

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board  
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 14, 2021**

At 8:05 a.m., President Susan Bull, DVM 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, Ronald Komich, Allen Cannedy, and Azure Holland; Robin Lazaro, RVT; and Mrs. Krissie Newman. Also present were Board Attorney, George Hearn, and Executive Director, Dr. Tod J. Schadler.

Dr. Bull reviewed with the Board the Governor's and the North Carolina Ethics Commission's statements 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: Claire Holley, Executive Director of NCVMA; Natalie Young, PharmD, Director of Realo; Jennifer Shults, DVM, President of NCVMA; John McHugh, ASPCA; Jon Carr, NCVMA Attorney; Ed Faulkner, DVM, Vice President of NCVMA; Sheila Goffe, American Kennel Club (AKC); Christopher Wall, AKC; Gail Thomssen, Humane Society of the United States; Kristin Block, Block's Sport

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Hounds; Ms. Craig, breeder; Pam Abney, DVM; Jeannie Losey, RVT; Corey Johnson, RVT; Angie Adams, RVT; Dante Martin, DVM, President-Elect, NCVMA; Joseph Wright, DVM; Dr. Joseph Jordan, CEO, NC Physician's Health Program (NCPHP).

The November 13, 2020 and December 9, 2020 Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Dr. Komich, seconded by Dr. Holland, moved to approve the November 13, 2020 and December 9, 2020 Board meeting minutes with corrections. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**New Business - Reports:**

**Chief Inspector's Report:**

Dr. Joseph Wright, Chief Inspector, reported there have been 116 inspections since the last meeting. Inspections are still scheduled prior to them being conducted. Dr. Jeffer inspected 45 facilities; Dr. Peer inspected 64 facilities; and Dr. Wright inspected 7 facilities. COVID has had some impact on inspections. Several facilities have been impacted by COVID with the facilities having fewer employees due to quarantine requirements. There have been ten serious violations letters issued in this last quarter.

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

Dr. Joseph Jordan gave an update, explaining that there are six veterinarians under contract, but no registered veterinary technicians under contract.

Dr. Komich gave an update about the scholarship for financial assistance within the NCPHP. A NCPHP Veterinary Scholarship Fund has been established for veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians licensed/registered by the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board and residing in North Carolina. This Fund will award a limited number of financial scholarships on an as-needed basis and are not intended to cover 100% of the cost. All monies dedicated to this Fund will come from online contributions solicited from veterinarians or registered veterinary technicians when licenses and registrations are renewed. Other online efforts, such as "Go Fund Me", have been created to help raise funds for this scholarship.

**State Veterinarian's Report:**

Dr. Meckes, State Veterinarian, gave an update on the African Swine Fever. It has now spread into eastern Europe in the wild boar population. There is an effort to vaccinate all employees in the poultry and swine industries to ensure that processing can continue effectively.

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There have been 148 positive cases of COVID out of 2,000 employees in the NC Agriculture Department.

The new Department of Agriculture laboratory is scheduled to be fully operational in April 2021. The NCVMA, along with the Friends of NCVMA, contributed by purchasing a new pass-through refrigerator for the new laboratory.

**Legislative Committee:**

Keith West, Assistant to the Executive Director, reported on the proposed amended administrative rule submitted to the Rules Review Commission for amending the rule entitled, Petition for Inactive Status. The amendment would include “registrants”. The sixty-day comment period expired on January 4, 2021 with no public comment.

Mrs. Lazaro motioned, seconded by Dr. Holland, to move forward with filing the Petition for Inactive Status rule with the Rules Review Commission for the February 18, 2021 hearing. This motion was approved unanimously.

The Board plans to seek a legislative amendment to NC GS § 90-181(9), “Veterinary student intern” definition, by revising it to read: “Veterinary student intern” means a person who is enrolled in an accredited veterinary college, has satisfactorily completed the second year of veterinary college education, and is registered with the Board as a veterinary student

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intern. The Board also will seek to delete NC GS § 90-181(10), the definition of “Veterinary student preceptee”. These items will be reviewed at a called Board meeting January 27, 2021.

The proposed rule for 21 NCAC 66.0211, Veterinary Telemedicine, was discussed at length and will be revisited at the March 2021 Board meeting.

At 10:06 a.m. the Board took a break and returned at 10:15 a.m.

**Student Liaison:**

Priya Allen joined the meeting and gave an update on the virtual learning at NCSU-CVM. It has been hectic, but everyone is getting through it.

