

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 11, 2024**

At 8:15 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; Michael Martin, DVM; Edward Faulkner, DVM; Susan Bull, DVM; Mr. Tim Gold; and Robin Lazaro, RVT. Board Members Allen Cannedy, DVM and Ronald Komich, DVM joined the meeting via Zoom. Also present in person were Tod J. Schadler, DVM, Executive Director; Keith West, Deputy Director; Board Attorney, Matthew Skidmore; and Joseph Jordan, PhD, CEO, NC Physician's Health Program (NCPHP).

The following guests were also in attendance via Zoom: John McHugh, Director of State Legislature, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA); Karyn Smith, DVM, Secretary/Treasurer, (NCVMA); Marguerite Gleason, DVM, President-Elect, (NCVMA); Jennifer Shults, DVM, Legislative Chair, (NCVMA); Shannon Bass, DVM, Vice President, (NCVMA); and Summer Hedges, DVM.

President Azure Holland, DVM reviewed for the Board the Governor's and the North Carolina Ethics Commission's statements on recognizing and

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avoiding conflicts of interest. She also reviewed N.C.G.S. § 90-179 of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.

The November 9, 2023 Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Susan Bull, DVM made a motion to accept the minutes and Michael Martin, DVM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

None

President's Report:

Azure Holland, DVM welcomed everyone back for the first meeting of 2024.

North Carolina Professional Health Program (NCPHP) Report:

Joseph Jordan, PhD presented his report in person and gave an update on the North Carolina Professional Health Program. Dr. Jordan also recommended that Veterinarians, Registered Veterinary Technicians and North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine students be

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included in the Suicide Prevention Survey provided by NCPHP. There was no objection from Board members to Dr. Jordan's proposal.

RVT Committee Report:

Robin Lazaro, RVT reported that Michael Martin, DVM is the newest member of the RVT Committee. Ms. Lazaro stated the Committee is in "research phase" and is working on the following three (3) action items: Fellowship; Ways to increase the number of RVT's in North Carolina; and Scope of Practice.

State Veterinarian's Report:

Michael Martin, DVM reported there were no changes in the status of the African Swine Fever; Chronic Wasting Disease; or Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease. Dr. Martin also updated the Board on the Avian Influenza and the national Equine Infectious Anemia outbreak. Dr. Martin also discussed the Canine Respiratory Virus and expressed interest in developing a multi-agency task force for education, outreach, protocols, and treatment recommendations.

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Legislative Update:

Deputy Director Keith West reported the Legislative Committee has begun the Periodic Review of existing rules. The public comment period on existing rules will end February 18, 2024, and at this time, there are no public comments to report. He stated he would provide a report on the feedback received at the February 29, 2024 meeting. Mr. West stated the Board will have until November of 2024 to have the rules submitted to the Rules Review Commission.

Deputy Director, Keith West, introduced boarding kennel permit rules to the Board for approval.

At 9:22a.m., the board took a break and reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

Legislative Update continued:

After review, the Board sent the proposed rules for boarding kennel permits back to the legislative committee for additional edits.

Facility Inspection Report:

Deputy Director Keith West reported that there have been 114 inspections since the last meeting. Marjorie McFetridge, DVM, performed 23

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inspections, Rhonda Greene, DVM, performed 19 inspections, Nicolette Peer, DVM, performed 20 inspections, Andrew Horne, DVM, performed 41 inspections and Frederick Schmid, DVM, performed 11 inspections. There were no serious violations issued.

Deputy Director Keith West reported that Rhonda Greene, DVM has been hired to replace Kelly Jeffer, DVM as the Northeastern area Inspector. He stated she has been trained and is currently conducting inspections. Mr. West also provided the Board an updated inspector map that shows the newly defined areas for each inspector. He stated that he anticipates that the areas will change again once the inspectors are required to inspect boarding facilities that are owned by veterinarians who have a facility permit. He stated he anticipates an additional 1.5 to 2 hours to be added to the inspection time for facilities that have boarding. Mr. West stated this will reduce the number of inspections each inspector will be able to conduct. He stated, as indicated on the map, there are a total of 1,402 facilities in North Carolina as of November 1, 2023.

Attorney's Report:

Mr. Skidmore reported that 11 disposition letters were completed and there are currently 16 in process. Mr. Skidmore reminded the Board that only

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Board members physically present at Board meetings held in person should be counted towards the quorum requirements and that only those present in person can make a motion or second one. He also advised the Board that ethics training, required by the State Ethics Commission, would need to be completed and he advised members to update their Statements of Economic Interest (“SEI”) by April 15th. Mr. Skidmore also reported he is currently working with the Legislative Committee on boarding kennels and facility permits.

Student Liaison Report:

Loren Johnson, NCVMB Student Liaison, presented her report in person and gave an update on the North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine (NCSU CVM) meeting that was held on January 3, 2024.

Executive Director’s Report:

Tod J. Schadler, DVM, Executive Director presented the status report of the number of active Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians and reviewed the NCVMB’s finances and accounts.

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Old Business:

None

Susan Bull, DVM read into the minutes the decisions from Committee on Investigation No. 11.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 11

- a. 2023061-11 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- b. 2023062-11 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- c. 2023065-11 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause (Both)
- d. 2023072-11 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- e. 2023075-11 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- f. 2023071-11 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- g. 2023077-11 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- h. 2023073-11 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
Letter of Reprimand
- i. 2023083-11 – Letter of Reprimand, Civil Monetary Penalty (\$3,000)

Allen Cannedy, DVM recused himself from case #2023072-11.

Michael Martin, DVM made a motion, seconded by Edward Faulkner, DVM, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 11. The report from Committee 11 was approved unanimously.

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

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 10

- a. 2023059-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- b. 2023063-10 – Letter of Caution
- c. 2023064-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- d. 2023070-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- e. 2023068-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- f. 2023079-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- g. 2023078-10 – Continued

Susan Bull, DVM, made a motion, seconded by Edward Faulker, 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 decision is 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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Other Business: President Azure Holland, DVM reappointed Ronald Komich, DVM to continue serving with the NC Physician's Health Program (NCPHP).

Approval of Expenses:

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

The Board having no further business, a motion to adjourn made by Michael Martin, DVM, seconded by Robin Lazaro, RVT, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tod J. Schadler, DVM
Executive Director