



Nevada Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

1/29/2026 9:00 AM

Physical Location: Aloft Hotel
2015 Terminal Way, Reno, NV 89502
Video Conference Access: Microsoft Teams
Phone Conference: (929) 229-5741

Dr. Damonte brought the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Attendance

Board Members Present:

Steve Damonte, DVM (President)
Deborah White, DVM (Treasurer)
Betsy Phillips, DVM (Member)
Crystal Vaquera, LVT (Member)
John Travis (Public Member) Remote
Susan Costa, DVM (Member)
Michael Knehr, DVM (Member)
Crystal Vaquera, LVT (Member)
James O'Dea, DVM (Vice President) Remote

Staff Present:

Jennifer Pedigo, EMBA (Executive Director)
Louis Ling, Esq. (Board Counsel)
Christina Johnson, LVT (Lic. Specialist, Sr Hosp. Insp)
John Crumley, DVM (Lead Investigator)
Lynsey Begbie, LVT (Administrative Operations)

- 1. Public Comment: No vote may be taken upon a matter raised under this item on the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken. (NRS 241.020)**

Amanda Kremer, Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) and Animal Chiropractor (AC), requested that the Board consider changing the referral requirement for chiropractors to allow clients to seek animal chiropractic care without a referral from a veterinarian. Public protection is not enhanced when focused on the current veterinary client-patient relationship (VCPR) or referral. The American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) includes advanced animal-specific CE and scope limitations. The veterinary referral does not evaluate safety or competency; non-certified veterinarians are not trained to direct animal care and don't assume clinical liability or responsibility. This raises the question of whether the referral is a safety mechanism. Owners experience a delay in care, unnecessary discomfort due to the delay, and may decline. The referral delay may result in the owner seeking care outside of regulated care from untrained providers, which is a risk with the low access to services. A high level of accountability and requiring referral adds a second layer of regulation without additional care. States that allow direct access don't have increased risks of harm. Dr. Kremer stated that removing the referral

requirement does not reduce oversight and that the regs support the mission of the Board. When referral requests are denied, a client is likely to seek out another veterinarian provider if the referral is denied by the veterinarian that will likely just cause the original veterinarian to lose a client. The referral requirement adds expense, reduces provider ability, and doesn't mitigate risks.

2. Approval of October 23, 2025, Minutes Draft Board Minutes (for Possible Action)

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to accept the draft minutes for the October 23, 2025, Board meeting with changes.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

3. Review & Determination of Complaints/Disciplinary Actions (Each Item in this Section is Listed for Possible Action)

A. 11-2024DVM-79: Sally Lane, DVM (1592): Settlement Agreement

No agreement was reached.

B. 05-2025DVM-61: Cook, Matthew DVM (3080): Letter of Reprimand

Mr. Ling presented the Letter of Reprimand

Motion: Dr. Damonte moved to accept the Letter of Reprimand.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye; Dr. Knehr, Mr. Travis, and Dr. Phillips abstained.

No public comment.

C. 06-2025DVM-66: Burbank, Molly DVM (3251) Letter of Reprimand of Board Decision to Proceed to Hearing

Mr. Ling presented the facts of the Letter of Reprimand.

Motion: Dr. White moved to accept the Letter of Reprimand.

Second: Dr. Knehr

Vote: All aye; Ms. Vaquera, Dr. O'Dea, and Dr. Damonte abstained.

No public comment.

D. 06-2025FAC-75: JAM Veterinary Services (H487) Letter of Reprimand of Board Decision to Proceed to Hearing

Mr. Ling presented the facts of the Letter of Reprimand.

Motion: Dr. White moved to accept the Letter of Reprimand.

Second: Dr. Damonte

Vote: All aye; Dr. Knehr, Mr. Travis, and Dr. Phillips abstained.

No public comment.

4. Requests for Review/Approval/Modification/Waiver of Licensure/Exam Requirements, Extensions, Education Approval, and Criminal Background Review. (Each Item in this Section is Listed for Possible Action)

A. Janelle Lauchman: Request Early for Release from Probation (08-2025UNL-56).

Ms. Pedigo presented Janelle Lauchman's request. Ms. Lauchman was present.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to deny Janelle Lauchmann's request for early release from probation order.

Second: Dr. Phillips

Vote: All aye; Dr. Damonte and Dr. White abstained.

