

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, May 8, 2025**

At 8:02 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; Allen Cannedy, DVM; Edward Faulkner, DVM; Tim Gold; Michael Martin, DVM; Robin Lazaro, RVT; and Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM. Also present in person were Keith West, Executive Director; Melissa Bowman, Deputy Director, Board Attorney, Matthew Skidmore; Joseph P. Jordan, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, North Carolina Physician's Health Program (NCPHP); and Jennifer Kendrick, Executive Director, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA).

The following guests were also in attendance via Zoom: board member Ronald Komich, DVM; Jon Carr, Attorney and Lobbyist (NCVMA); Nicky McNeely, RVT, Vice President, North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians (NCAVT); Shannon Bass, DVM, President (NCVMA); Erin Clark, RVT; Beth Venit, DVM (AAVSB); Maureen Susi; Karyn Smith, DVM, President- Elect (NCVMA); Jennifer Shults, DVM, Legislative Chair (NCVMA); Paige Harrington, DVM, Vice President (NCVMA); and Paige Jemison.

There was an announcement advising that this meeting will be Dr. Allen Cannedy's last meeting as he has served his time as a board member. Dr. Cannedy thanked the board and looks forward to his future plans.

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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.

The March 6, 2025, Board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no recommended corrections. Michael Martin, DVM made a motion to accept the minutes and Edward Faulkner, DVM, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

President Azure Holland, DVM announced that the nomination committee members will be Ronald Komich, DVM and Tim Gold. Dr. Holland also reminded the board that the AAVSB Meeting will be held on September 17- 20, 2025 in Cincinnati, OH. Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM will attend the meeting as the delegate and Edward Faulkner, DVM as the alternate delegate.

Dr. Holland stated that Committee 13 will replace Committee 12 consisting of Edward Faulkner, DVM (Chairman), Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM and Tim Gold.

North Carolina Professional Health Program (NCPHP) Report:

Joseph P. Jordan, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, presented his report on the status of the program attendance and provided updates.

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State Veterinarian's Report:

Michael Martin, DVM reported the changes in the status of disease cases, case numbers, vaccine strategies and staffing updates.

Legislative Committee Update:

Executive Director Keith West discussed Neighbor State License Recognition Act. This bill would allow veterinary technicians registered in Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina to become registered in North Carolina if they met the requirements stated in the bill. The bill does not appear to allow for a juris prudence exam. Veterinarians are exempt from this bill. The Board directed Mr. West to work with the General Assembly to have veterinary technicians exempted from the bill. Mr. West noted should the bill become law it would be effective October 1, 2025.

The Animal Policy Group (APG) has notified the Board that they will be introducing legislation in 2026 for license portability. The APG would like to remove licensing requirement of actively practicing 3 of the last 5 years prior to applying for licensure. Mr. West has requested a copy of the proposed legislation from APG. The Board asked that the legislative committee review the proposed legislation and report back to the Board after review.

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Rules Update:

Deputy Director Melissa Bowman provided an update on rules review. The deadline to review all rules is December 1, 2027. Ms. Bowman also provided an update on the radiation protection commission rules that affect veterinarians. The comment period for those rules close June 2, 2025.

Facility Inspection Report:

Executive Director Keith West provided a report on all the inspections since the last meeting totaling 176 inspections. Robert Bakal, DVM completed 28 inspections, Andrew Horne, DVM completed 35 inspections, Marjorie McFetridge, DVM completed 40 inspections, Nicolette Peer completed 28 inspections, and Marisol Iannuzzi, DVM completed 45 inspections. Inspections are still on track and continuing to go well with no issues.

Attorney's Report:

Board Attorney Matthew Skidmore announced that all board members are compliant with their ethics training. Mr. Skidmore reported that there were 9 complaint decision letters completed since the last meeting, but the number of complaints filed since the last meeting has risen substantially. There was a suggestion to discuss how to streamline the complaint process due to the increase.

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Student Liaison's Report:

None

Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director, Keith West reported that the board's finances remain in good standing and presented the status report of the number of active Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians and stated that the number of applications continue to increase.

At 9:10 a.m. the Board took a break and returned at 9:30 a.m.

At 9:37 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 the active litigation with the Board's attorney in Wake County Superior Court Case No. 25-CVS-1172-910. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 10:06 a.m., a motion was made to leave closed session by Michael Martin, DVM and Edward Faulkner, DVM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

None

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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. 2024117-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- b. 2025001-10 – Letter of Caution
- c. 2025002-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- d. 2024123-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- e. 2025014-10 – Letter of Caution
- f. 2025009-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- g. 2025010-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- h. 2025018-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- i. 2025022-10 – Letter of Caution
- j. 2025006-10 – Letter of Caution
- k. 2025021-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- l. 2025029-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- m. 2025040-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- n. 2025025-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- o. 2025026-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause

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- p. 2025027-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- q. 2024127-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause

Edward Faulkner, DVM, made a motion, seconded by Allen Cannedy, DVM, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 10 with an amendment. The report from Committee 10 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 returned to the Committee for review and action.

Allen Cannedy, DVM read into the minutes the decisions from Committee on Investigation No. 12.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 12

- a. 2024126-12 – Letter of Reprimand
- b. 2024129-12 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- c. 2025004-12 – Letter of Caution
- d. 2025012-12 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- e. 2025016-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- f. 2025019-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause

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- g. 2025020-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- h. 2025023-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- i. 2025031-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- j. 2025007-12 – Letter of Caution
- k. 2025024-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- l. 2025032-12 – Letter of Caution
- m. 2025015-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- n. 2025034-12 – Letter of Reprimand
- o. 2025028-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- p. 2025046-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- q. 2024107-12 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause

Michael Martin, DVM made a motion, seconded by Andrea Gentry-Apple, DVM, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 12. The report from Committee 12 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 returned to the Committee for review and action.

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Other Business:

Executive Director Keith West stated that he will find the current position statements and delegate them to certain committees to review.

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.

Final Review and Summary of Action Items:

Executive Director Keith West will contact the recent student liaison Bec Mitchell and start reviewing candidates for the new student liaison. Mr. West will also notify AAVSB of the delegate and alternate delegate for the meeting in September. Research and review position statements made in the past for possible updates.

A motion to adjourn made by Edward Faulkner, DVM, seconded by Michael Martin, DVM, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Keith West

Executive Director