

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
MINUTES  
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LAY EQUINE DENTISTRY  
JULY 12, 2005**

**TIME AND PLACE:** The Ad Hoc Committee on Lay Equine Dentistry meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions, Richmond, VA.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jana Froeling, DVM - Chair  
Dale Cupp, DVM  
Jayme Leonard  
Debra Linton  
Jen LaPlume, DVM  
Lisa Oliphant

**STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Terri H. Behr, Administrative Assistant  
Emily Wingfield, Assistant Attorney General

**OTHERS PRESENT:** John Wise, DVM  
Donovan Dagner, DVM  
T. Kent Adams, DVM  
Craig Sweeney, DVM  
Taryn Singleton, LVT  
Claudia True, DVM  
Mike Stanford, DVM  
Debra Stapleton  
Robin Schmitz  
Steven King, DVM

**MOTION:** On properly seconded motion by Ms. Linton, the Committee voted unanimously to include Dr. Donovan Dagner as a member of the Committee.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public Comment was received from Dr. Kent Adams and Dr. Craig Sweeney. Dr. Adams stated that he believes that to equine dentistry cannot be adequately performed without sedation. He stated that lay people practicing dentistry on horses has a potential for harm and that some of these people have their own supply of controlled drugs to sedate horses. Dr. Sweeney stated that he

is a licensed, insured veterinarian and equine dental practitioner and does not believe that unlicensed people should be practicing equine dentistry.

**MOTION:**

On properly seconded motion by Dr. Dagner, the Committee voted unanimously to allow Dr. Claudia True to sit in as a voting member in place of Dr. Bayard Rucker who could not attend this meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Froeling opened the discussion by introducing a 1999 report written by Dr. Mitchell Rode for the VVMA on evaluating the current status of the practice of equine dentistry by “lay dentists” and veterinarians. The report concluded that the floating of equine teeth by lay people is not the practice of veterinary medicine.

The Committee members identified and discussed the goals of the Committee.

These goals are:

Provide for horse welfare,

Protect horse owners,

Establish a working agreement for all parties,

Accountability,

Regulation

Liability; and

Education, especially for the public

On properly seconded motion by Ms. Oliphant, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the following language as a Guidance Document:

The planing or leveling of equine teeth by the use of non-motorized hand tools is not considered the practice of veterinary medicine and does not require a license. If sedation is required for planing and leveling, the sedation must be administered by a Virginia licensed veterinarian who remains responsible for the animal while it is under sedation.

The Committee will report to the full Board at its next meeting on August 10, 2005.

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Jana L. Froeling, DVM, Chair

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Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director