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Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine
March 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 Orłowski, Board Chair; Dr. Stephanie Kube, Vice Chair; Dr. David Tubman, Secretary; Dr. Candace Sloane, Public Member; and Dr. David Diamond, Member

Members Absent: None

Staff: Marjorie Campbell, Executive Director; Nirit Eriksson, Board Counsel; Philip Chan, Outgoing Board Counsel; John Hill, Board Administrative Staff; and Colleen Maloney, Associate Deputy Commissioner of Policy and Boards

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 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 February 13, 2025. Board members agreed to approve and accept the Public Session, February 13, 2025, minutes, as written:
 - Motion made by Dr. Tubman to accept the February 13, 2025, Public Session minutes
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Sloane
 - Roll Call vote
 - In Favor: Dr. Orłowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, Dr. Sloane, and Dr. Tubman
 - Opposed: none
 - Motion passes
- **Executive Director Report**
 - The Executive Director (ED) updated the Board members and members of the public about the upcoming move of our Agency. The Division of Occupational Licensure (DOL) is moving to One Federal Street, Boston, MA. The first day of operations there will be March 24, 2025. We will



close our office on March 21, 2025, at 4 pm and re-open on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 8:45 am in the new office. We ask that you be patient with us while we get all of our systems up and running during our first week. As much as possible please minimize walk ins and calls.

- **Board Counsel Report**

- No New Items

- **Action and Discussion Items**

New Massachusetts Law: An Act Prohibiting Inhumane Feline Declawing (S. 2552 Reporting Requirements and Board Process):

The Board discussed the definitions in this new law, its reporting requirements, and the proposed reporting form that was drafted by Board staff. The Board members do not want the reporting requirement to be per incident, only annually as mandated by the statute, because they do not want these reporting requirements to be overly burdensome. Board members want the reporting form to provide an opportunity for veterinarians to indicate the number of procedures that were therapeutic and non-therapeutic. The first year's form will capture procedures that occurred from the effective date of the statute through 12/31/25; and thereafter, the reporting period will be January 1 through December 31, with forms submitted to the Board by March 30.

- Board members noted that the statute's definition of "declawing procedure" differs in scope from how the term "declawing" is used in the clinical setting. In addition, because the statute defines "therapeutic purpose" as "addressing, as a matter of medical necessity, an existing or recurring infection, disease, injury or abnormal condition in the claw, nail bed or toe bone that jeopardizes the afflicted animal's health," the Board expressed an interest in drafting a policy which would provide additional detail as to what conditions and ailments the Board considers to be therapeutic bases on which to perform a procedure that falls within the statute's definition of "declawing procedure." Dr. Tubman plans to create a first draft of such policy and bring it back to the full board for further work and agency review prior to adoption. Motion made by Dr. Tubman to revise the draft reporting form so that it requires annual reporting only, through the end of each calendar year, of the total number of declaw procedures, as required by the statute, with the possibility of indicating therapeutic and non-therapeutic procedures.
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Diamond
 - Board Chair called for roll call vote
 - In Favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, Dr. Sloane, and Dr. Tubman
 - Opposed: None
 - Motion passes

- **CE Extension Request:** Dr. Maxwell Charteris requested an extension to obtain his CE's, as he did not realize the CE's were to be completed in a calendar year, versus a renewal year. Dr. Charteris had submitted documents to the Board that the Board members had the opportunity to review:

- Motion made by Dr. Diamond to allow an extension to Dr. Charteris to allow him to renew his license, and receive an extension to complete his CE's. These CE's 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. Orłowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, Dr. Sloane, and Dr. Tubman
 - Opposed: None
 - Motion carries
- **Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting:**
 - None
- At this time, there were no further matters for the Public Session. At 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. Orłowski, 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 Discussions:

- 2023-000157-IT-ENF
- 2023-000179-IT-ENF
- 2024-000699-IT-ENF

Cases:

- 2024-000954-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions (Dr. Kube recused)
- 2024-000920-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions (Dr. Diamond and Dr. Kube recused)
- 2025-000008-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2025-000035-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2025-000017-IT-ENF: Dismiss

Adjournment: At 11:57 am, a Motion to Adjourn meeting was made.

- Motion to Adjourn meeting made by Dr. Tubman
- Motion seconded by Dr. Sloane
- 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 March 13, 2025, Open Meeting
- Minutes from the February 13, 2025, Open Meeting
- Report from the Kentucky State Board: Proposed AAVSB Bylaws Amendments for the 2025 Delegate
- New Massachusetts Law: An Act Prohibiting Inhumane Feline Declawing (S.2552)
- Draft Reporting form for declawing procedures
- Correspondence from Dr. Charteris regarding CE Extension Request