

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 15, 2026**

At 8:05 a.m., President Azure Holland, DVM, called to order the regular meeting of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board. 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. This meeting was held at the Board office and virtually through Zoom. President Azure Holland, DVM introduced the new Board member Krissie Newman to all Board members and guests. Ms. Newman will serve on the Board as the public member. Board members present in person were Azure Holland, DVM; Edward Faulkner, DVM; Ronald Komich, DVM; Robin Lazaro, RVT; Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM; Michael Martin, DVM; and Krissie Newman. Board member Allen Cannedy, DVM was present via Zoom. Also present in person were Keith West, Executive Director; Melissa Bowman, Deputy Director; Matthew Skidmore, Board Attorney; Kimberly Lewis, RVT (NCAVT President); Beth Venit, VMD (AAVSB Chief Veterinary Officer); Nicolette McNeely, RVT, (NCAVT Vice President); Sydney MacDonald, NCVMB secondary student liaison; and Jennifer Kendrick, Executive Director, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA).

The following guests were in attendance via Zoom: Bec Mitchell, NCVMB primary student liaison; Karyn Smith, DVM, President (NCVMA); Kali

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 15, 2026**

B., Jacklyn, Shannon Bass, DVM, immediate past President (NCVMA); Erin, RVT; Maureen Susi, Gail Thomssen; Kimberley; Jon Carr, Attorney and Lobbyist (NCVMA); and Paige Harrington, DVM, President- Elect (NCVMA).

The November 6, 2025, Board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Ronald Komich, DVM made a motion to accept the minutes and Andrea Genrty- Apple, DVM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

None

President's Report:

None

Legislative Committee Update:

Executive Director, Keith West presented the recommendations of the Legislative Committee for the following statutes to be added or amended as indicated below:

§90-186 Special powers of the Board

(3a) Upon complaint or information received by the Board, through summary emergency order of the Board, prior to a hearing, suspend the license or registration of any licensee or registrant that the Board determines is endangering, or may endanger, the public health or safety or the welfare and safety of animals. Upon the issuance of any summary emergency order, the Board shall initiate, within 10 days, a notice of hearing under the administrative rules issued pursuant to this Article and Chapter 150B of the General Statutes for an administrative hearing on the alleged violation;

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 15, 2026**

(4) Provide ~~special~~ registration for "veterinary technicians" and "veterinary student interns" and adopt rules concerning the training, registration, and service limits of these ~~assistants~~ veterinary technicians and veterinary student interns while employed by and acting under the supervision and responsibility of veterinarians. The Board has exclusive jurisdiction in determining eligibility and qualification requirements for these ~~assistants~~. veterinary technicians and veterinary student interns. Renewals of registrations for veterinary technicians shall be required at least every 24 months, so long as the certificate of registration for the veterinary technician is otherwise eligible for renewal.

§90-187.3 Applicants licensed in other states

(a) The Board may issue a license without written examination, other than the written North Carolina license examination, to applicants already licensed in another state provided the applicant presents evidence satisfactory to the Board that:

(1) The applicant ~~is~~ currently holds an active license in another state ~~competent practitioner and is~~ in good standing.

(2) The applicant has practiced at least three of the five years immediately preceding filing the application. If the applicant has not practiced at least three of the five years immediately preceding the filing of the application, the applicant may submit proof, for a determination by the Board, that the applicant is competent to practice veterinary medicine and has earned the required continuing education credits in the year preceding the application.

~~(3) The applicant currently holds an active license in another state.~~

~~(4)~~(3) There is no disciplinary proceeding or unresolved complaint pending against the applicant at the time a license is to be issued by this State.

~~(4a)~~(4) Any disciplinary actions taken against the applicant or his or her license by the other state in which he or she is licensed will not affect the applicant's competency to practice veterinary medicine as provided in this Article or any rules adopted by the Board.

(5) The licensure requirements in the other state are substantially equivalent to those required by this ~~State~~. State, including but not limited to the applicant being a graduate of an accredited American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) veterinary school and has passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). An applicant who is not a graduate of a program accredited by the AVMA may not be considered by the Board until the applicant furnishes satisfactory proof of graduation from a college of veterinary medicine and of successful completion of the certification program developed and administered by (i) the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) of the American Veterinary Medical Association or (ii) the Program for the Assessment

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 15, 2026**

of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards.

(6) The applicant has achieved a passing score on the written North Carolina license examination.

§90-187.4 Temporary Permit.

