

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

April 26, 2023

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairperson, Elizabeth Farrington, DVM, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, in the Husker Conference Room at 7343 Husker Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. Board members present and answering roll call were:

Elizabeth Farrington, DVM, Chairperson
Joshua Schlote, LVT, Vice-Chairperson, via WebEx
Christopher G. Byers, DVM, DACVECC, DACVIM (SAIM), CVJ, Secretary
Donovan Hauser, DVM
Theresa Clary, Public Member

Absent: None

A quorum being present, the meeting convened. Also present to participate in the meeting: Jesse Cushman, Program Manager, Licensure Unit, Jan Gadenken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit; T. J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General; Jeanne Burke, Assistant Attorney General; Teresa Hampton, DHHS Department Legal via WebEx; Larry Wiehn, Investigator, with the Investigation Unit and Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor, with the Licensure and Investigation Units via WebEx.

Farrington announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on April 13, 2023 and Revised April 21, 2023.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Byers moved, seconded by Hauser, to adopt the Agenda. Voting aye: Byers, Clary, Farrington, Hauser and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Byers moved, seconded by Hauser to approve the February 15, 2023, minutes as written. Voting aye: Byers, Clary, Farrington, Hauser and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION & REGULATION UPDATES

Megan Kilgore, Executive Director of the NVMA (Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association) and Kaylie Fritts, DVM, Deputy Nebraska State Veterinarian with the Agriculture Department were present for discussion with the Board.

Dr. Byers is proposing the NVMA explore with their lobbying ability the need or possibility of amending Statute to include specific licensed specialties for Veterinary professionals. Dr. Byers believes that the Nebraska Practice Act should incorporate language regarding DVM and Veterinary Technician specialists. Dr. Byers feels that perhaps there is not a need for a specialist specific license, but he thinks defining and restricting the use of the term is appropriate and in the interest of public health and for the animal owner awareness.

The Board also discussed the need for Veterinary Technicians in the field of large animal veterinary practices and the possibility of amending the scope of practice for Veterinary Technicians.

Dr. Farrington agreed to draft survey questions for the Board to approve and then consult with Megan to address the NVMA constituents for feedback.

HPAI (AVIAN INFLUENZA)

Dr. Bryan Buss, DVM, Epidemiology Field Officer for DHHS and Kaylie Fritts, DVM, Deputy Nebraska State Veterinarian with the Agriculture Department were present for discussion with the Board.

The Board wants to support options/strategies for assisting in communication to veterinarians when there are animal disease outbreaks. Concerning HPAI in cats, Dr. Buss met with NDA, USDA and UNL and through those meetings the UNL Vet Diagnostic Lab published messaging on their case reports. See the following link to read the report: https://vbms.unl.edu/VDC/documents/HPAI_Cats.pdf

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Byers moved, seconded by Hauser, to go into closed session at 10:00 a.m., for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Byers, Clary, Farrington, Hauser and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Board Break 10:35 a.m.
Board Reconvened 10:45 a.m.

Dr. Farrington Recused herself 11:33 a.m.
Dr. Farrington Returned 11:47 a.m.

Dr. Byers Recused himself 12:16 p.m.
Dr. Byers Returned 12:39 p.m.

Schlote left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Farrington, Chairperson opened the session at 1:20 p.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW (2)– OPEN SESSION

LEWIS, BRITTANIA, DVM – application for reinstatement of license to practice veterinary medicine and surgery. Byers moved, seconded by Hauser to recommend approval of the reinstatement application to practice veterinary medicine and surgery. Voting aye: Byers, Clary, Farrington and Hauser. Voting nay: None. Absent: Schlote. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

RODRIGUEZ, BARBARA – application requesting Board approval to take the VTNE. Byers moved, seconded by Hauser to grant permission for this individual to take the VTNE. Voting aye: Byers, Clary, Farrington and Hauser. Voting nay: None. Absent: Schlote. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

PRACTICE QUESTION(S)

- A. Who owns a Police Dog?
The Board has no opinion on this question they need more information.

- B. Who owns an injured or sick wild animal? Does it matter if ownership is prohibited by law?
The Board's opinion is that no person owns the wild animal.

AAVSB RESOLUTION 2022-1

The Board has no comments currently.

BOARD BASICS & BEYOND MEETING

Theresa Clary, Public Member, and newest member to the Board attended the meeting April 14-15, 2023 in Kansas City, MO. Theresa Thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the meeting. She said it was very beneficial to her to learn about the AAVSB (American Association of Veterinary State Boards) and their many different functions. She was able to meet Board Members and discuss the diversity of Statutes and Regulations among States and Provinces and Canada.

SCHEDULE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 26, 2023. The schedule will be posted on the DHHS website. <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Farrington, Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Christopher G. Byers, DVM, DACVECC, DACVIM (SAIM), CVJ, Secretary
Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery