

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board  
Raleigh, North Carolina, May 11, 2023**

At 8:01am, 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; Ronald Komich, DVM; Susan Bull, DVM; Allen Cannedy, DVM, Robin Lazaro, RVT and Mr. Timothy Gold. Also present in person were Tod J. Schadler, DVM, Executive Director, Keith West, Deputy Director; Board Attorney, Matthew Skidmore; Kelly Jeffer, DVM; Andrew Horne, DVM; Marjorie McFetridge, DVM and Joseph Jordan, PhD, CEO, NC Physician's Health Program (NCPHP)

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 G.S. § 90-179 of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.

The following guests were in attendance via Zoom: Maureen Susi, RVT, President, North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians (NCAVT); John McHugh, Director of State Legislature, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA); Jon Carr, Attorney, North

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Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA); Karyn Smith, DVM, Secretary/Treasurer, (NCVMA); Marguerite Gleason, DVM, President-Elect, (NCVMA); Dante Martin, DVM, (NCVMA); Shannon Bass, DVM, Vice President, (NCVMA); Nicolette McNeely, RVT, Treasurer, (NCAVT); Claire Holley, Executive Director (NCVMA); Steven Marks, DVM, Associate Dean, NC State College of Veterinary Medicine; Ms. Myia P, and Ms. Chrisie.

The March 2, 2023 Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Ronald Komich, DVM made a motion to accept minutes Michael Martin, DVM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

Azure Holland, DVM welcomed Edward Faulkner, DVM as the newest NCVMB board member and designated a new Registered Veterinary Technician Committee with Robin Lazaro, RVT (Chair); Ronald Komich, DVM and Edward Faulkner, DVM.

**NCVMB Nominating Committee Report:**

Ronald Komich, DVM (Chair) reported all current officers desire and agree to serve another term: Azure Holland, DVM (President); Allen Cannedy, DVM (Vice President); Robin Lazaro, RVT (Secretary/Treasurer).

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Dr. Komich discussed that Dr. Holland's first term on the NCVMB expires in July 2023. If Dr. Holland is not reappointed, the Committee recommends Allen Cannedy, DVM, to fill the term as President; Robin Lazaro, RVT, to fill the term as Vice President and Ronald Komich, DVM to fill the term as Secretary/Treasurer. A motion was made by Michael Martin, DVM to accept the report and seconded by Allen Cannedy, DVM. Azure Holland, DVM asked for any other nominations. No other nominations were proposed. A motion was made by Susan Bull, DVM to accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee and seconded by Michael Martin, DVM. The motion was approved unanimously.

**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 discussed outreach opportunities at the veterinary college as well as other locations.

**Legislative Committee Update:**

**Veterinary Facility Permit and Continuing Education Requirements**

Deputy Director Keith West reported that the notice of text was submitted to and accepted by the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)

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on April 4, 2023. The proposed text was also published on the NCVMB website the same day. The proposed rule was published in the Register on May 01, 2023. The public comment period will end June 30, 2023. The Board will need to review any comments and meet prior to July 20, 2023. The Board can either adopt the rule without any substantial changes or if there are substantial changes, the Board will need to republish for an additional 60-day comment period. If adopted by the Board, Mr. West will submit the Rules Review Commission (RRC) on or before July 20, 2023 for the RRC meeting scheduled for August 17, 2023. The RRC will either approve the rules or object. If they object, we will need to make any changes they recommend and resubmit to the RRC for approval the following month. If approved by the RRC to be entered into Code, and 10 written objections are filed with the RRC, then the rule will be sent to the NC Legislators for review at their next session.

**Proposed Amendments to the Veterinary Practice Act**

Senate Bill 135 was filed on February 20, 2023. This bill reflects the changes approved by the Board concerning title protection for RVTs. The bill currently resides with the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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Senate Bill 282 – Veterinary Medical Board Inspections – 90-187.17.

Inspection Process. At least one week prior to conducting any inspection pursuant to G.S. 90-185(3) or G.S. 90-186(2), the board shall provide written notice of the upcoming inspection to the veterinarian. The written notice may be provided via an electronic communication. The veterinarian may contact the Board to reschedule the inspection, but the inspection shall be rescheduled no later than one week after the originally scheduled date of the inspection. Along with the written notice of inspection, the Board shall provide the veterinarian with a checklist of all standards adopted by rule for which the inspector may issue a violation and, with as much specificity as possible, conditions that violate the standards. This act becomes effective October 1, 2023. This bill has been passed by the Senate and currently resides with the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

Senate Bill 582 – North Carolina Farm Act of 2023 – We were not aware of the current version of this bill until April 26, 2023. Before then, the bill only included the language concerning inspections as stated in Senate Bill 282. On April 25, 2023 it was amended to include the language that would require NCVMB to begin inspecting boarding facilities that are operating under a veterinarian’s supervision. The Board would also have to draft rules concerning the minimum standards for boarding kennels operating under the

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supervision of a veterinarian at least as stringent as those adopted by the Board of Agriculture pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 19A of the General Statute by July 1, 2024. The bill would also give us the authority to collect a boarding kennel permit fee of \$75.00. This bill was passed by the Senate on April 27, 2023 and currently resides with the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House. If passed by the House, Section A of the Act would become effective October 1, 2023. Sections B, D and E would be effective 60 days after the adoption of the rules stated in Section F.

