

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

November 7, 2019

Maryland Department of Agriculture – 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis

Minutes - Joint Meeting

Board Members: Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, President; Dr. Heather Hendler, Vice President; Dr. Christine Calvert, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Dr. Karena Joung, Ms. Patricia Quimby, Dr. Peter Radue. Staff Present: Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Director Susan Husk, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James, and Administrative Specialist Britney Branch.

Dr. Callahan called the meeting to order at 10:48 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes. In a motion by Ms. Chaput, seconded by Dr. Joung, the Board voted to approve the minutes of October 3, 2019 Joint Board Meetings, with the correction of a typographical error.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals.

In a motion by Dr. Hendler, seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve license applications for Drs. Born, Coppelman, and Shearer.

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application for Dr. Shobe pending her reply to what she is going to be doing in Maryland.

Sanitation Reports. Ms. Morgan and Ms. James reported on the inspections they have completed since the last Board meeting. In a motion by Dr. Joung, seconded by Ms. Chaput, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Sanitation Reports as presented.

PAWS Request Revisited – Chemical Immobilization Training Approval. Ms. Quimby left the room for the discussion. Members reviewed information they requested last month and was provided.

In a motion by Dr. Hendler, seconded by Dr. Joung, the Board voted unanimously to approve the training course.

Other Business

Ms. Orlando informed Board members of American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) Training to be held in Kansas City in April 2020. AAVSB will pay travel expenses for at least one Board member and the Board would pay the tuition. She asked any Board members who are interested to let her know.

AAVSB also provides draft legislation and regulations periodically for review. Ms. Orlando asked Board members to consider the draft regulations entitled for “Appropriate Use of Opioids and Other Controlled Substances” so it could be considered at the next meeting.

Ms. Orlando noted that the Board meets on the fourth Thursday of every month and asked if that schedule still works for everyone as the conference room for 2020 needs to be reserved now. There were no objections.

A job description for a contractual investigator has been completed and approved. We hope to advertise for the position shortly.

Prescription verification. Ms. Orlando noted that about a year ago, the Board was asked if veterinarians were required to both provide a written prescription upon request as well as verify whether a prescription was valid when a pharmacy, especially an online pharmacy was involved. Many veterinarians do not like to verify prescriptions with online pharmacies. At the time, the Board advised that, yes, veterinarians had to do both, though they could charge a fee for the service. Ms. Spirt asked that the question be revisited. It was noted that veterinarians have no control over the quality of any drug, no matter where the client purchases it, so there is no justification for refusing to verify it for one company over another. The Board agreed that there was no change in its interpretation and veterinarians should verify valid prescriptions, which are those that have a start and end date. For veterinary practices that feel burdened by the number of approvals they have to give, they can provide them once a week.

Dr. Callahan adjourned the meeting for lunch at 11:48 a.m. and reopened it at 12:09 p.m.

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Hendler, 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.

Closed Meeting

During the closed session, administrative functions were performed, including discussions of complaints and disciplinary matters before the Board.