

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board  
Raleigh, North Carolina, May 6, 2021**

At 8:07 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, Ronald Komich, Allen Cannedy, Doug Meckes, and Azure Holland; Robin Lazaro, RVT; and Mrs. Krissie Newman. Also present were Board Attorney, George Hearn, Executive Director, Dr. Tod J. Schadler, and Sarah Swartout, Student Liaison.

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: Natalie Young, PharmD, Director of Realo; Jennifer Shults, DVM, President of NCVMA; John McHugh, ASPCA; Kristin Block, Block's Sport Hounds; Maureen Susi, RVT, President of North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians (NCAVT); Dante Martin, DVM, President-Elect, NCVMA; Brenda Stevens,

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board**

**Raleigh, North Carolina, May 6, 2021**

DVM; Jacklyn Phillips, RVT; Nathan Honaker; Melissa McKinney; Dr. Joseph Jordan, CEO, NC Physician's Health Program (NCPHP).

The March 11, 2021 Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Dr. Komich, seconded by Dr. Holland, moved to approve the March 11, 2021 Board meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**New Business - Reports:**

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

Dr. Joseph Jordan gave an update. He spoke about the proposed Veterinary Scholarship Fund and application. The fund policy will go into the NCPHP's bylaws. As of now there is \$1,500 in the scholarship fund through donations. The chair of the Compliance Committee will be the person responsible for distributing the funds.

Dr. Holland will replace Ms. Newman on the Compliance Committee.

**State Veterinarian's Report:**

Dr. Meckes gave an update on the new diagnostic lab. The name of the lab will be Steven Troxler Agriculture Sciences Center and will be fully operational the end of June 2021.

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board**

**Raleigh, North Carolina, May 6, 2021**

Update on African Swine Fever – still watching closing and North America is still free of the fever.

Dr. Meckes will be retiring the end of July 2021 and Joe Reardon, who has served the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services for more than 28 years is retiring the end of June 2021. Mr. Reardon has accepted a position as Food Safety Director at NASDA.

**Nomination Committee:**

The nomination committee recommend the following:  
Dr. Bull for President, Dr. Holland for Vice President, and Mrs. Newman for Secretary/Treasurer. The nomination was opened up to everyone and no one came forward.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the nomination committee by Dr. Komich, seconded by Dr. Cannedy. It was approved.

**Chiropractic Medicine Committee Report:**

This committee consists of Mrs. Lazaro, chair; Dr. Holland, and Dr. Cannedy.

An overview of past events was given concerning violations and investigations. It was determined that the scope of the Veterinary Board is to protect both the public and animals without reference or indication of any economic effects of the veterinarians and their businesses.

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board  
Raleigh, North Carolina, May 6, 2021**

Mrs. Lazaro reported on the research their committee has done. They have looked into certification programs and how other state boards handle this concern.

The Ohio Veterinary Practice Act indicates that “Allied medical support” (a licensed dentist, physician, chiropractor, or physical therapist) may assist a licensed veterinarian to the extent to which the law that governs the individual providing the support permits, if all of the following apply:

- (1) A valid veterinary-client-patient-relationship exists;
- (2) The individual acts under direct veterinary supervision;
- (3) The allied medical support individual receives informed, written, client consent;
- (4) The veterinarian maintains responsibility for the patient and keeps the patient’s medical records

Dr. Cannedy investigated the 14 people who are currently pet certified in North Carolina. They are a combination of veterinarians and chiropractors who have gone through a certification program.

The committee will continue to investigate.

At 9:30 a.m. the Board took a break and reconvened at 9:40 a.m.

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board  
Raleigh, North Carolina, May 6, 2021**

**Legislative Committee:**

Keith West, Assistant to the Executive Director, reported on the Petition for Inactive Status. It became effective on April 1, 2021.

The proposed rule for 21 NCAC 66.0211, Veterinary Telemedicine was submitted to the Rules Review Commission on 3/16/2021 and published on 4/15/2021 in the NC Register Volume 35 Issue 20. The comment period ends 6/14/2021. There have been no comments to date. The Board will hold a special meeting to review public comments and determine if any changes need to be made and vote to submit to the Rules Review Commission (RRC) before RRC's next meeting on 6/21/2021.

The proposed Practice Facility Permit needs approval to submit to RRC. Dr. Dean, seconded by Dr. Holland, motioned to approve the submission of the Practice Facility Permit to the RRC. It was approved unanimously.

Keith gave an update on Senate Bill 651 – Amend the Veterinary Practice Act filed on April 6, 2021.

Dr. Shults, representing the NCVMA, was concerned about several points under NC General Statutes §90-187.8. A discussion followed.

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board  
Raleigh, North Carolina, May 6, 2021**

Dr. Bull appointed a standing Legislative Committee: Dr. Cannedy, chair, Dr. Komich, and Mrs. Lazaro

NC General Statutes §90-187.6(b) Veterinary technicians and veterinary employees – discussion concerning the “employee”. Will be researched further.