B. Gurdeep Deol, DVM: Application for Veterinarian License.

Ms. Pedigo presented Dr. Deol's application. Dr. Deol was present.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to deny until the appeal from the case in California was resolved.

Second: John Travis

Vote: All aye.

C. Kegan Browne: Application for Veterinary Technician in Training (VTIT)/Licensed Veterinary Technician License (LVT).

Ms. Pedigo presented Kegan's application. Kegan was present.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to approve Kegan Browne's LVT application.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

D. Juliana DiGiovanni: Application for VTIT/LVT.

Ms. Pedigo presented Juliana's application. Juliana was present.

Motion: Dr. Damonte moved to approve Juliana DiGiovanni's LVT application.

Second: Dr. Knehr

Vote: All aye.

E. Bianka Lyghts: Application for VTIT Extension.

Ms. Pedigo presented Bianka's extension request. Bianka was not present.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to extend the registration until Ms. Lyghts receives her spring exam results.

Second: Dr. Costa

Vote: All aye. Dr. White recused herself.

F. Jasmyn Noe: Application for VTIT Extension.

Ms. Pedigo presented Jasmyn's extension request. Jasmyn was present.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to extend for 1 year to complete Penn Foster. No further extensions will be granted prior to Ms. Noe completing her coursework.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

G. Anjen Shah: Application for VGAL Extension.

Ms. Pedigo presented Dr. Shah's extension request. Dr. Shah was not present.

Motion: Dr. White moved to extend the VGAL registration for 1 year.

Second: Dr. Damonte

Vote: All aye.

H. Casey Fekete: Application for VGAL Extension

Ms. Pedigo presented Dr. Fekete's extension request. Dr. Fekete was present.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to extend the VGAL registration for 1 year.

Second: Dr. Damonte

Vote: All aye.

5. White Paper Presentation: Regulation of Use of Artificial Intelligence in Veterinary Medicine with Dr. Elizabeth Venit, VMD, MPH, DACVMP (AAVSB CVO)

Dr. Venit presented the paper 'Regulatory Considerations of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Veterinary Medicine'.

6. Staff Reports (Each Item in this Section is Listed for Possible Action)

A. Inspection Report

Ms. Pedigo presented the Inspection Report.

B. Administrative Report

This item was tabled for the following Board meeting.

C. Financial Report

Ms. Pedigo presented the financial report.

Motion: Dr. White moved to accept the financial report.

Second: Dr. Phillips

Vote: All aye.

D. 2025 – 2026 Budget Update

Ms. Pedigo presented updated information on the current fiscal year's budget.

E. Audited Financial Statements 2026

Ms. Pedigo presented the financial audit.

Motion: Dr. White moved to accept the financial audit.

Second: Dr. Knehr

Vote: All aye.

F. Investigation Report

Dr. Crumley presented the investigation report.

G. Legal Report

Item not presented.

H. Legislative Report

Item not presented.

7. Policy, Operations, and Governance (For Possible Action)

A. Disciplinary Action Review and Discussion (For Possible Action)

The proposed disciplinary action plan was presented.

B. Legislative 2027 Planning

This item was tabled for discussion at the April 30, 2026, meeting.

C. Comprehensive Administrative Review (CAR)

1. Accounting Procedures and Financial Reporting

Ms. Pedigo led a discussion regarding accounting policy and will be engaging a bookkeeper to assist with financial reporting and audit preparation.

2. Financial Audit Schedule

Ms. Pedigo led a discussion requesting a review of the Board's policy to conduct an annual financial audit. The Board clarified that they would like the policy to remain as is.

3. Remote/Videoconference Quarterly Board Meetings

Ms. Pedigo discussed the possibility of holding Board meetings virtually as a cost-saving measure. The Board will hold the April 2026 meeting virtually and then reassess future meetings.

4. Employee Handbook Draft Review

Ms. Pedigo presented the draft Employee Handbook for review and comments from the Board. The Board made several recommendations, and the updated draft will be presented at the April 2026 meeting.

5. Revised Hospital Inspection Form and Questions

Ms. Pedigo presented the revised hospital inspection form for Board review. The updated draft will be presented at the April 2026 meeting.

6. Board Training and Retreat

Ms. Pedigo presented ideas for the Board training retreat. The board decided to revisit the retreat at the April 2026 Board meeting.

D. Ad Hoc Working Group for Non-Profit and Shelter Regulations (For Possible Action)

Dr. Costa and Crystal Vaquera volunteered to participate in the non-profit and shelter regulation committee.

