

Call to Order

The March 4, 2026, Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 2, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

Presiding Officer

Richard G. Bailey, DVM, President

Members Present

Margaret J. Rucker, DVM, Vice President
Richard Godine, DVM, Secretary
Bruce M. Bowman, DVM
Jeffrey Newman, DVM
Patricia Seeger, LVT, BBA
Steven A. Linas, OD

Members Not Present

All board members were present

Staff Present

David E. Brown, DC, Agency Director
Kelli Moss, Executive Director
Erin L. Barrett, JD, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Claire Foley, JD, Deputy Executive Director
M. Brent Saunders, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Laura Jackson, MSHSA, Board Administrator
Laura D. Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist
Taryn Singleton, LVT, Discipline Case Specialist
Yetty Shobo, PhD, Director, DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center and Data Analytics Division
Barbara Hogdgon, PhD, Deputy Director, DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center and Data Analytics Division

Public Present

Lina Cortes

Establishment of Quorum

Seven out of the seven board members were present in the Richmond office, constituting a quorum for conducting business.

Ordering of Agenda

Dr. Bailey opened the floor to any edits or corrections regarding the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was accepted as presented.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Bailey opened the floor to any additions or corrections regarding the draft minutes from the following meetings:

- October 21, 2025, Board Meeting
- October 21, 2025, Formal Hearing
- January 23, 2026, Formal Hearings

Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Agency Director's Report

Dr. Brown provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of Board members, emphasizing that, while changes in administration and political leadership occur, the Board's role remains the same: to protect the public. He explained that Board members are part of the executive branch and that the Governor's position on legislation represents the Board's position.

Drawing on his prior experience as a member of the Board of Medicine, Dr. Brown acknowledged the significant effort required to serve on the Board and stressed that the value of the experience depends on the commitment invested. He reminded members that their primary goal is public protection and cautioned against conflicts of interest when serving in leadership roles within professional associations. He reiterated that individual Board members cannot speak on behalf of the Board and should avoid providing unofficial guidance on practice matters. Dr. Brown encouraged members to rely on Board staff for support, noting that active engagement in board organizations is beneficial for networking and knowledge sharing. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the Board's executive staff and their efforts to make the Board members' experience productive and positive.

Regulatory Report

Ms. Barrett presented the legislative and regulatory activity report, including the status of current actions, consideration of a petition for rulemaking, proposed amendments to Board policies, including its bylaws the disposition of cases involving applicants who practiced

veterinary technology prior to licensure and the disposition of cases involving a veterinarian-in-charge's failure to notify the Board of veterinary establishment closures.

Consideration of Petition for Rulemaking to Amend 18VAC150-20.

Ms. Barrett presented information on the petitioner request that the board amend 18VAC150-20 to include the requirement that veterinarians check all animals for a microchip prior to beginning treatment. After reviewing the Petition for Rulemaking and related public comments, the board reviewed several aspects of the petition, including concerns about delays in treating an injured animal while attempting to identify and locate its owner, the owner's responsibility to properly register the microchip, and the unclear obligations of veterinarians once a different owner is identified. They also discussed requirements related to handling ownership changes and the wide variability in microchip identification technologies, which can make it difficult to determine the correct company associated with a particular microchip.

- A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Rucker to deny the petition based on the difficulty to implement such a requirement for practitioners, the overly burdensome impact on practitioners, and the potential delay in care to animals due to a requirement to scan for a chip and attempt to locate an owner in an emergency situation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Linas and carried unanimously.

Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Board Policies - Board Bylaws

Ms. Barrett presented information for the Board to consider proposed amendments to the board's bylaws. The board held a brief discussion regarding the changes to the bylaws.

- A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Newman to adopt the proposed amendments to the bylaws as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bowman and carried unanimously.

Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Board Policies – Disposition of Cases Involving Applicants Practicing Veterinary Technology Prior to Licensure

Ms. Barrett presented proposed amendments to the policy on the disposition of cases involving licensed veterinary technicians practicing prior to licensure. The board held a brief discussion regarding the specific term "qualified veterinary technician" and how it applies to practicing prior to licensure and allowing unlicensed persons to perform restricted acts.

- A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Rucker to adopt the proposed amendments to the policy document for disposition of cases for veterinary technology applicants as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Newman and carried unanimously.

Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Board Policies – Disposition of Cases Involving Failure of Veterinarian-in-Charge to Notify Board of Veterinary Establishment Closure

Ms. Barrett presented proposed amendments to the policy on the disposition of cases involving failure of veterinarian-in-charge to notify the board of a veterinary establishment closure. The Board held a brief discussion regarding the changes requested.

- A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Godine to adopt the proposed amendments to the policy document for disposition of cases for veterinarians-in-charge as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rucker and carried unanimously.

Discussion

Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Dr. Hodgdon presented the 2025 Healthcare Workforce Data Center reports for veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians.

Continuing Education Audit

The board discussed whether to instruct staff to conduct an audit of 2025 continuing education for the 2026 renewal year. This subject was tabled until the October 27, 2026, meeting.

Board Counsel's Report

Mr. Saunders provided information to the board about the appeal of a case currently pending in the Clarke County Circuit Court.

President's Report

Dr. Bailey expressed his appreciation to Ms. Moss for her presentation at the February 2026 VVMA meeting, noting it was well received. Dr. Bowman further stated that attendees valued the opportunity to associate a face with the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Bailey reported on a recent trip to Washington, DC where he attended a meeting regarding the Rural Veterinary Workforce Act which aims to address the shortage of veterinarians in rural areas by providing tax exemptions for student loan repayments, thereby encouraging more veterinarians to practice in underserved areas. He stated that it was a valuable opportunity to engage with fellow veterinarians and meet several government officials from Virginia.

Dr. Bailey noted that Xylazine, a prescription animal drug currently being misused by humans, is under review for reclassification as a Schedule III controlled substance.

He also expressed his appreciation to board staff for their continued hard work.

Staff Reports

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Moss provided the following information to the Board:

- Large Animal Veterinarian Shortage Study Workgroup:
Ms. Moss reported that this workgroup held its last meeting on September 3, 2025, and the second and final report presented to the 2026 General Assembly is included in the agenda documents. Ms. Moss reported on several initiatives supported by legislation and

budget amendments during the 2025 legislative session, including the Large Animal Veterinary Grant Program and a planning grant for large animal veterinary services in Russell County, both administered under the State Veterinarian's office at Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). Ms. Moss noted that Dr. Bowman served as the Board's representative in reviewing VDACS' applications for grant awards. She also reported that a coordinator position was funded and housed under the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) to support the development and retention of large animal veterinarians in the Commonwealth. Recommendations for continued program funding have been included in this year's budget amendments.

➤ Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) and Regulatory Committee Updates

The RAP met February 3, 2026, to carry out the Large Animal Veterinarian Shortage Study work group's recommendation to develop a regulatory framework for haul-in veterinary establishments. She provided historical information regarding the Board's recognition of and ongoing efforts to create a registration pathway for this type of establishment to allow greater access to veterinary care for large animals. She affirmed the RAP's purpose to draft proposed regulations for haul-in veterinary establishments to recommend to the Board.

Mr. Novak stated that a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action is pending publication and the next step in the regulatory process will be to develop proposed regulations for haul-in establishments that will allow for a registered and inspected shared or third-location facility as there is currently no regulatory provision for this. He projected the RAP would provide its recommendation of the proposed regulations no earlier than the Board meeting scheduled in July 2026.

The RAP will reconvene March 19, 2026, to review a draft of the proposed regulations developed from the information gathered at the meeting to present to the board at its next meeting.

Regulatory Committee

The next Regulatory Committee meeting will be held May 19, 2026. The committee will review proposed changes to several guidance documents, notably Guidance Document 150-12: Administration of Rabies Vaccinations. Recommendations from the regulatory committee will be presented at the next board meeting.

