

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
MINUTES OF FULL BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
RICHMOND, VA
AUGUST 19, 2009**

- CALL TO ORDER:** A quorum of the Board of Veterinary Medicine was called to order at 12:20 p.m. at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, Richmond, VA
- PRESIDING OFFICER:** James DeBell, DVM, President
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Wise, DVM
Henry McKelvin, DVM
Taryn Singleton, LVT
Kelly Gottschalk, DVM
- STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth Carter, Executive Director
Terri Behr, Operations Manager
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst
Eric Gregory, Esq., Assistant Attorney General
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment was received.
- REGULATORY ISSUE:** The Board met for reconsideration of the proposed rule relating to reporting of animal abuse. Ms. Yeatts stated that the Governor's office will not approve the proposed regulations without readoption of the original language under section **18 VAC 150-20-140(14)** requiring veterinarians to report evidence of suspected animal abuse to the appropriate authorities. The language had been removed in the proposed regulations because the Board felt that owners might be more reluctant to bring in injured animals if they were aware that the veterinarian was required to report suspected abuse. The Board was also concerned that there was no immunity for the veterinarians from civil action that may result from reporting of abuse.
- On properly seconded motion by Dr. Wise, the Board voted unanimously to reinsert the language relating to reporting of suspected animal abuse.
- Ms. Yeatts reviewed a draft legislative proposal that would add a requirement for reporting animal abuse to the statute and would include reporting

of suspected animal abuse in the immunity provision currently in the Statute.

On properly seconded motion by Dr. Gottschalk, the Board voted unanimously to approve draft legislation to add a requirement for veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse to the appropriate authorities.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

James DeBell, DVM, President

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