

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT**  
**BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**INFORMAL CONFERENCE**  
**JUNE 18, 2009**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**  
**RICHMOND, VA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** An Informal Conference Committee of the Board was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Henry McKelvin, DVM – Chair  
Joseph May, DVM

**STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth Carter, Executive Director  
Terri Behr, Operations Manager  
Peter Opper, Administrative Proceedings Division

**OTHERS PRESENT:** John McGavin, Esq.  
Sarah Sheafor, DVM  
Monica Pelto

**MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Jennifer O’Keefe, DVM**  
**License #.: 0301007343**  
**Case No. - 121647**

**DISCUSSION:** Dr. O’Keefe appeared before the Committee in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated April 7, 2009. Dr. O’Keefe was represented by counsel, John McGavin, Esq.. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the notice with Dr. O’Keefe.

**CLOSED SESSION:** On properly seconded motion by Dr. May, the Special Conference Committee recessed Open Session and convened in Closed Session pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(28) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Jennifer O’Keefe, DVM**. Additionally, it was moved that Peter Opper, Administrative Proceedings Division, and Elizabeth Carter, Executive Director, Board of Veterinary Medicine, attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Committee reconvened in open session and announced its decision.

**DECISION:**

Based on the Investigative Report and discussion of the case with Dr. O’Keefe, the Committee ordered that Dr. O’Keefe be reprimanded and assessed a monetary penalty of \$1,000. The hearing adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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Henry McKelvin, DVM

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Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director  
for the Board

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
INFORMAL CONFERENCE  
JUNE 18, 2009  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
RICHMOND, VA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** An Informal Conference Committee of the Board was called to order at 11:25 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** James DeBell, DVM – Chair  
John T. Wise, DVM

**STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth Carter, Executive Director  
Terri Behr, Operations Manager  
Peter Opper, Administrative Proceedings Division

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lila Hafez

**MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Samir A. Hafez, DVM**  
**License No.: 0301201548**  
**Case No.: 124167**

**DISCUSSION:** Dr. Hafez appeared before the Committee in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated April 13, 2009. Dr. Hafez was not represented by counsel. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the notice with Dr. Hafez.

**CLOSED SESSION:** On properly seconded motion by Dr. Wise, the Special Conference Committee recessed Open Session and convened in Closed Session pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(28) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Samir A. Hafez, DVM**. Additionally, it was moved that Peter Opper, Administrative Proceedings Division, and Terri Behr, Operations Manager, Board of Veterinary Medicine, attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Committee reconvened in open session and announced its decision.

**DECISION:** Based on the Investigative Report and discussion of the case with Dr. Hafez, the Committee ordered that Dr. Hafez's veterinary facility, Chincoteague Animal

Clinic, be subject to one unannounced inspection within 3 months to include the review of 10 medical records. The hearing adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

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James W. DeBell, DVM

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Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director  
For the Board

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
INFORMAL CONFERENCE  
JUNE 18, 2009  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
RICHMOND, VA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** An Informal Conference Committee of the Board was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** James DeBell, DVM -Chair  
John T. Wise, DVM

**STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth Carter, Executive Director  
Terri Behr, Operations Manager  
Peter Opper, Administrative Proceedings Division

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Nguyen  
Hyacinth Alvaran

**MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Dharm Singh, DVM**  
**License #: 0301002704**  
**Case No. – 123536**  
**And**  
**Albert Garcia, DVM**  
**License #: 0301002535**  
**Case No. - 123535**

**DISCUSSION:** Drs. Singh and Garcia appeared before the Committee in accordance with Notices of Informal Conference dated April 13, 2009. Drs. Singh and Garcia were not represented by counsel. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the notice with Drs. Singh and Garcia.

**CLOSED SESSION:** On properly seconded motion by Dr. Wise, the Special Conference Committee recessed Open Session and convened in Closed Session pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(28) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matters regarding **Dharm Singh, DVM and Albert Garcia, DVM**. Additionally, it was moved that Peter Opper, Senior Adjudication Analyst, Administrative Proceedings Division and Terri Behr, Operations Manager, Board of Veterinary Medicine attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session

met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Committee reconvened in open session and announced its decision.

**DECISION:**

Based on the Investigative Report and discussion of the case with Drs. Singh and Garcia, the Committee dismissed both cases. The hearing was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

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James DeBell, DVM

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Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director  
For the Board

**BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
INFORMAL CONFERENCE  
JUNE 18, 2009  
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RICHMOND, VA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** An Informal Conference Committee of the Board was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John T. Wise, DVM – Chair  
Kelly J. Gottschalk, DVM

**STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth Carter, Executive Director  
Terri Behr, Operations Manager  
Peter Opper, Administrative Proceedings Division

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Allen Beasley, Esq.

**MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Katherine J. Pepelko, DVM**  
**License #: 0301201238**  
**Case No. - 122977**

**DISCUSSION:** Dr. Pepelko appeared before the Committee in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated May 5, 2009. Dr. Pepelko was represented by counsel, Allen Beasley, Esq. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the notice with Dr. Pepelko.

**CLOSED SESSION:** On properly seconded motion by Dr. Gottschalk, the Special Conference Committee recessed Open Session and convened in Closed Session pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(28) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Katherine J. Pepelko, DVM**. Additionally, it was moved that Peter Opper, Administrative Proceedings Division, and Terri Behr, Operations Manager, Board of Veterinary Medicine, attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Committee reconvened in open session and announced its decision.

**DECISION:** Based on the Investigative Report and discussion of the case with Dr. Pepelko, the Committee ordered that Dr.

Pepelko complete 3 hours of continuing education in renal disease in small animals within 6 months. The hearing adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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John T. Wise, DVM

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Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director  
for the Board