➤ Virginia Veterinary Medical Association's 2026 Virginia Veterinary Conference

Ms. Moss reported she presented the board's annual report to the VVMA board of directors, and she participated in a News Hour panel with Dr. Becker from the USDA, Dr. Broaddus from VDACS, Dr. Hungerford from the VMCVM and Dr. Murphy from VDH. She

stated she appreciated the opportunity to present board updates to members during one of the VVC's continuing education sessions.

➤ American Association of Veterinary State Boards 2026 Annual Meeting

Ms. Moss reported that the AAVSB 2026 Annual Meeting will be held in Providence, Rhode Island from September 23-26, 2026. She submitted a volunteer application and has recently been appointed to serve on the Student Outreach Task Force.

➤ International Council on Veterinary Assessment (ICVA)

○ 2025 Report to Licensing boards

Ms. Moss noted that this report spoke specifically to the NAVLE Species Specific Exams. The ICVA is celebrating 25 years of the NAVLE and has now moved from two to three annual testing windows to assist boards with individuals entering the licensure process. In February, the AAVSB announced the recently approved content outline for the Qualifying Science Examination (QSE). The exam is administered by the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE), the QSE is based on comprehensive content analysis. The first exam with the new exam content outline will be administered January 2027.

○ NAVLE 2024-2025 Technical Report

Ms. Moss provided that this report spoke specifically to test development, test administration, scoring and analysis of the NAVLE exam.

➤ Board Outreach

Ms. Moss provided the following information on outreach efforts by board staff:

- Board staff have developed and provided virtual presentations to veterinary technology students at Tidewater Community College and Blue Ridge Community College.
- Ms. Moss provided a board presentation to the VMCM veterinary students sponsored by AAVSB.
- The board will be partnering with VDH and VDACS to provide a shelter medicine webinar.
- Three dates will be selected to provide additional outreach in 2026 through webinars in partnership with the VVMA.

➤ Licensing Report

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the Board's licensing statistics and noted that she will be working with the senior licensing specialist to identify ways to improve communication between the board and its licensees.

Profession	Licenses Issued Since Last Meeting
Equine Dental Technician	0
Veterinarian	129
Veterinary Technician	58
Veterinary Faculty	8
Veterinary Intern/Resident	1
Total Licenses Issued	196

Profession	2025 Expired Licenses
Equine Dental Technician	4
Veterinarian	364
Veterinary Technician	180
Veterinary Faculty	0
Veterinary Intern/Resident	0
Total Expired Licenses	548

Satisfaction Rating	85.30%
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➤ Discipline Report

Ms. Foley provided an update on the open and closed discipline cases. The Board closed 57 cases between January 1 and March 2, 2026, and as of March 2, 2026, the Board has 238 open cases. The Board has seen an increase in the volume of cases. In the first two quarters of 2025, the Board received 131 new cases, while in the first two quarters of 2026 it received 217 new cases. Additional dates have been added to the board calendar including an additional informal conference date on June 8, 2026, and an additional formal hearing date on July 27, 2026.

Ms. Foley reported that board staff developed new biennial inventory and distribution log forms that are now available on the website and that sample forms are available for veterinary practices to use if desired. She noted that the veterinary establishment application has been updated, a new outgoing veterinarian-in-charge change form has been created, and the board will soon launch an online process for updating establishment's veterinarian-in-charge. She also shared that a newsletter was created and emailed to licensees in December and will continue on a quarterly basis.

New Business

There was no new business to report.

Next Meeting

Ms. Moss reviewed the 2026 calendar and noted the next full board meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2026. The Regulatory Committee will be meeting May 19, 2026, with a formal hearing to follow.

Adjournment

With no objection, Dr. Bailey adjourned the meeting at 11:43 AM.

Kelli G. Moss
Executive Director

DRAFT