

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
October 26, 2017

Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

Minutes of Team A Meeting

Team Members Present: Board President David Handel and Dr. Elizabeth Callahan. **Team Member Absent:** Ms. Lynn Chaput. **Staff in attendance:** Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Investigator Susan Husk, and Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James.

Dr. Handel called meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes: In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Handel, the minutes of the September 28, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved, with one correction.

In a motion by Dr. Handel, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the team voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session pursuant to the applicable provisions of the General Provisions Article.

Closed Meeting

There was an administrative discussion of complaints, investigations and matters before the Board.

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Handel, the team voted to adjourn at 10:07 a.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of the
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Joint Open Meeting

Board Members Present: Board President David Handel, Board Vice President Dr. Heather Hendler, Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, Dr. Perry Crowl, Dr. John Stott, and Ms. Victoria Wright-Conner. **Board member absent:** Ms. Lynne Chaput. **Staff in attendance:** Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Investigator Susan Husk, and Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James.

Dr. Handel called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes: In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Handel, the minutes of the September 28, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved, with one correction.

Veterinary License Application Approvals

In a motion by Dr. Crowl, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the Board voted to approve veterinary licenses for Dr. Fitzhugh, Dr. Higbie, Dr. Hart, Dr. Mikeska, and Dr. Tjepkema.

Sanitation Reports

Dr. Handel noted that the Virginia Board sends inspectors back to veterinary practices at the veterinarian's expense to ensure that regulatory concerns have been addressed. He suggested that this Board consider imposing such a sanction in serious cases in the future.

Inspectors Morgan and James reported on the inspections of veterinary hospitals that they have conducted since the September meeting. In a motion by Dr. Crowl, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the Board voted unanimously to accept the reports.

Report on Presentation to Western Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (WMVMA)

Inspector Ellen James met with the WMVMA to discuss the Board's focus on CDS logs and new legislation involving animal cruelty. She reported that the WMVMA was pleased the Board was providing educational opportunities about how to recognize cruelty. During her presentation, Ms. James reviewed the requirements of a CDS log – how to label drugs, inventory, and common problems. She noted that the veterinarians were amenable to complying with the CDS regulations and were aware that good CDS logs would protect their licenses.

Opioid Legislation Recommendations

The Board discussed information provided to the Maryland Department of Health with an update on how the Board has increased enforcement around laws and regulations related to opioid management.

Report on MVMA Meeting

Dr. Handel and Ms. Orlando recently attended a MVMA Board meeting. MVMA is interested in hosting an educational day for veterinarians focused on opioid abuse and animal cruelty. Board staff will work with MVMA to help organize the educational portion.

New Hospital Application Template

With more companies and corporations buying veterinary practices, the Board's application for new hospitals or hospitals changing ownership needed to be updated to capture the information required. Ms. Orlando shared an updated application and asked for Board input. The only change to the template presented would be to add a yes-or-no question on whether the practice uses relief veterinarians.

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Hendler, the Board voted unanimously to begin using the new application as soon as it could be formatted and printed properly.

Proposal for Online Services

Ms. Orlando noted that the licensing application process for veterinarians, veterinary technicians and veterinary hospitals is out of date. She is working on a proposal to put more services online while simultaneously creating a new database. She stated that the current database is very old and does not meet current needs. Board members had no objections to moving forward with a proposal.

Update on Legislation and Regulations

HB 626 Animal Shelters - Standards of Care and Protocol Implementation and Enforcement. During the last Board meeting, the Board asked for more information about how shelters use drop boxes. Inspector James talked with those shelters and suggested changes to the proposed regulations, which were included in the draft presented.

HB 1463 Animal Cruelty and Animal Fighting Reporting. Ms. Spirt is working on finalizing these regulations. Ms. Spirt noted that the penalty for a veterinarian failing to report has not yet been determined.

The Board adjourned the meeting for lunch at 11:54 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 12:22 p.m. All present members remained in attendance.

Dr. Callahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wright-Conner, to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session pursuant to the applicable provisions of the General Provisions Article. The motion passed unanimously.

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Joint Closed Meeting

Board Members Present: Board President David Handel, Board Vice President Dr. Heather Hendler, Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, Dr. Perry Crowl, Dr. John Stott, and Ms. Victoria Wright-Conner. **Board member absent:** Ms. Lynne Chaput. **Staff in attendance:** Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Investigator Susan Husk, and Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James.

Board Members Present: Board President David Handel, Vice President Dr. Heather Hendler, Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, Dr. Perry Crowl, Dr. John Stott, and Ms. Victoria Wright-Conner. **Board Member Absent:** Ms. Lynne Chaput. **Staff in attendance:** Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Investigator Susan Husk, and Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James.

The Joint Closed Meeting began at 12:22 p.m. There was an administrative discussion of complaints, investigations and matters before the Board.

In a motion by Dr. Crowl, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the Board voted to adjourn its administrative meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

AGENDA

October 26, 2017

Maryland Department of Agriculture – 50 Harry S Truman Parkway – Annapolis, Md

MEETING OF TEAM B

Team Members: Dr. Heather Hendler, Dr. Perry Crowl, Dr. John Stott, and Ms. Victoria Wright-Conner. **Staff in attendance:** Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Investigator Susan Husk, and Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James.

Dr. Hendler called the meeting to order at 1:57 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: In a motion by Dr. Stott, seconded by Dr. Crowl, the minutes of the September 28, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved, with a correction to the last paragraph (page 8) noting that a second was made by Dr. Callahan and not Dr. Stott.

In a motion by Dr. Stott, seconded by Dr. Crowl, the team voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session pursuant to the applicable provisions of the General Provisions Article.

Closed Session

There was an administrative discussion of complaints, investigations and pending matters before the Board.

In a motion by Dr. Hendler, seconded by Dr. Crowl, the team adjourned at 2:34 p.m.