

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes for February 26th, 2026

Met 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. Monica Maa, Dr. Justin Sobota.

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

Open Meeting

Dr. Calvert called the meeting to order at 10:44 am.

Approval of the Minutes:

In a motion by Ms. Quimby, and seconded by Ms. Chaput, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 22nd, 2026 Board meeting.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals:

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following application reviewed by the Board:

- **Dr. Aubrey Sullivan:**
 - Open unresolved complaint in Virginia.
 - Request Dr. Sullivan to provide an update once the complaint is resolved in Virginia.

License applications approved by designated authority will be added to the delayed March meeting on April 2nd, 2026 for approval.

Sanitation Reports:

- Inspector Pegeen Morgan presented the hospital sanitation report. Ellen's report was held due to technical difficulties with her devices.
- In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to approve Pegeen's report as presented.

CE Approval Requests:

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the below continuing education review requests:

Organization	Title/Topic	Vet/ Techs	Date of CE	Credits	Type	Recurring	CDS
American College of Toxicology	ACT Signature Webinar: Inside the Intrathecal Space and ICV Dosing: Practical Principles and Real-World Lessons in	Vets	2.25.2026	1.5	Clinical / Scientific	No	No

	Nonclinical Study Design						
Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center	Introduction to Canine and Feline Abdominal Ultrasound	Both	3.8.2026	1	Clinical / Scientific	No	No
Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center	Cardiac Biomarkers	Both	3.8.2026	1	Clinical / Scientific	No	No
Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center	Lumbosacral Stenosis - A Pain in the Rear	Both	3.8.2026	1	Clinical / Scientific	No	No
Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center	Mast Cell Tumors: Sentinel Lymph Node Mapping and Surgery	Both	3.8.2026	1	Clinical / Scientific	No	No
Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center	Radiation Therapy in the Treatment of Pituitary Tumors	Both	3.8.2026	1	Clinical / Scientific	No	No
Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center	Feline Eye Disease: Uveitis Focus	Both	3.8.2026	1	Clinical / Scientific	No	No
Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center	Common Dental Nerve Blocks for the Small Animal Practitioner	Both	3.8.2026	1	Clinical / Scientific	No	No
Veterinary Referral Associates	Uncontrolled Diabetes and Cushing's - Does Your Pet Have a Brain Tumor	Both	2.24.2026	1	Clinical / Scientific	No	No
Veterinary Referral Associates	Understanding Canine Lymphoma: A Practical Approach for Veterinary Technicians	Both	2.24.2026	1	Clinical / Scientific	No	No
Wildlife Center of Virginia	Call of the Wild Conference	Both	11.21.2025	12.5	Clinical / Scientific	No	No
MDVMA	Round Table with Maryland Secretary of Agriculture	Both	3.27.2026	1	Non-Clinical /	No	No

					Non-Scientific		
--	--	--	--	--	----------------	--	--

Miscellaneous:

- Status Updates on Legislation:
 - SB0054/HB0452: SBVME - Grounds for Disciplinary Action - Restrictions.
 - Appears to have passed in the House.
 - Hearing was 2.3.2026 in Senate. Unknown result.
 - SB0242/HB0420: Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act
 - Was reassigned in House.
 - Hearing was 2.12.2026 in Senate. Unknown result.
 - SB0418/HB1120: Foreign Service Licensing
 - Hearing 3.4.2026 in the house.
 - Hearing was 2.19.20206 in Senate. Unknown result.
 - SB0796/HB1124: Commercial Law - Consumer Protections - Health Care Financing
 - Hearing 3.12.2026 in Senate.
 - Hearing 3.10.2026 in House.
 - HB0557: Occupational Licensing and Certification - Criminal History - Predetermination Review Process
 - Third reading. Not yet crossed over.
 - HB0564: Pet Cremation and Burial Services
 - Passed House.
 - HB0912/SB0750: TNR Policies
 - Hearing was 2.25.2026 in House.
 - Hearing is 3.10.2026 in Senate.
 - HB1354: Vet Techs
 - Nathan to reach out to Dr. Weeman with MDVMA to request proposed amendments.
 - Hearing 3.6.2026
 - HB1551: Dog Breeding Regulation
 - Hearing 3.11.2026.
 - Agency is considering a response.

Inquiries:

- **Accepted Management Practices - Horse Breeding Facility**
 - The Board’s questions from January were emailed to the inquirer but we have not received a response.
 - I spoke with Dr. Callahan who had similar concerns that would depend on the types of tasks they seek to perform.
 - Has been allowed that a lay person could inseminate but should not be doing pregnancy checks or rectal exams (branches into diagnosing)
 - Shipping and preparing semen are done regularly by paraprofessionals.
 - Unsure if their inquiry includes Embryo Transfer.
- **Dr. Nicole Lukovsky-Akhsanov**
 - Inquiry about relief veterinary services particularly in relation to renewing prescriptions, VCPRs, and responsibility for following up on diagnostic results when no longer at the hospital.

- 15.14.01.12-1E addresses renewing a prescription for a patient at the same hospital.
- The Board would consider the entire timeline and any protocols in place at the hospital. Should provide documentation and inform hospital staff that diagnostics have been sent out and the expectation to follow-up. As always, the Board would consider the entire situation when resolving a case where this occurred.

Formal Disciplinary Actions Finalized Since 1/22/2026

- Docket No. 25-018C: Jacqueline Rutherford / Dr. Kimberly Gostyle, VetEvolve MD, LLC(Emergency Animal Hospital of Ellicott City)
 - Professional Judgment and Practice
- Docket No. 25-058: Mark Henderson / Dr. Leanne Lipton, Meridian Veterinary Services
 - Professional Judgment and Practice
- Docket No. 25-044C: Sandra Popp / Dr. Chelsea Aaron, Veterinary Emergency Group
 - Professional Judgment and Practice

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board 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, the meeting is closed 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.

Closed Meeting

Following a unanimous vote, at 11:41 am, the Joint Open Session of the SBVME was closed 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 meeting took via Google Meets, and the following were present:

Dr. Christine Calvert, President; Ms. Patricia Quimby, Vice-President; Ms. Lynne Chaput; Dr. Peter Radue, Dr. Monica Maa, Dr. Heidi Schmechel, Dr. Justin Sobota.

The following members were not present: None

In addition, the following staff and legal representatives were also present during the closed meeting:

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

During the administrative session, the SBVME discussed confidential disciplinary matters currently pending before the Board, as identified in the non-public agenda. No other topics were discussed.

The administrative session was adjourned at 1:01 p.m..