

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
TRAINING ROOM 2  
HENRICO, VA  
JULY 23, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”) was convened on July 23, 2019, at 9:39 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Center, Training Room 2, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

**FIRST CONFERENCE** 9:39 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tregel Cockburn, DVM, Chairperson  
Ellen Hillyer, DVM, Committee member

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director  
Terri H. Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist  
Claire Foley, Administrative Proceedings Division

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jess Kelley  
Rachel Harris  
Catia Carones

**MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Francis Neuberger, Veterinarian**  
**License No. 0301200412**  
**Case No.: 174476**

**Discussion:** Dr. Neuberger appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated October 31, 2018, to inquire into allegations that he may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Dr. Neuberger was represented by counsel, John McGavin, Esq. Mr. McGavin subpoenaed Catia Carones as a witness to make a statement to the Committee, but he provided a summary of her statement for the Committee’s consideration instead. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Dr. Neuberger.

**Closed Session:** Dr. Hillyer moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Francis Neuberger, Veterinarian**. Additionally, Dr. Hillyer moved that Ms. Moss attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed

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meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Reconvene:**

Dr. Hillyer moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

**DECISION:**

**Case No. 174476**

Ms. Moss read the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law made by the Committee, and its decision to dismiss the case because there was insufficient evidence to warrant disciplinary action by the Board.

Upon a motion by Dr. Hillyer and duly seconded by Dr. Cockburn, the Committee voted to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and decision as read by Ms. Moss. The hearing adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

**SECOND CONFERENCE:**

11:31 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tregel Cockburn, DVM, Chairperson  
Ellen Hillyer, DVM, Committee member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director  
Terri Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist  
Jessica Kelley, Adjudication Specialist

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Sandra Wright

**MATTER SCHEDULED:**

**Christine L. Dixon, Veterinarian  
License No. 0301005318  
Case No. 181722 & 176568**

**Discussion:**

Dr. Dixon appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated February 28, 2019, to inquire into allegations that she

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may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Dr. Dixon was represented by counsel, John Conrad, Esq. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Dr. Dixon.

**Closed Session:**

Dr. Hillyer moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Christine L. Dixon, Veterinarian**. Additionally, Dr. Hillyer moved that Ms. Moss attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Reconvene:**

Dr. Hillyer moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

**DECISION**

**Case No. 181722 & 176568:**

Ms. Moss read the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law made by the Committee. Ms. Moss also reported the Committee's decision to impose a monetary penalty of \$750 and to require Dr. Dixon to obtain five hours of Board-approved continuing education in feline internal medicine and five hours of Board-approved continuing education in canine internal medicine within six months of the entry of the Order.

Upon a motion by Dr. Hillyer, and duly seconded by Dr. Cockburn, the Committee voted to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and decision as read by Ms. Moss. The hearing adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

**THIRD CONFERENCE**

4:24 p.m.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tregel Cockburn, DVM, Chairperson  
Ellen Hillyer, DVM, Committee member

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director  
Terri H. Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist  
Jessica Kelley, Administrative Proceedings Division

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bridgette Fields  
Mrs. Fields, mother of Bridgette Fields

**MATTER SCHEDULED:** **M’Risa Mendelsohn, Veterinarian**  
**License No. 0301200535**  
**Case No.: 176084**

**Discussion:** Dr. Mendelsohn appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated March 12, 2019, to inquire into allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Dr. Mendelsohn was represented by counsel, John Conrad, Esq. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Dr. Mendelsohn.

**Closed Session:** Dr. Hillyer moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **M’Risa Mendelsohn, Veterinarian**. Additionally, Dr. Hillyer moved that Ms. Moss attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Reconvene:** Dr. Hillyer moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

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**DECISION:  
Case No. 176084**

Ms. Moss read the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law made by the Committee, and its decision to dismiss the case because there was insufficient evidence to warrant disciplinary action by the Board.

Upon a motion by Dr. Hillyer and duly seconded by Dr. Cockburn, the Committee voted to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and decision as read by Ms. Moss. The hearing adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

**FOURTH CONFERENCE**

5:36 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tregel Cockburn, DVM, Chairperson  
Ellen Hillyer, DVM, Committee member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director  
Terri H. Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist  
Jessica Kelley, Administrative Proceedings Division

**MATTER SCHEDULED:**

**Jamieson J. Nichols, Veterinarian**  
**License No. 0301204394**  
**Case No.: 182228**

**Discussion:**

Dr. Nichols appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated March 12, 2019, to inquire into allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Dr. Nichols was represented by counsel, John Conrad, Esq. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Dr. Nichols.

**Closed Session:**

Dr. Hillyer moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Jamieson J. Nichols, Veterinarian**. Additionally, Dr. Hillyer moved that Ms. Moss attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

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**Reconvene:**

Dr. Hillyer moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

**DECISION:  
Case No. 182228**

Ms. Moss read the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law made by the Committee, and its decision to dismiss the case because there was insufficient evidence to warrant disciplinary action by the Board.

Upon a motion by Dr. Hillyer and duly seconded by Dr. Cockburn, the Committee voted to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and decision as read by Ms. Moss. The hearing adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Tregel Cockburn, DVM - Chairperson

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Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director