

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, July 10, 2025**

At 8:01 a.m., President Azure Holland, DVM, called to order the regular meeting of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board. This meeting was held at the Board office and virtually through Zoom. Board members present in person were Azure Holland, DVM; Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM; Robin Lazaro, RVT; Michael Martin, DVM; Ronald Komich, DVM; and Edward Faulkner, DVM. Also present in person were Keith West, Executive Director; Melissa Bowman, Deputy Director; Matthew Skidmore, Board Attorney; Joseph P. Jordan, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, North Carolina Physician's Health Program (NCPHP); Jennifer Kendrick, Executive Director, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA); and Bec Mitchell, NCVMB primary student liaison. Board members not present were Allen Cannedy, DVM and Tim Gold.

The following guests were also in attendance via Zoom: Karyn Smith, DVM, President (NCVMA); Nicky McNeely, RVT, Vice President, North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians (NCAVT); Paige Harrington, DVM, President- Elect (NCVMA); William Hoke, Jon Carr, Attorney and Lobbyist (NCVMA); Kim Lewis, President, RVT (NCAVT); Jacqueline Calo, Scott, Jennifer Shults, DVM, Legislative Chair (NCVMA); and David Cowan.

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President Azure Holland, DVM reviewed for the Board the Governor's and the North Carolina Ethics Commission's statements on recognizing and avoiding conflicts of interest. She also reviewed N.C.G.S. § 90-179 of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.

The May 8, 2025, Board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no recommended corrections. Michael Martin, DVM made a motion to accept the minutes and Robin Lazaro, RVT seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

None

President's Report:

President Azure Holland, DVM reminded the board members about the AAVSB Conference meeting that will be held in September. Dr. Holland also announced that the Nomination Committee report will be postponed until the next board meeting.

North Carolina Professional Health Program (NCPHP) Report:

Joseph P. Jordan, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, presented his report on the status of the program attendance and provided updates.

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State Veterinarian's Report:

Michael Martin, DVM reported the changes in the status of disease cases and case numbers. Dr. Martin explained that while reviewing cases they are learning and creating protocols. Dr. Martin also advised North Carolina veterinarians to stay alert, aware and responsive.

Legislative Committee Update:

Executive Director Keith West announced a successful lobby with the General Assembly to add RVT's to the exemptions for the Neighboring State Licensure Act.

Mr. West also announced that the Practice Act has been amended with an additional exemption to G.S. 90-187.10 that exempts emergency medical service personnel from licensure when providing emergency transport and medical services to an injured K-9 police animal or search and rescue dog. Mr. West stated that he will provide new copies of the Practice Act.

The Animal Policy Group (APG) has reported their intention to introduce legislation in 2026 regarding license portability for veterinarians and provided the Board with citations from Ohio that APG characterizes as a model for license portability language.

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Rules Update:

Deputy Director Melissa Bowman provided an update on the periodic rules review and stated that the pre-review feedback was just received for 8 additional rules. She is currently updating the language in rules to prevent objections from RRC during the readoption process and will bring any substantive issues to the Board for review. The deadline to readopt the Board's rules is December 1, 2027.

Facility Inspection Report:

Executive Director Keith West provided a report on all the inspections and stated that inspections are still on track and continuing to go well with no issues.

Attorney's Report:

Board Attorney Matthew Skidmore stated that the number of complaint cases continue to rise. A total of 33 closing letters were completed this month and a total of 67 have been completed since the last two Board meetings.

Mr. Skidmore stated that he will continue to assist the Board with suggestions on how to streamline the complaint process due to the increase. He also stated the investigative committees are doing an excellent job with having good discussions plus research to provide appropriate decisions in complaint rulings.

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Student Liaison's Report:

Student Liaison Bec Mitchell announced upcoming activities at NCSU CVM to promote the school's veterinary program and that the school is preparing to welcome new and returning students. Ms. Mitchell also announced that the recruitment for the secondary student liaison is still in process.

Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director, Keith West reported that the board's finances remain in good standing. Mr. West presented the status report of the number of active Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians and stated that the number of applications continue to increase.

Mr. West stated that veterinary facility permits registration is continuing to be successful, and announced that the renewal window for veterinary facility permits will open in October.

At 8:47 a.m. the Board took a break and returned at 9:02 a.m.

At 9:02 a.m., pursuant to G.S. § 143.318.11 (a)(3) and (6), a motion was made to go into closed session by Michael Martin, DVM and seconded by Edward Faulkner, DVM to discuss the active litigation with the Board's attorney in Wake County Superior Court Case No. 25-CVS-1172-910 and the

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complaint case 2025063- 12: Board vs Katherine Leah Holmes, DVM. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 9:32 a.m., a motion was made to leave closed session by Michael Martin, DVM and Edward Faulkner, DVM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion to accept a consent order in the complaint case 2025063- 12: Board vs Katherine Leah Holmes, DVM was made by Edward Faulkner, DVM and seconded by Michael Martin, DVM. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

None

Robin Lazaro, RVT read into the minutes the decisions from Committee on Investigation No. 10.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 10

- a. 2025022-10 – Letter of Caution
- b. 2025033-10 – Letter of Caution
- c. 2025036-10 – Letter of Reprimand w/ Civil Monetary Penalty
- d. 2025039-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- e. 2025043-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- f. 2025044-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause

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- g. 2025047-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- h. 2025051-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- i. 2025052-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- j. 2025055-10 – Letter of Caution
- k. 2025056-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- l. 2025058-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- m. 2025059-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- n. 2025062-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- o. 2025065-10 – Continued
- p. 2025068-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause and Letter of Caution

Edward Faulkner, DVM, made a motion, seconded by Andrea Gentry-Apple, DVM, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 10. The report from Committee 10 was approved unanimously.

These decisions are preliminary and will not be final until the decisions are accepted into the minutes, the decision is drafted by the Board Attorney and is approved by the Committee chair and then mailed to the licensee and complainant. In the case of a letter of reprimand, the licensee has 15 days from its receipt to reject it and request a hearing. If a rejection occurs, the case is returned to the Committee for review and action.

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Edward Faulkner, DVM read into the minutes the decisions from Committee on Investigation No. 13.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 13

- a. 2024121-12 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- b. 2025035-12 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- c. 2025037-12 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- d. 2025038-12 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- e. 2025041-12 – Letter of Caution
- f. 2025042-12 – Letter of Reprimand
- g. 2025045-12 - Continued
- h. 2025049-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- i. 2025050-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- j. 2025053-12 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- k. 2025054-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- l. 2025057-12 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- m. 2025060-12 – Letter of Caution
- n. 2025066-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- o. 2025067-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause

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Ronald Komich, DVM made a motion, seconded by Robin Lazaro, RVT, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 13. The report from Committee 13 was approved unanimously.

These decisions are preliminary and will not be final until the decisions are accepted into the minutes, the decision is drafted by the Board Attorney and is approved by the Committee chair and then mailed to the licensee and complainant. In the case of a letter of reprimand, the licensee has 15 days from its receipt to reject it and request a hearing. If a rejection occurs, the case is returned to the Committee for review and action.

Other Business:

Robin Lazaro, RVT reminded board members to register for the AAVSB meeting in September.

Approval of Expenses:

Michael Martin, DVM made a motion to approve the Board's expenses, and it was seconded by Robin Lazaro, RVT. The expenses were approved unanimously.

Final Review and Summary of Action Items:

Executive Director Keith West will continue working with student liaison Bec Mitchell to review candidates for the new secondary student liaison. Mr. West will also continue working on legislation items and following up on the proposed legislation by Animal Policy Group (APG).

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A motion to adjourn made by Edward Faulkner, DVM, seconded by Michael Martin, DVM, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith West
Executive Director