

**Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners**  
**Agenda for December 7th, 2023**

**Meet by Google Meets at 10:30 AM**

**Joint Meeting Agenda**

**Board Members:** Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, President; Dr. Christine Calvert Vice President; Dr. Heidi Schmechel, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Ms. Patricia Quimby, Dr. Peter Radue and Dr. James Reed.

**Guests:** Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Maryland State Director, HSUS; Lisa Radov, President and Chair of the Board, Maryland Votes for Animals

**Open Meeting Agenda**

Dr. Callahan called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m..

**HSUS and Maryland Votes for Animals Legislative Update - Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Lisa Radov**

Presented on the legislative process and initiatives for HSUS, including 2 bills that may impact veterinarians (Bill to increase the Spay and Neuter Program's Fees and a bill regarding Student Loan forgiveness for Shelter Veterinarians).

**Approval of the Minutes of the October 26th, 2023 Board Meeting.**

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Reed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 26th, 2023 Board Meeting.

**Veterinary License Applications Approvals:**

For the following application, the Board is requesting an virtual appearance to discuss that application and the disciplinary history in Pennsylvania:

- Veterinarians for Board Review (1):
  - Dr. Gerald Tishman
    - Would like to ask some questions and appear virtually before a license is issued.
    - Will you be responsible veterinarian at a hospital in Maryland?

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the licenses for applications approved by designated authority:

- Veterinarians approved by Designated Authority (28):

- S. Hennen
- C. Neilson
- B. Ceritto
- L. Anderson
- M. Tabisz
- K. Keifer
- C. Michael
- M. Cumming

- B. Beale
- J. Dolan
- E. Ramos
- S. Abraham
- D. Holness
- C. Hall
- B. Rodgers
- S. O'Donnell
- S. Towel
- P. Christopherson
- B. Hardin
- K. Jones
- G. Culp
- R. Cornelius
- C. Klippen
- J. Schoenberger
- K. Collins
- P. Worden
- J. Bearss
  
- D. Seery
  
- Veterinary Technicians Approved by Designated Authority (6):

- J. Beightol
- C. Benesole
- S. Park
- O. Carroll
- M. Mades
- S. London

**License Verification Requests Processed:**

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
<b>Veterinarian</b>	18	24	26	27	31	7*							133
<b>RVT</b>	3	3	1	1	2	0*							10

**\*Month incomplete; not final numbers.**

**Sanitation Reports:**

Inspectors Ellen James and Pegeen Morgan presented the Sanitation Inspection Reports. In a motion by Dr. Reed, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Sanitation Inspection Reports.

**CE Approval Requests:**

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the use of the following Continuing Education Credits for use during registrations renewals:

Request #	Requester	CE Title	Sponsoring Organization	# of CE's	Clinical / Non-Clinical	CDS Request	Approval	CDS Approval
738	Alexandra Brake	Continuing Education Day for Veterinary Technicians	VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine/ Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center	6	Clinical	No	Yes	N/A
740	Stephanie Murphy	Foraging Device Preferences in Common Marmosets (Callithrix jacchus) and Enrichment for Staff	National Primate Research Centers Consortium - Environmental Enrichment Exchange Webinar-Series	1	Clinical	No	Yes	N/A

**Miscellaneous:**

- **Questions Regarding Prescriptions**
  - Can a vet charge to provide a written prescription?
    - The Vet Board does not have regulations prohibiting this.
  - Can a vet charge to verify an online prescription?
    - The Vet Board does not have regulations prohibiting this.
  - Can a vet refuse to verify online prescriptions (chewy etc.)?
    - Some are refusing to take prescriptions unless they come directly from the veterinary office.
    - Board Response: A veterinarian must provide a written prescription if requested and may charge for that. We do not have a regulation that

requires veterinarians to verify online prescriptions and these policies may vary internally with practices.

