

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, July 9, 2020**

At 8:14 a.m., Vice President, Robin Lazaro, RVT called to order the regular meeting of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom. Present also were the following Board members: Drs. Kent Dean, Doug Meckes, Kim Gemeinhardt, Ronald Komich, and Azure Holland; and Mrs. Krissie Newman. Also present were Board Attorney, George Hearn; Executive Director, Dr. Tod J. Schadler; and Student Liaison Priya Allen. Dr. Susan Bull joined the meeting later.

Mrs. Lazaro reviewed with the Board the Governor's and the North Carolina Ethics Commission's statement on recognizing and avoiding conflicts of interest. She also reviewed G.S. § 90-179 of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.

The following guests were in attendance: Natalie Young, PharmD, Director of Realo; Maureen Susi, RVT, President of North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians (NCAVT); Jeannie Losey, RVT; Gail Thomssen with Humane Society of the United States; Heather Hopkinson, RVT; Laura Ruterbories, RVT; Fox 8 News; John McHugh; Jon Carr, NCVMA Attorney; Dante Martin, DVM, President Elect NCVMA; Brenda

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Stevens, DVM, Past President NCVMA; Claire Holley, Executive Director, NCVMA; Steven Marks, BVSc, Associate Dean, NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine; David Marshall, DVM; Joseph Wright, DVM; Dr. Joseph Jordan, CEO, NC Physician's Health Program (NCPHP).

The May 7, 2020 Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Dr. Komich, seconded by Dr. Holland, moved to approve the May 7, 2020 Board meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Reports:

President's Report:

Mrs. Lazaro reported for Dr. Bull that the NCVMB Executive Committee has met with administrators at NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine (NCSU-CVM) to discuss issues relating to the title, "Veterinary Technicians", which may only be used by persons who are registered with the Board.

North Carolina Physician's Health Program (NCPHP) Report:

Dr. Joseph Jordan gave an update, explaining that there are now eight veterinarians under contract.

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State Veterinarian's Report:

Dr. Meckes, State Veterinarian, reported that the new laboratory is still on schedule to open October 6, 2020. He commended the laboratory staff for their dedication and continued testing during the Covid 19 outbreak.

African Swine Fever continues to spread, but it poses no threat to humans at this time.

Dr. Brenda Stevens asked about the poultry and swine industry. Dr. Meckes said that the poultry industry is doing well, but the swine industry is struggling.

Dr. Gemeinhardt asked about the meat processing plants for beef. Dr. Meckes replied that the schedules of the beef processing plants are extremely backed up all over the country.

Chief Inspector's Report:

Dr. David Marshall, Chief Inspector, reported that inspections resumed on May 20, 2020. The inspections are now scheduled prior to the inspections being conducted. Dr. Marshall and Dr. Jeffer inspected 69 facilities; Dr. Peer inspected 18 facilities; Dr. Wright inspected 49 facilities. Four serious violations letters were issued during this time. The pre-scheduling of inspections will continue through August.

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The Board is still working on the process to enable the inspectors to take credit card payments in the field.

Dr. Wright will be assuming the duties of Chief Inspector. Dr. Marshall will be on-call as needed. Dr. Wright thanked Dr. Marshall for elevating the inspection process and for his contribution to the NCVMB.

Legislative Committee:

Still working on Facility Permit / Telehealth to have more precise language in both rules.

The committee appointed by Dr. Bull to study possible amendments to G.S. § 90-187.10(6) gave its report. Following discussion, upon motion by Dr. Komich, seconded by Dr. Dean, the Board unanimously voted to propose that the exemption in G.S. § 90-187.10(6) be amended to add the words, “in food and fiber animals”, so that the subsection would read, “Any person from providing for or assisting in the practice of artificial insemination in food and fiber animals.”

Registered Veterinary Technician Committee:

Robin Lazaro, RVT, explained that the Committee is addressing the scope of practice first and will report at the next Board meeting.

The Committee is also working on including RVTs to Board Rule .0309, Petition for Inactive Status, by adding “registrant” to the language.

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There was discussion on the term of “revocation” in the North Carolina Practice Act. Dr. Bull tasked the Legislative committee of Dr. Gemeinhardt, Dr. Komich, Dr. Dean, Dr. Schadler, and Janice Schoew, office manager, to work on proposed language to replace “revocation”.

