

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes for October 24th, 2024

Meet In Person at 10:30 AM

Board Members: Dr. Christine Calvert, President; Ms. Patricia Quimby, Vice-President; 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;-Britney Branch, Office Administrator; Ellen James, Inspector; Sarah Hultz, Investigator.

Guests: Dr. Jennifer Trout, MDA State Veterinarian; Rachel Jones, MDA Director of Government Relations; Yanira Mapp, DVM

Open Meeting Minutes

Dr. Calvert called the meeting Order at 10:43.

Approval of the Minutes of the September 19th, 2024 Board Meeting.

In a motion by Ms. Quimby, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 19th, 2024.

Introduction of Dr. Jennifer Trout, State Veterinarian

State Fair Continuing Education - Results and Options going forward

Harrison Palmer and Dr. Trout discussed the success of the CE program offered for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians for training and practice for identifying and checking in animals at the State Fair. They would like to consider expanding to allow for similar opportunities statewide at county fairs. For 2025 they would like to offer the training in conjunction with the USDA accreditation class.

The Board was favorable but expressed concern over the number of CEs that could be used for this purpose and that the implementation already used up all of the participants' non-clinical hours that are allowable.

Discussion about the legislative process and our role as an agency. - Rachel Jones

Rachel Jones attended the meeting to provide an overview of the legislative period from January - April. This is a very fast paced time frame with very short deadlines for testimony reviews. The Board and agency are an extension of the administration and oftentimes need to have the messaging reviewed. It is suggested that the Board have more rapidly scheduled meetings during the legislative session to address and formulate responses to legislative impact and testimony.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals:

In a motion by Dr. Calvert, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following license:

Veterinary License Applications for Board Review:

- Dr. Alan Raeburn - had disciplinary action in Virginia regarding a surgical error with anesthesia.

In a motion by Dr. Sabota, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following applications of Veterinarians Licenses approved by Designated authority.

Veterinary Licenses Approved by Designated Authority:

- R. Annam
- A. Resnick
- S. Kaneko
- C. Dwivedi
- C. Conner
- M. Berger
- J. Polk
- S. Morse
-
- D. Hickman
- K. Giannantionio
- T. Wilder-Kofie
- A. McGuire
- L. Vasquez
- E. Brydon
- S. Venturmilli
- R. Nettey-Noi

In a motion by Dr. Reed, and seconded by Dr. Sobota, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following applications of Veterinarians Licenses approved by Designated authority.

Veterinary Technician Licenses Approved by Designated Authority:

- N. Tunstall
- C. Winter
- E. Riggan
- K. Ashley
- M. Layton
- T. Bricker
- A. Fuentes
- S. Benefiel
- D. Cacace
- W. Young
-
- I. Peters
- M. Newman-Marshall
- A. Doherty
- O. Meade
- A. Womer
- S. Rios
- S. Lott
- M. Blake
- J. Mills
- L. Chandler

Sanitation Reports:

Inspector Ellen James presented her hospital inspection report.

In a motion by Reed, and seconded by Dr. Sabota, the Board voted unanimously to approve sanitation report from Ellen and hold the report from Peggy until the December meeting.

CE Approval Requests:

In a motion by Dr. Sabota, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following CE requests:

Organization	Title/Topic	Vet/ Techs	Date of CE	Credits	Type	Recurring	CDS
Allentown	Bridging Generations: The Synergy of Science and Care in Animal Research	Both	9/25/2024	1	Clinical / Scientific	No	No

Final Orders since September 19th, 2024

- Docket No. 24-96: SBVME / Dr. Desi Kelleher Freeman, Desi Kelleher Freeman, DVM, LLC (Feather Scales and Tails Veterinary Hospital)
 - 15.14.01.12-3C Expired Medications (Civil Penalty \$2,000)
- Docket No. 24-13: Shelby Kirby / Dr. Bradley Price, Friendly Paws Vet Clinic (Atty: Damiano)
 - 15.14.01.07 Professional Judgment and Practice (Civil Penalty \$600)
- Docket No. 24-21: Olivia Mulhern / Dr. Elias Woodoff-Leith, PET+ER - Hunt Valley (Atty: Damiano)
 - 15.14.01.07 Professional Judgment and Practice (Civil Penalty \$1000)

Miscellaneous:

- **NAVLE Retake Appeal: Dr. Yanira Mapp**
 - Dr. Mapp attended the meeting and spoke with the Board regarding the desire to retake the NAVLE.
 - In a motion by Dr. Radue, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board voted to approve retake of the NAVLE for Dr. Yanira Mapp.
- **NAVLE Appeal: Dr. Kenneth Burris (ICVA Appeal Form not submitted)**
 - Dr. Burris was advised to submit an ICVA Appeal for the Board to consider a retake of the NAVLE Exam. Dr. Burris instead submitted an appeal to the Board requesting they accept one of his past test scores that was “within a standard deviation” of a passing score or allow for additional Continuing Education to be licensed.
 - Does not meet Maryland requirements and the Board will not accept the scores based on the regulation’s requirements. There are no substitutions.
 - The Board will consider a request for an appeal to retake the exam. (COMAR 15.14.09.07 - *Taking Exam After Failure*)
- **Information regarding GS-441524**
 - The Board is considering providing information regarding the FDA guidance. Nathan to draft a correspondence for the Board to consider.
 - Information about what the FDA says.
 - Not approved for Office Stock
 - Importance of Informed Consent
- **Vet Tech Euthanasia in Emergency Hospitals vs. Under Emergency Presentation - Solomons Veterinary Medical Center**
 - This is something for the Board to consider during regulation drafting for changes in HB1097.
 - Possibly to be added to allowable tasks or under the existing emergency presentation regulations.
- **CE Audit FY25**