**Chief Inspector’s Report:**

Keith West reported for Dr. Joseph Wright, Chief Inspector. He reported there have been 126 inspections since the last meeting, 57 in the east, 32 in central, and 37 in the west. Inspections are still scheduled prior to them being conducted. There were four serious violation letters sent.

**Student Liaison:**

Sarah Swartout gave a report on the Community Town Hall meeting. NCSU-CVM is planning in-person sessions soon, talks of returning to campus, transitioned to “Easy Vet Program”, and continued COVID testing.

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board  
Raleigh, North Carolina, May 6, 2021**

**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.

He reported on the HB 770 the Freedom to Work/Occupational Licensing Board Reform bill. Boards may only deny an applicant on the basis of a conviction if the board makes specific findings, based on a list of factors, that the applicant's history is directly related to the duties and responsibilities of the licensed job or the conviction is for a crime that is violent or sexual in nature. No board may deny an applicant a license based on a determination that a conviction is for a crime of moral turpitude. No board shall restrict an applicant from reapplying for a license for more than two years from the date of their most recent application.

Discussed the AAVSB upcoming meeting this year. Dr. Bull and Dr. Schadler are eligible to attend. Dr. Cannedy indicated he would also like to attend.

At 11:06 a.m. Dr. Dean made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to GS § 143-318.11(a)(6) personnel issues, seconded by Dr. Meckes. Approved unanimously.

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board  
Raleigh, North Carolina, May 6, 2021**

At Noon the Board returned from closed session and resumed the regular meeting.

At 12:06 p.m. Mrs. Newman made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to GS § 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the board attorney on issues concerning Dr. Dennis K. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Lazaro.

At 12:24 p.m. the Board returned from closed session and resumed regular meeting.

Mrs. Newman, seconded by Mrs. Lazaro, motioned that the Board considered a letter from the attorney of Dr. Dennis K. Johnson, and after consideration, directed the Executive Director and Board Attorney to draft a response to Dr. Johnson's attorney. Motion approved unanimously

At 12:27 p.m. Dr. Holland made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to GS § 143-318.11(a)(3) on administrative procedures to discuss Board complaints, seconded by Dr. Meckes. Motion approved unanimously.

At 2:20 p.m. the Board returned from closed session and resumed regular meeting.



**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina, May 6, 2021**  
**Report of Committee on Investigations No. 1**

- a. 2021015-1 – Brian Colin Doyle, DVM (Southpoint Animal Hospital) – Dr. Heather Paich – No probable cause, dismissed
- b. 2021021-1 – Joshua Taylor Warden, DVM (Animal Ark Veterinary Hospital) – Dr. Jody Harkey – No probable cause, dismissed
- c. 2021017-1 – Theresa Ann Wisk-Carroll, DVM (Reidsville Veterinary Hospital) – Ms. Jodi E. Underwood – No probable cause, dismissed
- d. 2021013-1 – Gavin L. Olsen, DVM (CVS) – Ms. Tiffany Renee Howell – No probable cause, dismissed
- e. 2021023-1 – Barbara Anne Walton, DVM (Third Street Veterinary Clinic) – Ms. Bridget Coates – Continued

Dr. Komich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lazaro, 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 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.

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina, May 6, 2021**  
**Report of Committee on Investigations No. 9**

- a. 2020092-9 – Joshua David Barkman, DVM (Highland Animal Hospital) – Ms. Melissa McKinney – Letter of Caution
- b. 2021005-9 – Melissa Gayle Linderer, DVM (Stoney Creek Veterinary Hospital) – Ms. Tamsin Lea Bomar – No probable cause, dismissed
- c. 2021006-9 – Kelly C. F. Catanzaro, DVM (Banfield Pet Hospital) – Ms. Tamsin Lea Bomar – No probable cause, dismissed
- d. 2021008-9 – Bethany Walters Cashman, DVM (Triangle Veterinary Referral Hospital) – Ms. Holly Mayo Borden – No probable cause, dismissed
- e. 2021012-9 – Cynthia L. Elias, DVM (Creekside Animal Hospital) – Ms. Haley Plymale – Letter of reprimand
- f. 2021014-9 – Jennifer Megan Carne Wiegel, DVM (Phoenix Animal Hospital) – Ms. Erin R. Kroenung – Letter of Reprimand
- g. 2021010-9 – Sarah Marie Leigh, DVM (VSH) – Ms. Helene Andorre Staley – No probable cause, dismissed
- h. 2021022-9 – Samuel Green Griffin, DVM (West Stanly Animal Clinic) – Ms. Faith Brown – Letter of Reprimand and Letter of Caution
- i. 2021016-9 – Robert W. Ridgeway, DVM (The Pet Hospital of New Bern) – Mr. Matt Blockholm – Letter of Caution

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board  
Raleigh, North Carolina, May 6, 2021**

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

Mrs. Lazaro, seconded by Dr. Holland, 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. Dean, seconded by Dr. Holland, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tod J. Schadler, DVM  
Executive Director