

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
TRAINING ROOM 1
HENRICO, VA
November 6, 2025**

- CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”) was convened on November 6, 2025, at 9:04 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2nd Floor Conference Center, Training Room 1, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233.
- FIRST CONFERENCE:** 9:04 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patricia Seeger, LVT, Chairperson
Margaret Rucker, DVM, Committee Member
- STAFF PRESENT:** Claire Foley, J.D., Deputy Executive Director
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist
Christine Corey, Esq., Sr. Adjudication Specialist,
Administrative Proceedings Division
- MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Stephanie Dong, Veterinarian
Case 234186**
- DISCUSSION:** Dr. Dong appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated June 13, 2025, and letter of continuance dated June 19, 2025, to inquire into allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Dr. Dong was represented by Margaret Hardy, Esq.
- CLOSED SESSION:** Dr. Rucker moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia (“Code”) for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding Dr. Dong, Veterinarian. Additionally, Dr. Rucker moved that Ms. Foley 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. Rucker 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. 234186

Dr. Rucker moved that the Committee dismiss the case against Dr. Dong. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 9:58 a.m.

SECOND CONFERENCE:

10:04 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Seeger, LVT, Chairperson
Margaret Rucker, DVM, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Claire Foley, J.D., Deputy Executive Director
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist
Christine Corey, Esq., Sr. Adjudication Specialist,
Administrative Proceedings Division

MATTER SCHEDULED:

Lyn Averitt, Veterinarian
Case No. 240084

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Averitt appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated September 16, 2025, to inquire into allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Dr. Averitt was not represented by counsel.

CLOSED SESSION:

Dr. Rucker 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 Lyn Averitt, Veterinarian. Additionally, Dr. Rucker moved that Ms. Foley 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. Rucker 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. 240084

Dr. Rucker moved that the Committee issue an order placing Dr. Averitt's license on indefinite probation subject to terms and conditions. Dr. Rucker further moved that the basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order sent to Dr. Averitt. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 11:29 a.m.

THIRD CONFERENCE:

11:42 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Seeger, LVT, Chairperson
Margaret Rucker, DVM, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Claire Foley, J.D., Deputy Executive Director
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist
Emily Tatum, Esq., Sr. Adjudication Specialist,
Administrative Proceedings Division

MATTER SCHEDULED:

Reinhold Pfaff, Veterinarian
Case No. 222372

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Pfaff appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated October 6, 2025, to inquire into allegations that he may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Dr. Pfaff was not represented by counsel.

CLOSED SESSION:

Dr. Rucker 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 Reinhold Pfaff, Veterinarian. Additionally, Dr. Rucker moved that Ms. Foley 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. Rucker 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. 222372

Dr. Rucker moved that the Committee issue an Order requiring Dr. Pfaff to comply with the Board Order entered on July 1, 2022. Dr. Rucker further moved that the basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order sent to Dr. Pfaff. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 1:13 p.m.

FOURTH CONFERENCE:

1:27 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Seeger, LVT, Chairperson
Margaret Rucker, DVM, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Claire Foley, J.D., Deputy Executive Director
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist
Christine Corey, Esq., Sr. Adjudication Specialist,
Administrative Proceedings Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marjan Rafik

MATTER SCHEDULED:

Bader Zraibi, Veterinarian

Case No. 238325

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Zraibi appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated September 16, 2025, to inquire into allegations that he may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Dr. Zraibi was represented by John McGavin, Esq.

CLOSED SESSION:

Dr. Rucker 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 Bader Zraibi, Veterinarian. Additionally, Dr. Rucker moved that Ms. Foley 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. Rucker 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. 238325

Dr. Rucker moved that the Committee refer the matter to a formal hearing. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 2:40 p.m.

FIFTH CONFERENCE:

2:51 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Seeger, LVT, Chairperson
Margaret Rucker, DVM, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Claire Foley, J.D., Deputy Executive Director
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist

Christine Corey, Esq., Sr. Adjudication Specialist,
Administrative Proceedings Division

MATTER SCHEDULED:

Qingling Chen, Veterinarian
Case No. 237502

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Chen did not appear with her counsel before the Committee in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated October 2, 2025, to inquire into allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Ms. Seeger ruled that adequate notice had been provided to Dr. Chen and that the informal conference would proceed.

CLOSED SESSION:

Dr. Rucker 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 Qingling Chen, Veterinarian. Additionally, Dr. Rucker moved that Ms. Foley 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. Rucker 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. 237502

Dr. Rucker moved that the Committee issue an Order for a reprimand and continuing education. Dr. Rucker further moved that the basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order sent to Dr. Chen. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 3:26 p.m.

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Claire Foley, J.D., Deputy Executive Director