Attorney’s Report:

Mr. Hearn reported on the number of closing letters sent out since the last Board meeting.

Student Liaison:

Priya Allen gave an update on the virtual learning at NCSU-CVM. All is going well.

Dr. Joseph Jordan from NCPHP asked Ms. Allen to be the student representative for the NCPHP Board. Ms. Allen accepted this position.

Executive Director’s Report:

Dr. Schadler presented an update on licensing activities and a finance report.

A Zoom meeting is scheduled with the Chiropractic Board and our Executive Committee on Thursday, July 16, 2020.

The yearly audit will begin the end of July 2020.

AAVSB nominations will be held off until next year.

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At 9:25 a.m. the Board took a break and reconvened at 9:35 a.m.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 1

- a. 2020003-1 – James O. Arnold, DVM (Harmony Heights Animal Hospital) – Ms. Linda Talley – Letter of Reprimand, \$1,000 Civil monetary penalty
- b. 2020007-1 – Sharon Louise Anthony, DVM (All Paws Pet Emergency Hospital) – Ms. Jessica Shoffner – Letter of Caution
- c. 2020013-1 – Joseph Clark Sawdy, DVM (Veterinary Referral Hospital of Hickory) – Ms. Cindy Lei Martin – No Probable Cause, Dismissed
- d. 2020015-1 – James Scott Watson, DVM (Pinetree Animal Hospital) – Mr. Thomas DeChiara & Ms. Anna Jones – No Probable Cause, Dismissed
- e. 2020017-1 – Sarah Anne Gerard, DVM (Center Veterinary Hospital) – Dr. Harry Culp – Letter of Reprimand
- f. 2020019-1 – James R. Rabon, DVM (Brunswick Animal Hospital) – Ms. Desiree Prugh – No Probable Cause, Dismissed
- g. 2020021-1 – Sarah Nicole Little, DVM (Premier Equine Mobile Veterinary Services) – Ms. Christine Tashjian - No Probable Cause, Dismissed
- h. 2020025-1 – Janine Marie Oliver, DVM (Benessere Animal Hospital) – Ms. Shannon Bowen – Continued

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- i. 2020030-1 - Janine Marie Oliver, DVM (Benessere Animal Hospital) – Ms. Crystal Bennett - Continued

A motion was made by Mrs. Lazaro to assess a civil monetary penalty of \$1,000, complaint 2020003-1, against Dr. James Arnold pursuant to the factors in G.S. § 90-187.8(1)[harm to the animal] and (2)[the gravity of the violation]. Dr. Holland seconded this motion and it was approved unanimously.

Dr. Komich made a motion, seconded by Dr. Holland, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 1. The report of Committee 1 was approved unanimously.

At 11:10 a.m. the Board took a break and reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 9

- a. 2020018-9 – Amelia Gayle Hubbard, DVM (Stokesdale Veterinary Hospital) – Ms. Birgit Hall – Letter of Reprimand / Letter of Caution
- b. 2020008-9 – Bridgett Celest Mitchell, DVM (Four Paws Veterinary Hospital) – Ms. Madelaine Ann Smith – Letter of Caution
- c. 2020016-9 – Karin Maria Margareta Gardner, DVM (Wake Veterinary Hospital & Urgent Care) – Ms. Maxine Hayle – Letter of Reprimand

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- d. 2020010-9 – Lauren Virginia Powers, DVM (CVS-Huntersville) – Ms. Tara L. Hunt – No Probable Cause, Dismissed
- e. 2020014-9 – Antiyonne Natrice Hauser, DVM (Humane Society of the Piedmont Spay, Neuter & Wellness Clinic) – Ms. Melissa Barnes – No Probable Cause, Dismissed
- f. 2020024-9 – Daniel Marshall Jones, DVM (Lenoir Veterinary Hospital) – Ms. Norma Jo Sumlin - No Probable Cause, Dismissed

Dr. Dean made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gemeinhardt, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 9. The report from Committee 9 was approved. Mrs. Newman recused herself from both the discussion and vote on complaint 2020010-9.

Mrs. Newman, seconded by Dr. Gemeinhardt, made a motion to approve the meeting's expenses. It was approved unanimously.

The Board having no further business, a motion to adjourn made by Dr. Holland, seconded by Dr. Dean, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tod J. Schadler, DVM
Executive Director