

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**FULL BOARD MEETING**  
**VIRTUAL**  
**July 28, 2020**

**TIME AND PLACE:** A virtual meeting via Webex of the Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Tregel Cockburn, D.V.M., President (Virtual Participation)

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY:** Mary Yancey Spencer, J.D., Citizen Member, Vice-President  
Autumn N. Halsey, L.V.T., Secretary  
Ellen G. Hillyer, D.V.M.  
Steven B. Karras, D.V.M.  
Jeffery Newman, D.V.M.  
Bayard A. Rucker, III, D.V.M.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** All members were present.

**STAFF PRESENT ON-SITE:** Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director  
Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director  
Celia Wilson, Operations Administrative Assistant  
Matt Treacy, Media Production Specialist

**STAFF PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY:** David E. Brown, D.C., Agency Director  
Barbara Allison-Bryan, M.D., Agency Chief Deputy Director  
Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel  
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst  
Temple Ross, Licensing Specialist  
Melody Morton, Inspections Manager, Enforcement Division  
Leith Ellis, Senior Inspector, Enforcement Division

**OTHERS PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY:** Robin Schmitz, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association

**CALL TO ORDER QUORUM:** Dr. Cockburn welcomed attendees and requested that Ms. Knachel take a roll call of the board members present. With seven members of the Board present, a quorum was established. Ms. Knachel introduced new staff member, Me-Lien Chung, Disciplinary Case Specialist. Dr. Cockburn read the Board’s mission statement.

**ORDERING OF AGENDA:** Dr. Cockburn stated that Ms. Knachel requested that “Elections” be removed from “New Business.” Elections will occur at the next meeting.

Dr. Karras moved to accept the minutes with the deletion of “Elections” from “New Business.”

The motion was properly seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with an unanimous aye vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ms. Knachel read an email from Dr. Steven Skinner stating “ Please reduce our continuing education requirements for 2020. It has been a very challenging year and since we care unable to travel to conferences for the foreseeable future, attempting to complete all of our CE online is going to be a burden for many.”

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Halsey moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented for the following meetings:

- March 5, 2020 – Full Board Meeting
- March 5, 2020 – Formal Hearing (Case No. 183234)

The motion was properly seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with an unanimous aye vote.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Dr. Brown reported on agency measures to ensure the safety of agency staff and other individuals in the building during the COVID-19 pandemic and to keep the boards functioning in a telework environment.

**LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE:**

**2020 Legislative/Regulatory Update**

Ms. Yeatts presented the following information to the Board:

- 2020 legislative session overview
- HB 967 – Consideration of any waiver of experience requirements for the spouse of an active duty military or veteran

The Board discussed the options for addressing the waiver.

Ms. Halsey moved to delegate decisions related to waiver requests to be handled on a case-by case basis by the Executive Director in consultation with the Board’s President.

The motion was properly seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with an unanimous aye vote.

- Petition for Rulemaking – Consideration of Hudson petition to require sedation prior to euthanasia

Ms. Knachel presented information from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services *Directive 79-1: Methods Prescribed or Approved for Animal Euthanasia* which is to be followed by public and private animal shelters. The directive includes the statement “A veterinarian with a current Virginia license may perform euthanasia on animals utilizing any method recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association as published in the most current version of the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.” Excerpts from the 121 pages of AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia were provided in the agenda package. Ms. Knachel noted that the guidelines state “The Guideline set criteria for euthanasia, . . . and are intended to assist veterinarians in their exercise of professional judgment.”

Ms. Halsey moved to reject the petition for rulemaking because veterinarians are expected to exercise their professional judgment when euthanizing an animal.

The motion was properly seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with an unanimous aye vote.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Veterinary Establishment Inspection Update**

Ms. Morton provided an update on the inspection process used during the pandemic. Inspections are conducted virtually when appropriate. She indicated that measures are in place to ensure the safety of the inspectors and the veterinary establishments.

