

MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, May 14, 2026

At 8:03 a.m., President Azure Holland, DVM, called to order the regular meeting of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board. 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. This meeting was held at the Board office and virtually through Zoom. Board members present in person were Azure Holland, DVM; Edward Faulkner, DVM; Krissie Newman; Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM; Robin Lazaro, RVT; Ronald Komich, DVM; and Michael Martin, DVM. Board member Allen Cannedy, DVM was present via Zoom. Also present in person were Keith West, Executive Director; Melissa Bowman, Deputy Director; Matthew Skidmore, Board Attorney; Kimberly Lewis, RVT (NCAVT past President); Jennifer Kendrick, Executive Director, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA); and Jennifer Shults, DVM.

The following guests were in attendance via Zoom: Nicolette McNeely, RVT, (NCAVT Vice President); Karyn Smith, DVM, President (NCVMA); Justin Medley, RVT; Trisha, GM; Carrie Fellows, RVT; Maureen Susi, RVT; Dustin Thomas; Jenny Kapur, RVT; Amy, RVT; Action Vet Tech Services; Shannon Bass, DVM, immediate past President (NCVMA); Kristen Seawell, RVT; Jon Carr, Attorney and Lobbyist (NCVMA); Jasmine Sanders; Susan Bull, DVM

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(NCVMB Investigator); Beckie Mossor; and Amanda Pooler, RVT.

The March 12, 2026, Board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Michael Martin, DVM made a motion to accept the minutes and Edward Faulkner, DVM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

None

Awards Presentation:

President Azure Holland, DVM presented Board members Ronald Komich, DVM and Robin Lazaro, RVT with their service awards and thanked them both for their service as Board members.

President's Report:

None

Nominating Committee Report:

The proposed appointment slate of new officers was announced.

President- Edward Faulkner, DVM

Vice President- Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM

Secretary/ Treasurer- Michael Martin, DVM

Robin Lazaro, RVT made a motion to accept the proposed slate and Krissie

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Newman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

North Carolina Professional Health Program (NCPHP) Report:

Joseph P. Jordan, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, presented his report on the status of the program attendance, provided updates and discussed resources available from the program for veterinarians and veterinary technicians regarding their mental health and overall health.

Dr. Jordan acknowledged Ronald Komich, DVM's membership and contribution to the NCPHP program.

State Veterinarian's Report:

Michael Martin, DVM provided an update on the status of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), and New World screwworm cases and case numbers.

Legislative Committee Update:

Executive Director, Keith West stated that both he and Deputy Director Melissa Bowman met with Senator Rabon to discuss the Board's proposed legislative changes to the NC Veterinary Practice Act. Senator Rabon expressed support for the proposal. Mr. West also stated that the NC Veterinary Medical Association supports the proposed amendments. Amendments included adding

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PAVE graduates and VTS certificate holders for registration as veterinary technicians. Change license/registration status from revoked to expired for persons who do not renew their licensing/registration. Adding summary emergency power to suspend licenses or registrations. Reinforce requirements for out of state applicants and allowing for temporary permits for licensees and registrants during a state of emergency.

Facility Inspection Report:

Executive Director, Keith West provided a report on all of the inspections since the last meeting totaling 270 inspections with no serious violations. Robert Bakal, DVM completed 98 inspections, Andrew Horne, DVM completed 75 inspections, Marjorie McFetridge, DVM completed 44 inspections, and Nicolette Peer, DVM completed 63 inspections.

Mr. West also stated that there is an ongoing issue with one facility that is currently with a Committee.

Attorney's Report:

Board Attorney, Matthew Skidmore stated that 5 closing letters have been mailed since the last meeting, a total of 12 closing letters are expected to be completed this month and there are 3 with potential consent orders. Mr. Skidmore also stated that all Board members are up to date with their statement of economic

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interest.

Student Liaison's Report:

Primary Student Liaison, Sydney MacDonald was not present for the Board meeting though she provided the Board with her written report prior to the meeting.

Executive Director, Keith West stated students that are interested in the role as the Board's secondary student liaison are sending their resumes.

Executive Director's Report:

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

Mr. West reported that the transition from paper documents to electronic files is progressing well and that Board office operations are running smoothly.

At 8:36 a.m. the Board took a break and returned at 8:52 a.m.

Robert Meckes, DVM and James Hamilton, DVM discussed with the Board their concerns about emergency equine services in the state of North Carolina.

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At 9:33 a.m. the Board took a second break and returned at 9:49 a.m.

At 9:50 a.m., pursuant to G.S. § 143.318.11 (a)(3) and (6), a motion was made to go into closed session by Edward Faulkner, DVM and seconded by Michael Martin, DVM to discuss reinstatement of inactive license applications and a consent order that was accepted. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 10:35 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.

All inactive reinstatement license applications were approved.

Old Business:

None

Edward Faulkner, DVM read into the minutes the decisions from Committee on Investigation No. 14.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 14

- a. 2026001-14– Continued
- b. 2026002-14 – Letter of Caution

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- c. 2026005-14 – Letter of Caution
- d. 2026010-14 – Continued
- e. 2026027-14 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- f. 2026006- 14 – Consent Order

Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM, made a motion, seconded by Michael Martin, DVM, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 14. The report from Committee 14 was approved unanimously.

Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM read into the minutes the decisions from Committee on Investigation No. 15.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 15

- a. 2025167-10 – Letter of Caution
- b. 2026012-15 – Continued
- c. 2026009-15 – Letter of Reprimand
- d. 2026016- 15 – Letter of Caution
- e. 2026013- 15 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause

Edward Faulkner, DVM, made a motion, seconded by Krissie Newman, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 15. The report from Committee 15 was approved unanimously.

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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.

Other Business:

None

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 stated that the legislative committee will review rules and general statutes concerning emergency services and the reinstatement fee for inactive status.

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A motion to adjourn made by Michael Martin, DVM, seconded by, Robin Lazaro, RVT, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith West
Executive Director