

**Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners**  
**Minutes for February 22nd, 2024**

**Meet In Person at Maryland Department of Agriculture at 9:00 AM**

**Joint Meeting Minutes**

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

**Open Meeting Agenda**

**Dr. Calvert called the meeting to order at 9:22 am.**

**Approval of the Minutes of the January 25th, 2024 Board Meeting.**

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 25th, 2024 board meeting.

**Veterinary License Applications Approvals:**

Dr. Gerald Tishman had originally believed he would need to meet in person. He would like to meet the Board regarding his application at a virtual meeting. Will be scheduled for March.

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Reed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following license of Dr. Joshua Montgomery reviewed by the Board, and the veterinary licenses and veterinary technician registrations approved by delegated authority.

- Vet Licenses for Board review.
  - Dr. Joshua Montgomery
    - Reviewed by Board due to DUI charges while in college. Applicant acknowledged charges and has not had any additional issues.

Vet Licenses Approved by Designated Authority (26):

- P. McFadden
- E. Hemberg
- K. Greenburg
- H. Luh
- D. Kovalik
- A. Eden
- A. Ritter
- M. Manning
- M. McKeown
- E. Chapman
- C. Morales
- A. Lewis
- O. Schlichting
- M. Lichliter
- H. Millar
- P. Coder
- G. Abbott

- A. Thummala
- S. Robertson
- S. Heresniak
- C. Reilly
- A. Forbes
- J. Ruby
- K. Blankenship
- M. Rogers

**Veterinary Technicians Approved by Designated Authority (11):**

- J. Malecki
- M. Miyagawa
- A. Anderson
- O. Yatsenko
- S. Maust
- A. Price
- H. Smith
- L. Sampsell
- S. Carter
- S. Carper
- A. Tulino

**Sanitation Reports:**

Inspectors Ellen James and Pegeen Morgan presented the inspection reports.

In a motion by Ms. Chaput, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the inspection reports.

**CE Approval Requests:** There were no CE requests that required approvals.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Question about sending radiographs out for review (from Matt McDonald, Animal Emergency Hospital - Ellicott City )
  - The Board reviewed a draft response and discussed best practices vs minimum standards.
- Legislation
  - HB0057/SB0235 (PDMP) -
    - Vet Board will take no stance.
  - HB0085/SB0641 (Spay Neuter Program Fee) -
    - MDA has supported this Bill.
    - Vet Board will take no stance.
  - HB0171 (Veterinary Pharmacist on Pharmacy Board) -
    - Vet Board will take no stance.
    - At the hearing the committee chair wanted to open communications with the Pharmacy Board to see about using one of the existing “general seats” for a veterinarian.
  - HB0647 (Pet Insurance Transparency) -
    - Vet Board took no stance.
    - Committee meeting happened 2.15.2024, no opposition, Pet Insurance Industry supported. Similar legislation in many jurisdictions last year and more this year.

- HB1097 (Veterinary Technician and Assistants) -
  - The Vet Board approved drafts for suggested edits and rationales.
  - Hearing is 2.28.2024
  
- HB1099 (Compounding Statutes) -
  - The Board would like to send a letter of information regarding this bill. The Board recognizes some issues with drug availability; however, the bill appears to contradict federal laws, and guidance.
- HB1107 (Spay Neuter Tax Credit) -
  - Vet Board took no stance.
- HB1201/SB1072 (Professional Licensing Military/Spouses) -
  - Likely no impact to us. We already have things in our regulations for this. Might require some minor regulation adjustments.
  - The Board took no stance.
- HB1388 (Non-Compete Agreements) -
  - The Vet Board took no stance.
- SB0054/HB0175 (Occupational Licensing) -
  - The Vet Board took no stance.
  - May have operational impact on licensing applications.
- SB0157 (Domestica Animal Penalties for Abandonment and Microchipping requirement) -
  - Vet Board took no stance.
  - Does require a veterinarian for microchipping which would impact shelters. Hearing held early on. Unclear if it is favorable.
- SB0745 (College of Veterinary Medicine Seats) - MDVMA Supporting.
  - The Board is considering providing a letter of support for both the new school accreditation and expansion of the existing schools' available seats to Maryland.
  - Considered a good way to help increase the number of licensed veterinarians in Maryland.
- SB0872 (Animal Abuse Charges) -
  - The Vet Board took no stance.
- SB0900/HB1395 (Loan Assistance Reimbursement for Veterinarians) -
  - The Board is considering providing a letter of support for this program.
  - Supported method of incentivizing veterinarians to practice in Maryland.

**Public Disciplinary Actions Finalized since January 25th, 2024**

- Docket No. 24-14: Veronica Van Hof (Charles Bridgett)/ Dr. Margaret Hoffecker, Shawsville Veterinary Hospital & Pet Care Center
  - 15.14.01.18 (Animal Boarding by a Veterinarian)
  - 15.14.01.10 (Record Keeping)

*In a motion by Dr. Calvert, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, 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.*