

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
MINUTES OF FULL BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
BOARD ROOM 3  
HENRICO, VA  
AUGUST 24, 2017**

- TIME AND PLACE:** The Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) was called to order at 9:04 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Board Room 3, Henrico, Virginia.
- PRESIDING OFFICER:** Ellen G. Hillyer, D.V.M., President
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tregel M. Cockburn, D.V.M.  
Autumn N. Halsey, L.V.T.  
Mark A. Johnson, D.V.M.  
Steven B. Karras, D.V.M.  
Bayard A. Rucker, III, D.V.M.  
Mary Yancey Spencer, J.D., Citizen Member
- QUORUM:** With seven members of the Board present, a quorum was established.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director  
Amanda E. M. Blount, Deputy Executive Director  
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst  
Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel  
Carol Stamey, Licensing Operations Manager
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Susan Seward, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association of Virginia (VVMA)  
Robin Schmitz, VVMA  
Rena Allen, DVM, VCA-Alexandria Animal Hospital  
Taryn Singleton, LVT, Virginia Association of Licensed Veterinary Technicians
- ORDERING OF AGENDA:** No changes were made to the agenda.
- PUBLIC HEARING:** The board paused its full board meeting to conduct a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed regulations for Faculty and Intern/Resident licensure. No public comment was presented and the Public Hearing adjourned. The Public Hearing meeting minutes are provided separately.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Dr. Karras approved as a block the meeting minutes from April 20, 2017, and May 9, 2017, as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment was presented.
- AGENCY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Dr. Brown's report included the following:
- Board member per diem reimbursement;
  - Agency's new disciplinary procedure for conducting informal conferences and formal hearings; and
  - Update on opioid crisis to include statistics, e-prescribing and transmission to pharmacies and possible exemption for veterinarians; and
  - Formation of a workgroup to address addiction treatment options.
- LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY REPORT:** **Final Regulations for Periodic Review**  
Ms. Yeatts reported that the final regulations from the periodic review will be published on September 4, 2017. Due to the large number of changes to the

regulations, the effective date of the final regulations is delayed until October 25, 2017. This will allow adequate training of the veterinary establishment inspectors and updating and adopting guidance documents at the next scheduled board meeting on October 24, 2017.

### **Prescribing of Opioids and Buprenorphine**

- **Review Comments**

The board reviewed and discussed the written comment regarding opioid prescribing.

- **Take action regarding adoption of final regulations**

The board discussed the proposed language presented in 18VAC150-20-174(A)(3) and (4).

Dr. Rucker made a motion which was properly seconded and the Board unanimously voted to approve the following changes to 18VAC150-20-174(A)(3) and (4):

- Revise number 3 to read: *If a controlled substance is necessary for treatment of acute pain, the veterinarian shall prescribe it in the lowest effective dose appropriate to the size and species of the animal for the least amount of time. The dose shall not exceed a 14-day supply.*
- Delete number 4.

The board discussed the proposed language presented in 18VAC150-20-174(B).

Ms. Halsey made a motion which was properly seconded and the Board unanimously voted to make the following change to 18VAC150-20-174(B):

*Revise item B to read: In accordance with the accepted standard of care, a veterinarian may prescribe a controlled substance beyond 14 days for management of terminal illnesses or certain chronic conditions, such as chronic heart failure, chronic bronchitis, osteoarthritis, collapsing trachea, or related conditions. For treatment of terminal illness, chronic pain or a chronic condition with an opioid beyond 14 days, the treatment plan shall include measures to be used to determine progress in treatment, further diagnostic evaluations or modalities that might be necessary, and the extent to which the pain or condition is associated with physical impairment. For any prescribing of a controlled substance beyond 14 days, the patient shall be seen and then reevaluated at least every six months, and the justification for such prescribing documented in the patient record.*

The board discussed the proposed language presented in 18VAC150-20-174(E)(2).

Dr. Johnson made a motion which was properly seconded and the Board voted unanimously to make the following change to 18VAC150-20-174(E)(2):

*Revise item E2 to read: The prescription shall not exceed a seven-day supply. Any prescribing beyond seven days shall be consistent with an appropriate standard of care and only after a re-examination of the patient*

*as documented in the patient record.*

Dr. Rucker moved to approve the proposed regulations for prescribing opioids and buprenorphine as amended. The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Petition for Rulemaking: insertion of Catheters by Unlicensed Assistants**

- **Review Comments**

Ms. Yeatts provided a brief overview of the Petition for Rulemaking and a summary of the written public comment. After review of the public comments and discussion of the Petition for Rulemaking the Board considered the request. The Board noted that the restriction on placement of IV catheters is not a new regulation and has been in effect for a number of years. In addition, there was some question about whether the performance of such a procedure constitutes the practice of veterinary medicine.

- **Take action regarding request for rulemaking**

Ms. Spencer made a motion which was properly seconded to deny the Petition for Rulemaking regarding the insertion of catheters by unlicensed assistants based on its responsibility to protect the public health and safety. A request for a roll call vote was made by Dr. Johnson. A roll call vote was taken and the petition for rulemaking was rejected with five in favor of denying the petition.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

##### **Continuing Education (CE) Consideration for Wellness Programs**

Ms. Knachel referred the Board to the request from the VVMA to consider “Wellness Programs” as approved CE because it enhanced patient safety. Ms. Yeatts noted that if the Board wanted to limit the number hours of wellness CE a regulation action would be needed.

Dr. Karras moved to amend Guidance Document 105-11 to include “Wellness Programs” as approved CE. The motion was seconded and carried.

##### **Drug of Concern (gabapentin) Update**

Ms. Knachel informed the Board the 2017 General Assembly added gabapentin to the list of drugs of concern. She provided the following information about gabapentin:

- Currently a Schedule VI controlled substance;
- Increases the euphoric effect of other possibly abused drugs when taken together;
- Pharmacists are required to report dispensed prescriptions to the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP);
- Veterinarians are not required to report dispensed prescriptions to the PMP;
- Veterinarians are not required to make any changes to inventorying Schedule VI drugs; and
- General Assembly categorized the drug as one of concern and the Board suggests that additional precautions be taken to prevent diversion of this particular drug.

#### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

Dr. Hillyer stated that she did not have a report to present.

#### **BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS’ REPORT:**

Dr. Johnson stated that the Board of Health Professions was due to meet August 31, 2017.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Knachel reviewed licensure statistics, budget information and outreach activities.

**Discipline Update**

Ms. Blount provided an overview of the caseload statistics. Additionally, she informed the board that a report on the Board's key performance measures will be presented at the first 2018 board meeting.

**Continuing Education (CE) Audit**

Ms. Stamey provided an overview of the results of the CE audit conducted in March 2017 for the CE obtained in 2016.

**NEW BUSINESS:**


No new business was identified.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

  
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Ellen G. Hillyer, D.V.M.  
Chair  
10/24/17  
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Date

  
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Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H.  
Executive Director  
October 24, 2017  
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Date