultz, Investigator.

Open Meeting

Dr. Calvert called the meeting to order at 10:42 am.

Approval of the Minutes of the July 24th, 2025 Board Meeting.

- In a motion by Dr. Sabota, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 24th, 2025 board meeting.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals:

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Sobota, the team voted unanimously to approve the following applications:

- Applications for Board Review:
 - Dr. Farag Salib
 - Discipline in TX for failing to maintain a Drug Log.
 - Provide information regarding Maryland CDS requirements and DEA logs.
- Veterinary Applications approved by designated authority:

○ M. Boutilier	○ S. Galvan
○ E. Mason	○ D. Lang
○ A. Sharma	○ O. Swiber
○ J. Tubbs	○ D. Haimovitz
○ M. Ascitutto	○ E. Heacock
○ S. Thi	○ K. Castevens
○ G. Simpson-Stover	○ M. Wheeler
○ L. Vasquez	○ S. Flores
○ C. Lewis	○ M. Boehland
○ B. Williams	○ K. Veach
○ M. Silbiger	○ R. Prasiola
○ K. McDanial	○ G. DeMers
○ C. Michael	○ S. Tidwell
○ L. Massey	○ C. Mclaughlin
- SCRA Applications:
 - Alyssa Balzer - OH VET.11256

- Veterinary Technicians Approved by designated authority:
 - C. Adams
 - M. Thompson
 - W. Berrios
 - N. Kennedy
 -
 - D. Hernandez
 - R. Guzman
 - J. Lee
 - E. Gonzalez

Sanitation Reports:

Inspector Ellen James presented the sanitation reports since May 20th, 2025; and Inspector Pegeen Morgan presented the sanitation reports since July 22nd, 2025.

In a motion by Dr. Maa, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the sanitation reports and get more information from Radiocat.

- Veterinary Imaging (DBA: Radiocat) -
 - They are not a limited use hospital.
 - The Board discussed the different requirements for hospitals depending on the type of facility (full service, limited use, and mobile hospitals) licenses.
 - There may be professional judgment issues if they were not prepared for an emergency.
 - The Board had the following inquiries for Radiocat:
 - Would like to see the consent to treat form in regards to overnight emergencies and patient monitoring.
 - Do the veterinarian's clear for discharge?

CE Approval Requests:

- In a motion by Dr. Sobota, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following CE requests with the noted specifications:

Organization	Title/Topic	Vet/ Techs	Date of CE	Credits	Type	Recurring	CDS
Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center (CVRC)	2025 CVRC Fall Conference for Veterinarians	Vet	10/5/2025	7	Clinical/ Scientific (Notes: 1 hour appears to be non-clinical)	No	No
U.S. Army Laboratory Animal Residency Program	U.S. Army Laboratory Animal Residency Program	Vet	7/1/2025 - 7/1/2026	60 (Should be 36, only good for 2 years worth)	Clinical / Scientific	No	No

Formal Disciplinary Action Finalized Since May 22nd, 2025:

- Docket No. 24-111: Karen Keating / Dr. Monica Kaiser, Bay Hills Animal Hospital
 - COMAR 15.14.01.10A *Record Keeping*

Miscellaneous:

- **SCRA Application Status:**
 - The Board reviewed the materials for the SCRA application process.
 - Certificates will show as SCRA-XXXX and the home state license number will be displayed with the name on the certificate.
 - Because they are not eligible if there is any discipline in another jurisdiction they can be approved and ratified through the designated authority process.

- **Inquiry About Exotic Animals at Emergency Hospitals - (Emergency Animal Hospital of Ellicott City, Dr. Taylor Frey)**
 - *We are an emergency hospital and about half our doctors see exotic pets but the others do not. If an owner brings in an exotic pet and we don't have an exotics doctor on we would like to offer that pet can be dropped off and placed in oxygen if needed or given a dose of pain medication if needed while it waits for the exotic doctor to come in. However, the concern is that if something happens to that pet that fault falls on the doctor on duty and their license would be at risk if the owner filed a complaint. If we had the owner sign paperwork that acknowledged that their pet would not be fully medically evaluated until an exotic doctor came in and there is a risk the patient could pass away while they waited would that release the doctor on duty of any liability?*
 - Would not rid of any liability.
 - If examined and given pain medication, a VCPR has been established and there would be some liability. Would need to monitor and address any changes to condition.
 - Should offer referrals for the owner to attempt to have the patient seen quicker.
 - Advertising, client communication and documentation would be important.
 - Board would consider all aspects of the case.

- **Inquiry from Dr. Walcoff about COMAR 15.14.01.10-1 requirement for written estimate of charges signed by client for "hospitalization." (Cindy)**
 - Dr. Walcoff asked some questions about the Board's interpretation of what it means to be "hospitalized" which raised some questions for me. COMAR d15.14.10.03B(7) defines hospitalization.
 - Is a patient considered "hospitalized" if the client remains on site while the patient is taken back for radiographs, or other testing? How do you interpret "confinement" for purposes of triggering the need to provide a written estimate of charges? What about drop off appointments?
 - Not always a hospitalization.
 - When owner leaves it is hospitalization, may be a no-charge hospitalization. You've accepted care of the patient and should provide an estimate.

- **Inquiry from Chris Smith**
 - *If a vet hospital has periods of time where there is only one unlicensed individual (vet assistant), is in the building overnight, is it legal to have them administer a continuous infusion rate of fentanyl via syringe pump? The fentanyl has been dispensed by a registered veterinary technician, however is left in the pump for the vet assistant to maintain.*
 - They would not be able to do this because this would give access to a controlled substance.

- May consider the use of a patch instead.
- **Inquiry Regarding Prescriptions for Patients examined at the same hospital - Dr. Michelle Silver**
 - Dr. Silver submitted an inquiry to determine if she could offer prescriptions while consulting with Veterinarians performing examinations at the hospital that she works at.
 - In the event of an emergency the examining veterinarian would be coordinating the emergency care. This is more of a consultation situation with colleagues in a hospital.
 - This would be ok and she is providing ongoing communication with the owners to manage care as a specialist.
- **Information regarding Veterinarians discussing Federally controlled substances with clients.**
 - We've been made aware that a legislator has reached out to the department because they are considering legislation to mirror a few other states that have allowed conversations about Cannabis/Hemp products with clients.
 - The Agency would not have a position for this bill at this time.
- **VIN - Drip Vet - Legal requirements of medical records.**
 - Cindy informed the Board that the Drip Vet course that is commonly used to meet Continuing Education requirements in Consent Agreements for cases that involve record keeping has been merged with another course and is now called "Efficient medical record keeping for veterinarians."

In a motion by Ms. Quimby, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Team voted unanimously 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.