- All Veterinary and Veterinary Technician renewals were exported into an excel file. Excel was used to generate a random number for each renewal application. Applications were sorted by the random number generated and the lowest 45 veterinarians and 5 veterinary technicians were selected.
 - The Board reviewed and approved the letter requesting CE certificates to be sent to the Board.
- **Request from MDVMA - Would the Board be willing/interested in having a Q&A Session with MDVMA members regarding HB1097/CH487?**
 - Collaboration with them would be good.
 - The Board would be willing to do this. They could only be for about an hour. If they want to submit some questions ahead of time. Will work to coordinate a time that works for both groups.
 - Would also be interested in having meetings to discuss common problems such as anesthesia logs and possibly offer CEs for them.
 - Common problems, anesthesia logs. Encourage them to be involved.
 - Separate meeting for common issues. Offer CEs Virtual or in person.
- **Questions from Dr. Carrie Muller - Hoffman Animal Hospital**
 - Under the board's guidance, Veterinary Assistants can administer and fill medications under direct supervision.
 - If a veterinarian has already written a refill order, can a veterinary assistant fill that prescription without the veterinarian in the building?
 - **Answer:** You would need to use your best judgment regarding the staff's training; mistakes with the medication would fall on the responsible veterinarian at a hospital. Existing regulation states "Nonprofessional staff may dispense prescription drugs only after specific instructions have been provided by a staff veterinarian" See COMAR 15.14.01.12-2E.
 - For animals boarding over the weekend when a veterinarian is not present, are kennel staff allowed to administer pre-filled prescriptions?
 - **Answer:** Yes, for boarded (NOT hospitalized patients) staff are acting in place of an owner.
 - For boarding animals, what are the guidelines for controlled substances? Can kennel tech have access to pre-filled prescriptions held under lock and key?
 - **Answer:** Yes, for boarded (NOT hospitalized patients) staff are acting in place of an owner.
 - I understand that Controlled Substances must be handled by a Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician. If a Practice Manager is not a veterinary technician, are they still authorized to receive and stock controlled substances?
 - **Answer:** Yes they could, the Veterinarian with the DEA license would be the one at risk and should ensure that checks are done to prevent diversion.
 - If an animal is being hospitalized after hours and requires medication to be administered, are veterinary assistants authorized to administer medication if the veterinarian has pre-written orders and is available via phone for consultation?
 - **Answer:** At this time, this would be the discretion of the veterinarian to assess the training of the assistant and the condition of the patient. There

need to be specific prewritten orders, that do not require any judgment or dosage adjustments. The client should be made aware that there is not a Veterinarian in the building overnight.

- **Question from Dr. Ana Hodgson - Maryland SPCA**
 - Can veterinary assistants administer pre-medications (such as administration of sedatives, tranquilizers and analgesics before anesthetic induction) in our public spay /neuter clinic with immediate supervision in accordance with written SOP'S/training?
 - **Answer:** Under immediate supervision, this would be acting as an arm of the veterinarian.

- **Question from Chrissy Giovannielli - Ethos Vet**
 - The bill identifies tasks that only registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) can perform, for example anesthesia induction. I would like clarification on what is allowed for students currently enrolled in an AVMA accredited veterinary technology/nursing program who are required to perform skills that are protected for only RVTs. In many states, the bills will outline what currently enrolled students are allowed to do and under what level of supervision. Could someone provide me with information on what is allowed for students?
 - **Answer:** No, there is no allowance for this. They could do what an assistant can do including things under immediate supervision. The tasks that are done as part of the skills assessment requirement should be done under immediate supervision.

- **Veterinary Technician Appointments**
 - In a motion by Ms. Quimby, and seconded by Dr. Reed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the memo recommending the appointment of the 3 members interviewed for the position.
 - A memo will be sent to the Secretary Kevin Atticks for final approval of the members appointed by the Board.

2024-2025 Meeting Schedule

- December 5th, 2024 - Virtual
- January 30th, 2025 - Virtual (moved from the standard 4th Thursday due to scheduling conflict).
- February 27th, 2025 - Virtual
- March 27th, 2025 - In Person
- April 24th, 2025 - Virtual.
- May 22nd, 2025 - In Person
- June 26th, 2025 - Virtual Limited meeting if needed for license reviews.
- July 24th, 2025 - In Person (Request For Team B Early)
- August 28th, 2025 - Virtual
- September 25th, 2025 - Virtual (subject to change depending on AAVSB annual meeting)
- October 23rd, 2025 - In Person
- December 4th, 2025 - Virtual.

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:06pm.

In a motion by Dr. Calvert, 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 Minutes. 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.