- **Inquiry regarding compounding pharmacy changes. - Frederick Cat Vet.**
  - Board Response: We are not the appropriate authority to answer this question. Please reach out to the Pharmacy Board, Maryland CDS permitting authority, and the DEA to inquire about the rules.
- **Inquiry regarding Fire Alarm Requirements - Dr. Peter Radue**
  - Would a google nest count as a monitored fire alarm as it alerts a cell phone?
    - Could potentially be used but would need to be monitored by a centrally monitored provider. Alerting the owner's cell phone is not enough.
- **Inquiry Stem Cell Therapy - Dr. Mark Schrenzel**
  - Clients must have informed consent. Information should be given to the client regarding the experimental and unknown efficacy of the treatments and any known adverse effect. Must follow all other state and federal laws. We do not have any regulations specifically regarding the use.
- **Proposed meeting dates for 2024**
  - January 25th, 2024 Virtual (B First)
  - February 22nd, 2024 In-Person (A First)
  - March 28th, 2024 Virtual (B First)
  - April 25th, 2024 Virtual (A First)
  - May 23rd, 2024 In-Person (B First)
  - June 27th, 2024 Virtual Limited meeting
  - July 25th, 2024 In Person(A First)
  - August 22nd, 2024 Virtual (B First)
  - September 26th, 2024 Virtual (A First)
  - October 24th, 2024 In-Person (B First)
  - November 21st, 2024 Limited Virtual
  - December 5th, 2024 Virtual (A First)
- **Inquiry from Dogs and Cats Emergency - Caitlin Davis**
  - Can an external prescription to outside pharmacies be done digitally, printed out and signed by the veterinarian or must they be done on the blue prescription pads and documented in the medical record via the prescription label and placed on the RX sheet for the doctor to sign? Are the blue Rx pads required due to being tamper proof? They would like to use the EzyVet software.
    - Only ones that would be required would be the controlled substances. There are official ones that can be used in a printer for even the controlled substances.
- **Inquiry from HomeVets regarding training clients to administer certain injections and not requiring a home visit (Librela, Solensia, etc.)- Dr. Brittany Wolfe**
  - We would like to know if we could teach clients how to properly administer the injection, discuss the risks, and have them sign a legal document releasing us from any liability. Attached is a draft waiver we are considering. If you think this would be permissible, we would have an official waiver written by a lawyer for clients to

sign. These would be on a case-by-case basis only deemed allowable by one of our veterinarians.

- Shouldn't allow clients to do themselves. Mono-clonal antibodies could have human health concerns if accidentally injecting themselves. This is not recommended from the drug companies and would put you at significant legal action even with a disclosure.
  
- **Inquiry from Happy Tails Vet Hospital - Sam, Practice Manager**
  - Does a full exam need to be done by the veterinarian before administering a rabies vaccine or is their annual VCPR with another veterinarian at the hospital sufficient?
    - Doing a TPR at a minimum would be recommended and then administering it would be sufficient. Vet would still be accountable if there was an issue and should be comfortable with the status of the animal. This is a matter of veterinary discretion, our regulations don't require it but you recommend at least a TPR is performed. In the end it would
  
- **Regulation Strategic Goals**
  - What regulations should we focus on for 2024?
    - RVT Responsibilities? (Start after legislative session)
    - Tele-Health? (Start after legislative session)
    - Limited Use Hospital Regulations? (Start Now)
    - Record Keeping (Start Now)
  
- **Update on Drip.vet Record Keeping CE Offerings**
  - Drip.vet now offers two record keeping courses, including a general course and one intended for veterinarians who have been ordered by their State Board to complete record keeping CE.
  
- **Johnson McKee Animal Hospital submitted several questions due to losing the only veterinary left on staff:**
  - The Board provided guidance on how to proceed with various hospital functions including prescriptions and disposal of controlled substances.
    - Can do the Boarding, Anal Gland Expression, Nail trims can be done as long as it is explicitly consented to in writing that this is not as a veterinary hospital.
    - Can not dispense any medications without a responsible veterinarian for the hospital license to be valid, and a veterinarian to review the prescriptions. Base your operational hours off of the availability of the responsible veterinarian.

### **Public Disciplinary Actions Closed Since October 26th, 2023**

- Docket No. 23-01: Melissa Browne-Fitzherbert / Dr. Janice Griffin, Valley Veterinary Hospital
  - Professional Judgment

- Docket No. 23-67: Sophia Castro / Dr. Matthew Felrice, Bennett Creek Animal Hospital (Atty: Damiano)
  - Record Keeping
- Docket No. 23-120A: SBVME / Dr. Ira Luskin, NVA Animal Dental Center LLC (Towson)
  - Operating Hospital without Valid License (change of location)
- Docket No. 24-09: SBVME / Dr. Lisa Hoffman, Hoffman Animal Hospital
  - Expired Medications
- Docket No. 24-11: SBVME / Dr. Hugh Kellog, McClellan Veterinary Clinic
  - Expired Medications

*In a motion by Dr. Calvert , and seconded by Ms. Chaput, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session to perform administrative functions outside the scope of the Open Meetings Act, in accordance with § 3-103(a)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article. The administrative functions to be performed include discussion of the specific matters identified on the Board Agenda. In the alternative, I move to close the meeting pursuant to the following Section 3-305(b):*

*(7) To obtain advice of counsel;*

*(8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;*

*(12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;”  
and*

*(13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.*