**Inspection Committee**

Ms. Knachel reported that the Inspection Committee had been scheduled to meet on June 11<sup>th</sup>, but the meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic. She indicated that a virtual meeting will be set up prior to the next board meeting.

#### **Review of Draft Guidance Documents**

- Update to 150-21 Frequently asked questions about reporting to the Prescription Monitoring Program

Ms. Knachel commented that the updated guidance document presented for the Board's consideration is based on a request following a Prescription Monitoring Presentation at the last board meeting. Ms. Yeatts discussed the changes.

Dr. Rucker moved to accept the updated version of Guidance Document 150-21 as presented.

The motion was properly seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with an unanimous aye vote.

- Draft Telemedicine Guidance Document

Ms. Knachel commented that the Board received many inquiries about telemedicine as a result of the pandemic. Based on the number of inquiries regarding this topic, she asked the Board to consider adopting the draft guidance document.

Ms. Halsey moved to accept the guidance document on telehealth as presented.

The motion was properly seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with an unanimous aye vote.

#### **§ 54.1-3408.02 Transmission of Prescriptions (Veterinarian Exemption)**

Ms. Knachel reported that as of July 1, 2020, any prescription for a controlled substance that contains an opioid is required to be issued as an electronic prescription. However, prescriptions issued by a licensed veterinarian is exempt from this requirement. Due to several inquiries regarding a pharmacy's refusal to fill a prescription from a veterinarian, she indicated that this information will be sent to all licensees via a mass email. The Board asked Ms. Knachel to request that the Board of Pharmacy remind pharmacists of the exemption.

#### **Continuing Education Inquiries**

Ms. Knachel stated that the board office has received many inquiries asking if the Board is going to change its continuing education (CE) requirements for the current licensure period. She indicated that many inquirers are asking if they may obtain all required CE online since in-person meetings are being canceled due to the pandemic. She stated that her response includes the statement that the regulations to not specify the method, online or person, for obtaining CE.

The Board discussed the issue and took no action to make changes to the CE requirements. The Board concurred that a message about CE requirements should be sent to all licensees.

#### **Update on USP 800 Handling of Hazardous Drugs**

Ms. Knachel reported that USP Chapters 795 and 797 are still under appeal. Chapter 800 is in effect, but not enforceable because it references the revised 795 and 797 chapters.

**BOARD COUNSEL REPORT:** Ms. Mitchell had nothing to report to the Board.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Cockburn commented on the effects of COVID-19 on veterinary practices. She said as a whole the veterinary community has demonstrated ingenuity and resiliency to ensure safety of staff and clients while providing an excellent level of patient care. She reported that the Board has aided the Department of Health with notifying licensees of informational webinars to ensure updates are getting to practitioners. She commented that she is proud of the profession.

**BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS' REPORT:** Dr. Karras provided a report on the recent activities of the Board of Health Professions.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Knachel reported on the following:

- Licensure and budget statistics;
- American Association of Regulatory Boards of Veterinary Medicine (AAVSB)
  - Cancellation of the in-person 2020 conference, but educational parts will be held virtually.
  - Introduction of AAVSB's RACEtrack CE tracking service which is free to veterinarians and veterinary technicians. Information in the tracking system will be included in the CE mass email.
  - Online licensure verifications are now in place through AAVSB or by accessing most state licensure boards.
  - Presentations – As the Chair of the AAVSB Student Outreach Committee, she has done three presentations to veterinary students since the last board meeting.
  - Outreach activities – Four mass emails were sent since the last board meeting.
- Updated forms – Forms are in the process of being updated on the Board's website.
- Board calendar – 2021 calendar was presented.

**Discipline Report**

Ms. Moss provided an overview of the caseload statistics.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ms. Knachel congratulated Dr. Cockburn and Dr. Karras on their reappointments to the Board.

**NEXT MEETING:** Dr. Cockburn announced that the next full board meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2020. Staff anticipates that this will be a virtual meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Dr. Cockburn thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 p.m.

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Tregel Cockburn, D.V.M  
Chair

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Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H  
Executive Director

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Date

Date