**Executive Director’s Report:**

Dr. Schadler presented an update on licensing activities and a finance report. Disciplinary/civil monetary payments are all up-to-date. The Board office replaced a 19-year-old HVAC unit with a new system for the Board Room/Conference Room/Lobby/Executive Director’s office areas. Also, the alarm system for the Board office, which was experiencing some problems, have been corrected.

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**Old Business:**

Dr. Schadler gathered information from Texas regarding Animal Chiropractic Certification and presented it to the Board along with information from the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association. This information will be revisited at the March 2021 Board meeting.

At 10:25 a.m. Mrs. Newman made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to GS § 143-318.11(a)(6) for personnel issues, seconded by Dr. Cannedy. Approved unanimously.

At 11:00 a.m. the Board returned from closed session and resumed the regular meeting.

Dr. Holland, seconded by Dr. Dean, made a motion to do what was discussed in closed session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:06 a.m. Dr. Komich, seconded by Mrs. Lazaro, made a motion to go into closed session to confer with the Board attorney, pursuant to GS § 143-318.11(a)(3). Approved unanimously.

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At 1:33 p.m. the Board returned to open session

**Report of Committee on Investigations No. 1**

- a. 2020059-1 – Kathryn Ann O’Hara, DVM / Margaret Critzer, DVM (Banfield Pet Hospital) – Mr. Jacob Davis – No probable cause, dismissed for Dr. O’Hara. Dr. Critzer to be removed from complaint.
- b. 2020073-1 – Virginia Heather Stell, DVM (North Paw Animal Hospital) – Ms. Cynthia Wiford – Letter of caution
- c. 2020076-1 – Laurie Rebecca Taute, DVM (Banfield Pet Hospital) – Mr. Fay Tolman – No probable cause, dismissed
- d. 2020080-1 – Michele J. Ewing, DVM (Banfield Pet Hospital) – Ms. Denise Ammons – No probable cause, dismissed
- e. 2020083-1 – Melissa Green Kerns, DVM; Carlen Christina Ledain, DVM; Nicole Peterson Sheehan, DVM (The Veterinary Hospital of Davidson) – Ms. Katina Gaymon / Ms. Jodi Sterner-Findling – No probable cause, dismissed for Dr. Kerns. Dr. Ledain and Dr. Sheehan to be removed from complaint

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. These decisions are preliminary and will not be final until the decision is accepted into the minutes, the letter explaining the

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decision is drafted by the Board Attorney and is approved by the Committee chair and 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 further review and action.

**Report of Committee on Investigations No. 9**

- a. 2020026-9 – David Alan Conde, DVM (Dr. Conde Mobile Veterinary Practice) – Mr. Donald T. Currin – Letter of reprimand and a total of \$10,000 civil monetary penalties.
- b. 2020070-9 – Amelia Joy Taber, DVM; Susan Edna Curci, DVM (Animal Emergency Clinic of the High Country) – Ms. Beverly Hicks – Letter of caution for Dr. Taber. No probable cause, dismissed for Dr. Curci
- c. 2020075-9 – Barbara J. Booth, DVM (Foothills Animal Clinic) – Ms. Cheryl Baynard – No probable cause, dismissed
- d. 2020077-9 – Susan Lloyd, DVM (Live Oak Veterinary Hospital) – Ms. Helene Kelly – Letter of reprimand
- e. 2020081-9 – Bradley Marvin Medhus, DVM; Erin Catherine Hubbard-Medhus, DVM (Firetower Animal Clinic) – Ms. Patti Hall Stubbs – Letter of caution for Dr. Bradley Medhus. No probable cause, dismissed for Dr. Erin Hubbard-Medhus.

Dr. Meckes made a motion, seconded by Dr. Dean, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 9. The report from Committee



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9 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.

A motion was made by Dr. Dean, seconded by Dr. Meckes, to accept Committee No. 9's recommendations for civil monetary penalties for complaint 2020026-9, Dr. David Alan Conde, for incompetent acts GS § 90-187.8(c)(6) pursuant to GS § 90-187.8(b) (1) harm to the animal; (2) gravity of violation; (5) prior disciplinary record of Dr. Conde in the amount of \$5,000; and for incompetent acts in his follow-up treatment of the animal pursuant to GS § 90-187.8(b) (1) harm to the animal; (2) gravity of violation; (5) prior disciplinary record of Dr. Conde, in the amount of \$5,000. The motion was approved unanimously

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

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The Board having no further business, a motion to adjourn made by Dr. Meckes, seconded by Mrs. Lazaro, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tod J. Schadler, DVM  
Executive Director