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Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine
February 13, 2025, 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. Rachel Orlowski, Board Chair; Dr. David Tubman, Secretary; Dr. Candace Sloane, Public Member; Dr. David Diamond, Member; and Dr. Stephanie Kube, Member

Members Absent: None

Staff: Marjorie Campbell, Executive Director; Nirit Eriksson, Board Counsel; Philip Chan, Outgoing Board Counsel; John Hill, Board Administrative Staff; and Amanda Chaves, Prosecutor (present during part of the meeting).

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.

- **Review and Approve Minutes:**
- The Board reviewed the minutes from the Open Meeting of January 9, 2025, as well as the minutes from the January 9, 2025, Executive Session Meeting. Board members agreed to approve and accept both sets of minutes, the Public Session and the Executive Session, as written:
 - Motion made by Dr. Orlowski to accept the January 9, 2025, Public Session and Executive Session minutes
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Tubman
 - Roll Call vote
 - In Favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, and Dr. Tubman
 - Abstain: Dr. Sloane
 - Opposed: none
 - Motion passes
- **Executive Director Report**
 - The Executive Director (ED) referenced the report in the Board packet from the Kentucky State Board (KBVE): which was their submission of



proposed AAVSB Bylaws Amendments for the 2025 Delegate. The Executive Director received a request from the KBVE to distribute this report to the Board Members for review and consideration. The report proposes some comprehensive updates to the Bylaws related to overall conformity, as well as new provisions to promote transparency regarding Association activities, and to help curb the influence of private and special interest groups on the laws governing the practices of Veterinary Medicine. A public member from the AAVSB spoke and stated that this report would need to first go before the Bylaws Committee, and to let the Board members know that there will likely be many changes in the next few months to the report before it even goes to Committee. There was no further discussion, and no vote was taken.

- **Board Counsel Report**

- No New Items

- **Action and Discussion Items**

- New Massachusetts Law: An Act Prohibiting Inhumane Feline Declawing (S. 2552): The Board Chair, Dr. Orlowski, opened up the discussion by saying that the DeClaw Law is essentially outlawing the declawing of cats in Massachusetts except for cases of medical necessity. There is also a reporting requirement within the law that will require the Board to collect reports from Veterinarians who do perform this procedure. The ED stated that the Board will work on some internal processes to accept and track these reports. Jamie Falzone, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) stated that this law will not go into full effect until April 7, 2025. Jamie Falzone also stated that she would do her best to get the word out to Veterinarians to document thoroughly if they do have to surgically declaw a cat, and to report these procedures to the Board accordingly.
 - Nomination and Election of Board Member Officers:
 - Position of Board Chair:
 - Motion made by Dr. Diamond to nominate Dr. Sloane for Board Chair; Dr. Sloane declined the nomination
 - Motion was made by Dr. Sloane to nominate Dr. Orlowski for Board Chair; Dr. Orlowski accepted the nomination and seconded the motion
 - Dr. Orlowski, current Board Chair, called for a roll call vote
 - In Favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, Dr. Sloane, and Dr. Tubman
 - Opposed: None
 - Motion carries
 - Position of Vice Chair:

- Motion made by Dr. Diamond to nominate Dr. Sloane for Vice Chair; Dr. Sloane declined the nomination
- Motion was made by Dr. Sloane to nominate Dr. Kube for Vice Chair; Dr. Kube accepted the nomination, and Dr. Orłowski seconded the motion
- Board Chair called for a roll call vote
- In Favor: Dr. Orłowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, Dr. Sloane, and Dr. Tubman
- Opposed: None
- Motion carries
- Position of Secretary: Motion made by Dr. Diamond to nominate Dr. Sloane for Secretary; Dr. Sloane declined the nomination
- Motion was made by Dr. Orłowski to nominate Dr. Tubman for Board Secretary; Dr. Tubman accepted the nomination and the motion was seconded by Dr. Sloane
- Board Chair called for a roll call vote
- In Favor: Dr. Orłowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, Dr. Sloane, and Dr. Tubman
- Opposed: None
- Motion carries
- **Correspondence Items:** Board Members reviewed the following question that was submitted by a member of the public:
 - A question was submitted to the public email asking about hamster care in Massachusetts. This person stated that she could not find a Veterinarian in her area, and further stated that one Veterinarian told her that since hamsters were now classified as exotic pets, Veterinarians who previously could render hamster care no longer could. This person was seeking guidance from the Board. Board members stated that no law or regulation prevents a Veterinarian from caring for hamsters. Rather, this is a decision that is left up to each individual Veterinarian, depending on their level of comfort caring for hamsters. Some Veterinarians do have additional training in exotic pet care. This person may have to call around more to find a Veterinarian who could render hamster care. Also, the Board members noted that the Board does not control what a Veterinarian charges for their services.
- **CE Extension Request:** Dr. Katrina Utz submitted a request for an extension to obtain her CE's. She is currently residing in Kenya, and due to the time difference between Kenya and Massachusetts, she had difficulty finding the time to complete the interactive hours for her CE's. She is registered for an interactive CE on 2/12/25 and one on 3/26/25, and once completed, she should have sufficient CE's for the renewal period.
 - Motion made by Dr. Diamond to allow Dr. Utz a three month extension to complete her CE's for her current license renewal,

noting that the CE's for this renewal period will not count toward next year's renewal cycle.

- Motion seconded by Dr. Sloane
- Board Chair called for a roll call vote
- In Favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, Dr. Sloane, and Dr. Tubman
- Opposed: None
- Motion carries

- **Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting:**

- There was a question asked about a pending Telemedicine bill in Massachusetts, as well as a question about the increasing cases of Avian Flu and how that was impacting Veterinary practice. The Board may consider taking these issues up at a later meeting date.
- Reminder that registration for the upcoming AAVSB Spring Meeting in Kansas City closes on February 21, 2025.

- At this time, there were no further matters for the Public Session. At 10:11 am, a Motion was made by Dr. Sloane to close the Public Session and enter into the closed Investigative Conference, to discuss open cases, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C. There are no items for discussion under the Executive Session or the Quasi-Judicial Session, and the Board does not anticipate re-entering the public session.

- Motion seconded by Dr. Tubman
- Board Chair called for a roll call vote
- In favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, Dr. Sloane, and Dr. Tubman
- Opposed: None
- Motion passes

Investigative Conference (Closed per M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C):

The following actions were taken during the Investigative Conference:

Settlements:

- 2024-000400-IT-ENF:
- 2024-000513-IT-ENF: (Dr. Diamond and Dr. Kube recused)

Cases:

- 2024-000631-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2024-000694-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2024-000743-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions (Dr. Orlowski recused)
- 2024-000842-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions
- 2024-000867-IT-ENF: Dismiss (Dr. Kube recused)
- 2024-000889-IT-ENF: Dismiss with Advisory
- 2024-000908-IT-ENF: Dismiss (Dr. Orlowski recused)
- 2024-000915-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2024-000927-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2025-000097-IT-ENF: Refer to OI for further investigation

Adjournment: At 12:36 pm, a Motion to Adjourn meeting was made.

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

Meeting minutes signed by:

Board Chair, Dr. Rachel Orlowski

Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for the February 13, 2025, Open Meeting
- Minutes from the January 9, 2025, Open Meeting and minutes from the January 9, 2025, Executive Session
- Report from the Kentucky State Board: Proposed AAVSB Bylaws Amendments for the 2025 Delegate
- New Massachusetts Law: An Act Prohibiting Inhumane Feline Declawing
- Correspondence from the Public: hamster care
- Correspondence from Dr. Utz regarding CE Extension Request