E. Election of Officer Positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer

Motion: Dr. Damonte nominated Dr. O'Dea for President

Second: Mr. Travis

Vote: All aye.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea nominated Dr. Knehr for Vice President

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

Motion: Dr. White nominated Mr. Travis for Treasurer

Second: Dr. O'Dea

Vote: All aye.

8. Regulation Workshop-Discussion and Determination of Possible Regulations (For Possible Action)

Public comment:

(In-Person) Dr. Amanda Kremer: made public comment regarding the current requirement for an owner to first receive a referral from a veterinarian prior to engaging in animal chiropractic treatment. Dr. Kremer states that most other states allow for self-referral. It would not change anything related to diagnosis, and animal chiropractors would not have access to radiographs.

Dr. Knehr: expressed concerns that an evaluation or work-up is needed before chiropractic treatment to ensure that there are no underlying disease processes or issues that could interfere with treatment.

Dr. Kremer: stated that with self-referral, a provider knows when care other than chiropractic is needed and will still refer back to the treating veterinarian for further care.

(Written) Jayme Frayne, LVT: stated that there was an omission of the words 'the veterinarian' in Sec.15, page 46

(Written) Brook Niemiec, DVM: stated that he agrees with the changes to the supragingival cleaning allowance, and would support changes from the current language of dental radiology being available to the required use of oral radiography.

(Written) Marlene Tremblay, DVM: stated concerns regarding the current proposed language for Veterinary Technician Specialists (VTS).

(Written) Amanda Ray, LVT, VTS (Dentistry): stated that the current proposed VTS language does not change the scope of practice.

(Written) David Baggett, DVM: stated concerns regarding ethics, a veterinary graduate awaiting licensure, continuity of care with relief veterinarians, misuse of licensed veterinary technicians, unlicensed activity, facility safety, and controlled substances.

(Written) Craig Shank, DVM: would like to see changes to the proposed Registered Veterinary students, specifically, that complete the first year or 2- semesters rather than requiring 1000 hours in the field. Ms. Pedigo asked the Board if 1000 hours would be equivalent to completing 2 semesters. Dr. Knehr and Dr. White do not believe so. Dr. Shank also stated that there should be an exemption for deceased large animal storage and disposal.

(Written) Christina Martini, DVM : would like the VTS language to better reflect the training performed by the VTS and expand the scope for the VTS.

(Written) Dennis Wilson, DVM: stated that in Sec 5.1, where the language states “in the best manner” is too ambiguous and open to interpretation, consider “according to generally accepted standards of high-quality medical and surgical care”.

(Written) Nevada Board of Physical Therapy- proposed Assistant PT registration. Referenced the Utah model as an example. Dr. Knehr would like a presentation from the Board regarding what they are proposing. Dr. Crumley explained the difference between an Assistant PT and a PT Technician.

(Written) Jonathan Esmond, LVT VTS VECC: submitted the required skills checklist for finalizing a VECC VTS degree outlining skills that can be performed by a registered VTS and supported further expanding the scope of practice for VTS in Nevada.

A. Miscellaneous Regulations Draft:

Ms. Pedigo presented the proposed regulations.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to submit regulations with changes to the Legislative Counsel Bureau for review.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

B. Professional Conduct-Ethics Regulation Draft

Ms. Pedigo presented the proposed regulations.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to table the regulations and instructed the regulation committee to review the regulations for further discussion.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

C. Veterinary Technician Specialties License and Scope of Practice Draft

Ms. Pedigo presented the proposed regulations.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to table the regulations and instructed the regulation committee to review the regulations for further discussion.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

9. AAVSB Board of Directors Nomination (For Possible Action)

Ms. Pedigo requested the Board's support for nomination to the Board of Directors.

Motion: Dr. Damonte moves to approve Ms. Pedigo's nomination.

Second:

Vote:

10. 2026 and 2027 Board Meeting Schedule (For Possible Action)

The schedule was presented for information only.

11. Report from the Nevada Veterinary Medical Association

Ms. Nichols presented the NVMA report.

12. Agenda items for future meeting

- A. Board Training and Retreat Update
- B. VGAL statistics
- C. VTS and Ethics regulations draft

13. Public Comment

No public given.

14. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion: Dr. White moved to adjourn at 3:58 p.m.

Second: Dr. Phillips

Vote: All Aye