

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Meeting Minutes for September 22nd, 2022

Meet by Google Meets at 10:30 AM

Joint Meeting

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Christine Calvert, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Ms. Patricia Quimby, Dr. Peter Radue and Dr. James Reed.

Staff in Attendance: Nathaniel Boan, Executive Director; Susan Husk, Assistant Director; Pegeen Morgan & Ellen James, Inspectors; Britney Branch, Administrative Specialist; Sarah Hultz, Investigator; Tonya Kendrick-Green, Licensing Administrator; Cynthia Spirt, Assistant Attorney General

Open Meeting Agenda

Dr. Calvert Called the meeting to order 10:33.

Approval of the Minutes: In a motion by Dr. Reed, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the August 25th, 2022 Board Meeting.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals:

In a motion by Dr. Reed, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following veterinary license applications:

- Dr. Ashley Smith
- Dr. David Bessler
- Dr. Douglas McInnis
- Dr. Maria Bell
- Dr. Lauren Gould
- Dr. Jaclyn Wells
- Dr. Adam Mazin
- Dr. Caroline Fallon
- Dr. Jennifer Rokhsar

Sanitation Reports:

Inspectors Ellen James and Pegeen Morgan presented the sanitation reports for inspections performed between August 23rd, 2022 and September 20th, 2022.

In a motion by Dr. Reed, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the sanitation reports.

CE Approval Requests:

In a motion by Dr. Reed, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following Continuing Education request:

- 609 - Legg

Miscellaneous:

- Dr. Benjamin Donati - A special request was made by Dr. Donati to allow two veterinarians to apply for licensing in Maryland that would provide specialty cardiology services in Maryland. The veterinarians received their education at a foreign non-AVMA accredited

school but have taught veterinary medicine at AVMA accredited schools in the United States.

- In a motion by Dr. Radue, and seconded by Dr. Reed, the Team voted unanimously to allow for the veterinarians to apply for licensing without the PAVE or ECFVG. This does not guarantee the application will be approved. The veterinarians should provide the following information as part of their application:
 - Have they been performing procedures while teaching and how frequently?
 - What types of open heart procedures are you performing?
 - Include information about the requirements to take PAVE or ECFVG and provide information showing qualified to take the exam.

- Canine Rehabilitation Question - RVT Juliana Frenkil submitted an inquiry requesting clarification on allowable practices for an RVT using an underwater treadmill on animals.
 - An RVT would be able to provide this service only for general health and lifestyle exercise purposes but would not be able to do it therapeutically as a treatment for a diagnosed condition without a veterinarian on the premises.
 - Direct supervision does not require line of sight but must be on-site and available if needed.
 - Other questions regarding the LLC should be directed to a private lawyer and be evaluated through your employment agreements.

- Inquiry Regarding Mail Prescriptions - A veterinary clinic reached out to Investigator Susie Husk to inquire about regulations regarding the mailing of prescription medications.
 - Clinics must follow Pharmacy Board and other State and Federal guidelines. The Board does not have any more specific requirements regarding mailing prescriptions.

- Laser Therapy Equipment Requirements - Sound, a distributor of therapeutic laser equipment, submitted an inquiry to Investigator Susie Husk, regarding Vet Board requirements for the possession and use of such equipment.
 - The Board does not have any specific requirement in our regulations. Clinics would need to follow other State and Federal Guidelines. Staff should be trained to use the equipment appropriately and be able to explain risks and benefits to owners, and document these discussions in the medical records.
 - They should be used within the generally accepted principles of the standards of care for veterinarians in the state of Maryland.

- St Mary's Shelter Medications - The Shelter Director, Theresa, of the new St. Mary's Animal Shelter, submitted an inquiry requesting clarification of acceptable protocols for the treatment of minor injury and illnesses of shelter animals when a veterinarian is not able to be on the premises.
 - Animal shelters should have very detailed protocols developed by/with a veterinarian that has formed a relationship (VCPR) with the shelter. Conditions identified by staff who are trained to identify common ailments faced by shelter animals could be treated based on those protocols and should be seen by the/a

veterinarian as soon as possible. If the ailment is outside of the established protocols and training, a veterinarian must see the animal prior to treatment.

- This should never include any form of surgical procedure.

- In Home Surgeries - Wound Repair - Javier Diaz-Caneja, a Veterinary Technician from Better Vet, submitted an inquiry to the Board requesting clarification of in-home practices allowable in Maryland, specifically minor surgical procedures including Feline Neuters and small wound care such as lancing abscesses and placing stitches.
 - The Board does not consider this a generally accepted practice within the standards of care. Surgery areas including mobile clinics require minimum standards and sterile environments with resources in case emergency situations occur. If a complaint were to arise we would not find home surgery to be within the standards of care. Surgeries for companion animals should be performed by a licensed veterinarian in an established space that is subject to Board inspection for sanitary practices.

- Closing ER when beyond capacity inquiry - Tiffany Nally, Director of Veterinarians at Mountain View Animal Emergency and Specialty submitted an inquiry regarding the closing of an Emergency Facility due to capacity limitations to ensure the quality care of patients that have already been admitted.
 - The Board does not have regulations specifically for emergency clinics regarding what hours they must be open. As long as information is clearly communicated to clients, including ones that have been accepted and are waiting to be seen. You should have clearly established places to refer clients too.
 - The Board understands that patients already accepted into care must receive quality care. The Board also understands that staffing changes and emergencies can cause decreased capacity.

- Dr. Alethea Evans - Application Request - Dr. Alethea Evans requested further guidance on what process would be required to become licensed again.
 - Dr. Evans would need to apply as a new applicant, including retaking the NAVLE, due to the lack of clinical practice in the last five years and the amount of time her license has expired.

Public Actions Since August 25th, 2022:

- Docket No. 22-94 : Catherine Blades / Dr. Donna Flaggs, Cabin Creek Animal Hospital
 - Signed and Executed on September 12th, 2022.

In a motion by Ms. Chaput, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, 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.