

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
FORMAL HEARING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BOARD ROOM 3
HENRICO, VA
January 23, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) was called to order at 12:09 p.m. on January 23, 2026, at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 3, Henrico, Virginia.

FIRST HEARING

PRESIDING OFFICER: Margaret Rucker, D.V.M., Vice-President

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Godine, D.V.M.
Steven Linas, O.D.
Jeffrey Newman, D.V.M
Patricia Seeger, L.V.T.

QUORUM: With five members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

STAFF PRESENT: Kelli Moss, Executive Director
Claire Foley, Deputy Executive Director
Heather Pote, Senior Discipline Case Specialist

BOARD COUNSEL: Brent Saunders, Senior Assistant Attorney General

COURT REPORTER: Juan Ortega

PARTIES ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH: Christine Corey, Esq., Sr. Adjudication Specialist,
Administrative Proceedings Division, Department of Health Professions

COMMONWEALTH WITNESSES : Katie Flores, Sr. Investigator, Enforcement Division
Sai Rivera, DEA Investigator

MATTER SCHEDULED:

Jennifer Stepp, Veterinarian Applicant

Dr. Stepp did not appear before the Board in accordance with a Notice of Formal Hearing dated December 11, 2025, to consider her application for licensure to practice veterinary medicine in Virginia and to inquire into allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Dr. Rucker ruled that adequate notice had been provided to Dr. Stepp and that the formal hearing would proceed. The Board received evidence from the Commonwealth regarding the allegations in the Notice.

CLOSED SESSION:

Dr. Newman moved that the Board 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 of **Jennifer Stepp, Veterinarian Applicant**. Additionally, Dr. Newman moved that Kelli Moss and Brent Saunders attend the meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary and/or will aid the Board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Seeger and carried unanimously.

RECONVENE:

Dr. Newman moved that the Board 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 business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded by Ms. Seeger and carried unanimously.

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

DECISION:

Dr. Newman moved to deny the application for licensure of Jennifer Stepp, Veterinarian Applicant, and that the basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order that will be sent to Dr. Stepp at her address of record. The motion was seconded by Ms. Seeger and carried unanimously.

This decision shall be effective upon the entry by the Board of a written Order stating the findings, conclusions and decision of this quorum of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Formal Hearing adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli G. Moss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kelli G. Moss, Executive Director