

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes for October 26th, 2023

Meet In Person at the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 10:30 AM

Joint Meeting Minutes

Board Members: Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, President; Dr. Christine Calvert, Vice President; Dr. Heidi Schmechel, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Ms. Patricia Quimby, Dr. Peter Radue and Dr. James Reed.

Open Meeting Minutes

Call Meeting to Order:

Dr. Callahan called the meeting to order at 10:43a.m..

Approval of the Minutes of the September 21st, 2023 Board Meeting.

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Reed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 21st, 2023 meeting.

Presentation by Dr. Beth Venit; AAVSB

Dr. Beth Venit from AAVSB provided a presentation of a survey done nationwide regarding Veterinary Technician duties.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals:

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board voted to approve the following license applications:

- Veterinarians reviewed by Board (1):
 - Dr. Thomas Mitchel

- Veterinarians approved by designated authority (17):
 - Dr. A. Nguyen
 - Dr. M. Hollingshead
 - Dr. S. Delmotte
 - Dr. A. Rusk
 - Dr. W. Griffin
 - Dr. S. Thompson
 - Dr. N. Farber
 - Dr. A. Retallack
 - Dr. K. Ng
 - Dr. G. McCorkle
 - Dr. B. Alnwick
 - Dr. A. Doran
 - Dr. L. Gordon
 - Dr. E. Friedrich
 - Dr. D. Fry
 - Dr. P. Hun

- Veterinary Technicians approved by designated authority (8):

- M. Valkner
- A. Thornton
- E. Akers
- R. Schindler
- P. Grainger
- E. Cantlin
- G. Bowers
- N. Schmidt

License Verification Requests Processed:

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
Veterinarian	18	24	24	28*									92
RVT	3	3	1	1*									8

*Incomplete month.

Sanitation Reports:

Inspectors Ellen James and Pegeen Morgan provided a summary of the hospital inspections performed between September 19th and October 24th, 2023.

In a motion by Dr. Calvert, and seconded by Dr. Reed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the sanitation reports.

CE Approval Requests:

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following CE requests for use:

Request #	Requester	CE Title	Sponsoring Organization	# of CE's	Clinical / Non-Clinical	CDS Request	Approval	CDS Approval
730	Daniel Petkov	Anatomy, Physiology, & Pathology	CSL Seqirus	1	Clinical	No	Yes	N/A

		of the Auditory System						
731	Jay McDonnell	2023 CVRC Fall Conference	Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center	7	Clinical	No	Yes	N/A
	Michael Odian	African Swine Fever Tabletop Exercise	Maryland Department of Agriculture: Animal Health	8	Clinical	No	Yes	N/A
734	Stephanie Murphy	Keeping Up with Rodent Pathogen Prevalence Trends and Strategies	Charles River	1	Clinical	No	Yes	N/A

Final Orders since September 21st, 2023 meeting.

- Docket No. 22-75 : Heather Osbourne / Dr. Michelle Danna, Elkridge Animal Hospital (Attys: Krum & Damiano & Macleay)
 - Charges for Professional Conduct

Miscellaneous:

- **Chapter 12 Regulation Changes - Fees**
 - The Board reviewed a proposed change to chapter 12 updating the fee structure.
 - The fees are intended to make up for the deficit created by the mandatory fee reduction from 2016 and make the Veterinary Board self-sufficient for the next 7-10 years.
 - In a motion by Dr. Callahan, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the board voted to accept the proposed changes to fees.
- **VIP Pet Care / Pet IQ - 1 Year review.**
 - The Board reviewed the status of the pilot program that allows for one Responsible Veterinarian to be assigned to multiple limited use hospitals that are only used periodically for clinics. The pilot program was done as a way to improve access to care.

