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Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine
October 10, 2024, Public Meeting Minutes

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine (“the Board”) was held remotely *via* video and telephone conferencing pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, allowing remote participation by Board members and the public.

Attending Members: Dr. David Diamond, Member; Dr. Stephanie Kube, Member; Dr. Candace Sloane, Public Member

Members Absent: Dr. Rachel Orlowski, Board Chair; Dr. David Tubman, Secretary

Staff: Marjorie Campbell, Executive Director; Keith Gleason, former Executive Director; Philip Chan, Board Counsel; John Hill, Board Administrative Staff; and Salvatore Ciulla

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M. Board members, Board staff, and members of the Public were introduced and welcomed, and all present were informed the meeting was being recorded.

- **Read and Approve Minutes:**
- The Board reviewed the minutes from the Open Meeting of September 12, 2024, and agreed to accept the minutes as written, with one correction noted to change references to “patient” to “client”.
 - Motion made by Dr. Diamond to accept the September 12, 2024, Public Session of the Board meeting minutes with the noted correction.
 - Seconded by Dr. Kube
 - Roll Call vote
 - In Favor: Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube
 - Opposed: none
 - Abstain: Dr. Sloane
 - Motion passes
- The Board reviewed the minutes from the Executive Session of September 12, 2024, and agreed to accept the minutes as written.
 - Motion made by Dr. Diamond to accept the September 12, 2024, Executive Session of the Board meeting minutes.
 - Seconded by Dr. Kube
 - Roll Call Vote
 - In Favor: Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube



- Opposed: none
- Abstain: Dr. Sloane
- Motion passes

- **Executive Director Report**

- Update regarding NAVLE Retake policy: Policy issued by the ICVA (International Council for Veterinary Assessment): Applicants taking the NAVLE exam will be able to take the exam now up to five times. If they do not pass after the fifth attempt, applicants will have to petition the ICVA to retake the exam.
- Set up Board Meeting dates for 2025 as follows:
 - January 9, 2025
 - February 13, 2025
 - March 13, 2025
 - April 10, 2025
 - May 8, 2025
 - June 12, 2025
 - July: No meeting
 - August 14, 2025
 - September 11, 2025
 - October 9, 2025
 - November 13, 2025
 - December 11, 2025

- **Board Counsel Report:** Board Counsel will be monitoring the progress of proposed regulations.

- **Correspondence Items:** Board Members reviewed the following questions that were submitted by the public

- Question came in from the public seeking guidance on how to order medications for outpatient clients that need in-hospital medication. Board members, with guidance from Board Counsel discussed that nothing in our regulations addressing this issue. This question is best directed to the Pharmacy Board, and the public should follow the rules of the Commonwealth in this regard. No vote was taken.
- Question came in from the public asking about a non-veterinarian teaching pet CPR and First Aid, and does a person have to be certified to teach this? Board members discussed that we do not have regulations for CPR training. There are certification courses that a person can take to teach this, but our regulations do not require this. Board staff will follow up with members of the public that have experience in the field if staff has any questions. No vote was taken.
- Question came in from the public asking whether there are laws about whether veterinarians are legally permitted or not permitted to see animals that are illegally owned pets either on the federal or Massachusetts State level? Board members discussed, with guidance from Board Counsel, that the Board is not in a position to give legal advice on these broad subject matters. Veterinarians treat animals that come before them, regardless of the legal status, but this specific question on illegally owned pets is one that is best addressed by a private attorney for the Veterinarian practice or State Wildlife agencies. No vote was taken.

- Question came in from the public asking whether veterinarians need a CSR for each location they prescribe from? Board members discussed that this is best directed to the MCSR (Massachusetts Controlled Substances Registry.) No vote was taken.
 - Question came in from the public asking whether a non-Veterinarian could use the EquiNew's FES system, without working under a licensed Veterinarian? Board members discussed that the use of this device does involve diagnosing and treating animals, and therefore, a non-licensed person would need to work under a licensed Veterinarian. No vote was taken.
 - Question came in from the public asking whether it is illegal to declaw cats in Massachusetts. Board members, with guidance from Board Counsel, discussed that there is currently no law at this time in place making it illegal to declaw cats in Massachusetts, although there is a pending Bill addressing this issue. No vote was taken.
 - Question came in from the public with a specific question about whether it would be allowable for a Veterinarian to declaw younger cats in order to protect older cats in the household. Board members discussed again that there is currently no law at this time in place making it illegal to declaw cats in Massachusetts. This matter is best discussed with a person's individual Veterinarian. No vote was taken.
 - Question came in from the public asking whether a CVT is allowed to place microchips in animals without direct Veterinarian supervision. Board members discussed, and the Board has addressed this issue in the past. Such individuals can perform this task as long as the person is trained and experienced in the task at hand, and with supervision from the Veterinarian. No vote was taken.
- **Discussion Items:** Discussion as to whether Board members want to specify a specific amount of time that Licensees would have to maintain their CE records. Currently, there is no specific retention time stated in the Regulations. Board members discussed that the Regulations should remain as is.
 - **Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting:** No Items
 - **Public Comment:** No Items
 - At this time, there were no further matters for the Public Session. At 10:34 am, a Motion was made by Dr. Sloane to close the Public Session and enter the closed Quasi-Judicial Session, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, 18. Following the Quasi-Judicial Session, the Board will move into the Closed Investigative Conference Session. The Board does not anticipate reentering the public session, and there are no items under the Executive Session.
 - Motion by Dr. Sloane to close the Public Session of the Meeting and enter into the Closed Quasi-Judicial Session
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Diamond
 - Roll Call vote
 - In favor: Dr. Diamond, Dr. Sloane, and Dr. Kube
 - Opposed: None
 - Motion passes

- **Quasi-Judicial Session (Closed per M.G.L. c. 30A, 18)**
 - 2024-000048-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions, Default
- At 10:55 am, Motion was made by Dr. Diamond to close the Quasi-Judicial Session and enter into the Investigative Conference Session.
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Kube
 - Roll Call vote
 - In favor: Dr. Diamond, Dr. Sloane, and Dr. Kube
 - Opposed: None
 - Motion passes
- **Investigative Conference (Closed per M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C):**

The following actions were taken during the Investigative Conference:

Settlements

- 2021-001007-IT-ENF; 2022-000467-IT-ENF; 2022-001120-IT-ENF; 2023-000114-IT-ENF; and 2023-000122-IT-ENF: Refer back to Prosecutions

Cases:

- 2024-000030-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions
- 2024-000350-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2024-000502-IT-ENF: Tabled
- 2024-000513-IT-ENF: Tabled
- 2024-000529-IT-ENF: Tabled
- 2024-000544-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions
- 2024-000545-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2024-000548-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions
- 2024-000579-IT-ENF: Dismiss

Adjournment: At 12:08 PM, a Motion to Adjourn meeting was made.

- Motion to Adjourn meeting made by Dr. Diamond
- Motion seconded by Dr. Sloane
- Roll Call vote
- In favor: Dr. Diamond, Dr. Sloane, and Dr. Kube
- Opposed: None
- Motion passes

Meeting minutes signed by:


 Board Chair, Dr. Rachel Orlowski

Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for the October 10, 2024, Open Meeting
- Minutes from the September 12, 2024 Open Meeting
- Updated NAVLE Retake Policy
- Correspondence Questions submitted by the public