(a) The Board may issue, without examination, a temporary permit to practice veterinary medicine in this State:

(4) To a nonresident veterinarian, during a state of emergency order issued in accordance with G.S. 166A-19.20, validly licensed in another state, territory, or district of the United States provided that such temporary permit shall be issued for a period of no more than 60 days. The temporary permit shall expire in 60 days, or when the state of emergency order has been lifted or allowed to expire, whichever is shorter.

§90-187.6 Veterinary technicians and staff

(a2) The Board may register veterinary technicians, during a state of emergency order issued in accordance with G.S. 166A-19.20, validly licensed in another state, territory, or district of the United States provided that such registration shall be issued for a period of no more than 60 days. The registration shall expire in 60 days, or when the state of emergency order has been lifted or allowed to expire, whichever is shorter.

Further review of §90-187.3(2) was requested by the NCVMA. The Board decided it would allow further review prior to voting on the amendment.

A motion was made to accept all of the recommendations of the Legislative Committee except for the recommendation for §90-187.3(2) by Edward Faulkner, DVM and Michael Martin, DVM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

State Veterinarian's Report:

Michael Martin, DVM provided an update on the status of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), New World screwworm, Equine Herpesvirus

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 15, 2026**

(EHV) and Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) cases. Michael Martin, DVM also provided information about the efforts being made to control the affected areas.

Facility Inspection Report:

Executive Director, Keith West provided a report on all the inspections since the last meeting totaling 199 inspections. Nicolette Peer, DVM completed 48 inspections, Marjorie McFetridge, DVM completed 41 inspections, Andrew Horne, DVM completed 54 inspections, and Robert Bakal, DVM completed 56 inspections. Mr. West also stated that inspections are still moving along well with no issues after having to split the eastern piedmont region.

Mr. West also reported that facility permit renewals and applications are doing well with only a small number of facilities still not being registered. Board staff continue to work to bring all facilities into compliance.

Rules Update Report:

Deputy Director, Melissa Bowman stated that 7 rules were returned from pre-review since the last meeting, and 32 out of 47 rules to be readopted by December 1, 2027 are in progress. The rules review process will increase in activity over the course of 2026.

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 15, 2026**

Attorney's Report:

Board Attorney, Matthew Skidmore stated that 12 closing letters have been mailed since the last meeting and a total of 6 closing letters have completed this month. Mr. Skidmore stated that there has been a decrease in the number of complaint cases since adding Susan Bull, DVM's role as the Board's complaint investigator. This continues to help with the complaint volume increase.

Mr. Skidmore reminded the Board members that their statement of economic interest is due by April 15, 2026.

Student Liaison's Report:

Secondary Student Liaison, Sydney MacDonald read Primary Student Liaison, Bec Mitchell's report. The report provided an update regarding the start of spring semester, and community centered events that will be hosted by the school including the Equine Health symposium being held on February 21, 2026. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. MacDonald have invited students to attend the March board meeting that will held at the school. Ms. Mitchell stated in her report that both she and Ms. MacDonald are still working to revive their NCVMB newsletter.

Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director, Keith West reported that the Board's finances

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 15, 2026**

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 provided Board members with a copy of the completed audit report.

At 9:06 a.m. the Board took a break and returned at 9:28 a.m.

At 9:28 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 reinstatement of inactive license applications and active litigation. The active litigation includes a case in Wake County filed by the NCVMB against Winan's Chiropractic, Valentina Degiovanni and Christopher Winans and a case filed at OAH by Kari Scales. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 10:36 a.m., a motion was made to leave closed session by Edward Faulkner, DVM and Michael Martin, DVM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

All inactive reinstatement license applications were approved.

Old Business:

Executive Director, Keith West provided the Board with the total number of

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 15, 2026**

complaints that were processed last year.

Robin Lazaro, RVT read into the minutes the decisions from Committee on Investigation No. 10 and 13.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 10 and 13

- a. 2025114-13 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- b. 2025117-13 – Letter of Caution
- c. 2025135-10 – Continued
- d. 2025142-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- e. 2025141-10 – Letter of Caution
- f. 2025146-10 – Letter of Reprimand

Edward Faulkner, DVM, made a motion, seconded by Andrea Gentry-Apple, DVM, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 10 and 13. The report from Committee 10 and 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

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 15, 2026**

returned to the Committee for review and action.

Other Business:

None

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 stated that the Legislative Committee will meet with NCVMA to discuss concerns, legislative changes and language. Mr. West also reminded Board members that the March 12, 2026, meeting will be held at NCSU CVM campus.

A motion to adjourn made by Michael Martin, DVM, seconded by, Ronald Komich, DVM, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith West
Executive Director