**Proposed PAVE for RVTs Language**

90.181. Definitions (10) Veterinary technician – Either of the following persons: (a.) An individual who has successfully completed a post-high school course in the care and treatment of animals that conforms to the standards required for accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities and who is registered with the Board as a veterinary technician. (b.) An application from a graduate of an international veterinary technician program not accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (AVMA CVTEA) may not be considered by the Board until the applicant furnishes satisfactory proof of graduation and of successful completion of the certification program developed and

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administered by the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards. The certification program shall include examinations with respect to clinical proficiency and comprehension of and ability to communicate in the English language. (c.) An individual who holds a degree in veterinary medicine from a college of veterinary medicine recognized by the Board for licensure of veterinarians and who is registered with the Board as a veterinary technician. A motion was made by Ronald Komich, DVM to accept the proposed language and seconded by Susan Bull, DVM. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Facility Inspection Report:**

Deputy Director Keith West reported that there have been 168 inspections since the last meeting. Marjorie McFetridge, DVM, performed 32 inspections, Kelly Jeffer, DVM, performed 52 inspections, Nicolette Peer, DVM, performed 32 inspections, and Robin McFerren, DVM, performed 32 inspections and Andrew Horne, DVM performed 20 inspections. There was 1 serious violation issued.

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**State Veterinarian's Report:**

Michael Martin, DVM gave an update on the status of Avian Influenza. Dr. Martin stated there have been no new positive cases since January 3, 2023. He stated that out of the 833 positive cases in North Carolina, most of them were backyard flocks. He also updated the Board on the Equine Infectious Anemia cases in North Carolina and gave an update on the 10 positive cases of Chronic Wasting Disease in North Carolina. Dr. Martin also updated the Board on Brucellosis in North Carolina feral swine and stated African Swine Fever is not in the U.S.

**Attorney's Report:**

Mr. Skidmore reported that 14 disposition letters were completed and there are currently 15 in the new batch. Mr. Skidmore also stated he sent a reminder email to Board members who need to complete the ethics training required by the State Ethics Commissions and advised members to update their Statements of Economic Interest ("SEI").

**Student Liaison Report:**

Allen Cannedy, DVM updated the Board on the selection of the new Student Liaison. Dr. Cannedy stated a primary and alternate has been selected



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and the new Student Liaison will be in attendance for the July 2023 board meeting.

**American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) Report:**

Ronald Komich, DVM reported the call for nominations deadline is June 1, 2023.

**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.

**Old Business:** None

At 9:20am, the board took a break and reconvened at 9:43am.

Committee 8 was renamed as Committee 11 to include Susan Bull, DVM (Chair); Allen Cannedy, DVM and Mr. Tim Gold.

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At 9:48am., pursuant to G.S. § 143.318.11 (a)(6), a motion was made to go into closed session by Susan Bull, DVM and seconded by Michael Martin, DVM. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 10:13am, Allen Cannedy, DVM made a motion to leave closed session and Ronald Komich, DVM seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Pursuant to G.S § 120C-500, a motion was made by Susan Bull, DVM and seconded by Allen Cannedy, DVM to designate Deputy Director Keith West as Legislative Liaison Personnel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Susan Bull, DVM read into the minutes the decisions from Committee on Investigation No. 8.

**Report of Committee on Investigations No. 8**

- a. 2023005-8 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause  
(cont'd from March)
- b. 2022105-8 – Letter of Caution
- c. 2023009-8 – Letter of Caution

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- d. 2023013-8 – Letter of Caution
- e. 2023015-8 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- f. 2023016-8 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- g. 2023011-8 – Letter of Reprimand

Tim Gold recused himself from case 2023016-8

Michael Martin, DVM made a motion, seconded by Robin Lazaro, RVT, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 8. The report from Committee 8 was approved unanimously.

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

**Report of Committee on Investigations No. 10**

- a. 2022101-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause  
(cont'd from March)
- b. 2023006-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- c. 2023007-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- d. 2023008-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- e. 2023010-10 – Letter of Caution
- f. 2023014-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- g. 2023018-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- h. 2023012-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause

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2022087-10 – This case from the March meeting was reconsidered and changed from Letter of Caution to Dismissed, No Probable Cause.

Susan Bull, DVM made a motion, seconded by Allen Cannedy, 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.

**Other Business:** None

**Approval of Expenses:**

Allen Cannedy, DVM made a motion to approve the Board's expenses, and it was seconded by Ronald Komich, DVM. The expenses were approved unanimously.

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The Board having no further business, a motion to adjourn made by Michael Martin, DVM, seconded by Robin Lazaro, RVT, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tod J. Schadler, DVM  
Executive Director