- Nathaniel Boan will begin drafting updates to the regulations to make this an acceptable practice.
- **Online Look-up Primary Sources**
 - Some jurisdictions have online license verification databases that are updated in real time and are primary sources.
 - In a motion by Dr. Callahan, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the use of online lookups for states whose online portal is a primary source and meets the specific criteria needed for verifying a license. This replaces the need to provide a letter of good standing from those jurisdictions during the licensing process.
- **Chapt. 588 - HB325/SB290 Report**
 - The Board reviewed and approved the draft report to be submitted as required by Chapt. 588. The report is currently waiting for cost estimates for portal upgrades from EY/DoIT which will be added before submission if received.
- **Nathaniel Boan - AAVSB Annual Meeting Information**
 - Nathan provided a general overview of the information provided at the AAVSB annual meeting.
- **Information from Other States Regarding Veterinary Technicians (Cindy)**
 - Cindy provided information from other jurisdictions regarding allowable duties of Veterinary Technicians and licensing requirements.
- **Invitation sent to HSUS and Maryland Votes for Animals**
 - Would like to join the December Meeting.
- **Benson Animal Hospital - Licensing Inquiry**
 - Hospital currently owned by father's estate. Son is the responsible veterinarian. Should they apply for a license now or when the estate finalizes?
 - The Board determined that they are able to continue practicing and get the hospital licensed once the estate is finalized.
- **Dr. Christine Barrett - Baltimore Humane Society**
 - Has a client consent form that has costs for other added procedures but not the Spay/Neuter (vaccines, snap tests, etc). They prepay for the services and the service costs are posted on their website. Is that sufficient for providing information to the client about pricing or does it need to be on a separate form?
 - The Board determined that posting on the website and prepaying is sufficient to be considered consent for approving costs for items like these, however it would be best to document on the consent form as well.

- **Natasha Mankins, Co-Pharmacist in Charge - NexGen Animal Health**
 - Inquiry regarding regulations and/or information for the state of Maryland regarding veterinarians prescribing non-controlled compounded medications for livestock owned by the prescribing veterinarian. Is this allowed and in accordance with state regulations, or do we need to obtain a different veterinarian to satisfy the VCPR requirements?
 - Generally, prescribing to one's own animals is not prohibited by Maryland regulations. However, compounded medications can not be prescribed to farm animals regardless of ownership because of FDA regulations. Refer to FDA GFI256.

- **Stevenson Village Veterinary Hospital Inquiry:**
 - The Board reviewed an inquiry regarding Veterinary Technician appointments.
 - The Board responded that a Registered Veterinary Technician or Veterinary Assistant could perform a basic examination (including TPR, weight, and any other visible concerns) and alert the Veterinarian on duty for any abnormal findings prior to performing any follow-up care (vaccinations/injections previously approved by Veterinarian through an established VCPR). Depending on the situation the responsibility if anything were to go wrong may fall on the Responsible Veterinarian for the hospital, the Veterinarian on staff the day of the “technician appointment” and (if relevant) the Registered Veterinary Technician performing the exam. At a minimum the Veterinarian should have seen the patient within the last 12 months, however, depending on the medications being administered and the general condition of the patient, the Veterinarian should use their best discretion to determine an appropriate examination schedule to be seen by a Veterinarian.

- **Thomas Ingle, Montgomery County Animal Services**
 - In a motion by Ms. Quimby, and seconded by Dr. Callahan the Board approved the use of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Euthanasia Training for Animal Control Facility License requirements.

- **Dr. Lindsey Kingley - Inquiry regarding Non-CDS storage for mobile clinic**
 - The Board reviewed an inquiry regarding the storage of non-controlled medications at a non-credentials veterinary assistants home and sedating patients due to behavioral reasons in home to be able to perform an exam.
 - The Board determined that the storage of medications at an unlicensed location with an unlicensed individual would not be appropriate. The responsibility for maintaining these medications is with the veterinarian.
 - The Board also determined that sedatives for behavioral reasons prior to an exam would be acceptable to perform an exam and/or radiographs as long as the reason for anesthetizing prior to the examination was documented.

- **Dr. Ali Amini - Inquiry Regarding ECFVG sufficient for transcripts**

- The Board reviewed a request to allow for the ECFVG verification of transcripts for qualification to take the test to be considered as proof of qualifications due to difficulty getting educational records from Iran.
 - The Board determined that, under the circumstances, they may apply with their ECFVG as verification.
- **Susan Husk - Inquiry regarding investigations**
 - Assistant Director Susan Husk requested a review of the documentation requests for investigations. Currently all parties are asked to submit the medical records that is resulting in many duplicate records and increases investigation processing times.
 - The Board approved investigators to only ask for records from primary sources unless there is specific reason to warrant requesting records be submitted from secondary sources (depending on the investigation). The Board also approved adding language to the request to ask for surgical and anesthesia logs specifically and putting a deadline of approximately 15 days for record submissions.

In a motion by Dr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Callahan 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.