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Division of Occupational Licensure**

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**Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine
April 10, 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 2025, allowing remote participation by Board members and the public.

Attending Members: Dr. Rachel Orlowski, Board Chair; Dr. Stephanie Kube, Vice Chair; and Dr. David Diamond, Member; Dr. David Tubman, Secretary, arrived at 10:30 a.m.

Members Absent: Dr. Candace Sloane, Public Member

Staff: Marjorie Campbell, Executive Director; Nirit Eriksson, Board Counsel; and John Hill, Board Administrative Staff

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 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 March 13, 2025. Board members agreed to approve and accept the Public Session, March 13, 2025, minutes, as written:
 - Motion made by Dr. Diamond to approve the March 13, 2025, Public Session minutes
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Kube
 - Roll Call vote
 - In Favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube
 - Opposed: none
 - Motion passes
- **Executive Director Report**
 - The Executive Director (ED) updated the Board members and members of the public about the move of our Agency. The office move went smoothly, and we are now permanently in the new office: One Federal Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA, 02110. There is public parking in the building, and the new office is very close to several MBTA stops.
- **Board Counsel Report**



- Board Counsel stated that the Open Meeting Law, allowing Board meetings to be conducted virtually, has been officially extended to June 30, 2027.
- Board Counsel gave an update on the Declaw Statute. There is a banner on the Veterinarian Board website that contains the statute's text. Board Counsel also followed up on last month's Board meeting discussion, regarding whether or not veterinarians should be invited to include, on their statutory reporting, information about the number of therapeutic versus non-therapeutic declaw procedures performed. Board Counsel advises that the Board solicit only the total number of covered procedures, without a breakdown of therapeutic and non-therapeutic. This more limited reporting satisfies the statutory reporting obligation and avoids concerns about violation of the privilege against self-incrimination.

- **Action and Discussion Items**

- Board members engaged in further discussion regarding the Declaw Statute following the Board Counsel's report. Board members inquired whether all reported declawing procedures would need to be investigated by Board staff. Board Counsel clarified that there is no such requirement under the statute; investigating a reported procedure is at the discretion of the Board, and is not required. Board counsel explained that the Board may not change the statute's definition of "declawing procedure" through policy adoption. Board members declined to pursue a policy relating to this statute at this time.
- **CE Extension Request:** Dr. Claire Lyons submitted a request to obtain CE approval for a conference that she attended, entitled "NextGen Omics and Spatial Biology Conference." The Board members had an opportunity to review the documents that Dr. Lyons had submitted that described the content of the conference:
 - Motion made by Dr. Orlowski to approve the CE credit for the submitted conference
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Diamond
 - Board Chair called for a roll call vote
 - In Favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube
 - 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 10 am, a Motion was made by Dr. Orlowski to close the Public Session and to enter into the closed Quasi-Judicial Session to discuss disciplinary decision matters, per M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 18. Following the Quasi-Judicial Session, the Board will move into the Investigative Conference Session, Closed per M.G.L. c. 112, sec. 65C. The Board does not anticipate re-entering the public session.
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Diamond
 - Board Chair called for a roll call vote

- In favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, 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:

Cases:

- 2024-000959-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions
- 2024-000964-IT-ENF: Refer to Investigations
- 2025-000014-IT-ENF: Dismiss with Advisory Letter
- 2025-000054-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2025-000056-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions
- 2025-000079-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2025-000089-IT-ENF: Dismiss (Dr. Kube recused)
- 2025-000105-IT-ENF: Tabled
- 2025-000122-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions

Adjournment: At 11:28 am, a Motion to Adjourn meeting was made.

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

Meeting minutes signed by:

Rachel Orlowski, DVM

Board Chair, Dr. Rachel Orlowski

Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for the April 10, 2025, Open Meeting
- Minutes from the March 13, 2025, Open Meeting
- Correspondence from Dr. Claire Lyons regarding CE course approval