



Nevada Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

10/23/2025 9:30 AM

Hilton Garden Inn (Las Vegas Strip South)
7830 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89123

Call to Order: Dr. Steve Damonte called the meeting to order at 9:33AM and took roll.

Attendance

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Jennifer Pedigo, EMBA (Executive Director)
Louis Ling, Esq. (Board Counsel)
Christina Johnson, LVT Licensing Specialist
Senior Hospital Inspector
John Crumley, DVM (Lead Investigator)
Michael Laffins, DVM (Investigator)

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

Patty Porter from the WICHE program made public comment related to the University of Utah educational stipend program and the accreditation status for the USU veterinary school

Michael Irwin submitted written public comment regarding the closure of a veterinary facility in Pahrump, Nevada.

2. July 24, 2025 Minutes Draft

Motion: Dr. White moved to accept with no changes.
Second: Dr. Knehr
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 or Board Decision to Proceed to Hearing.

Mr. Ling stated that a settlement had not been reached as of the Board meeting and requested the Board to approve moving to hearing if a settlement cannot be reached.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to proceed to hearing if a settlement is not reached.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

B. 05-2025DVM-48; 05-2025FAC-49: Hany Botros, DVM (1305) and AAA All American Animal Hospital (H280): Settlement Agreement or Board Decision to Proceed to Hearing.

Mr. Ling stated that a settlement had not been reached as of the Board meeting and requested the Board to approve moving to hearing if a settlement cannot be reached.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to go to hearing if a settlement cannot be reached.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

C. 05-2025DVM-61: Matthew Cook, DVM (3080): Letter of Reprimand or Board Decision to Proceed to Hearing.

Mr. Ling stated that a settlement had not been reached as of the Board meeting and requested the Board to approve moving to hearing if a settlement cannot be reached.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to proceed to hearing if a settlement is not reached.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

D. 06-2025PAR-71: Corry Key, DVM (3540): Parallel Letter of Reprimand or Board Decision to Proceed to Hearing.

Mr. Ling presented the proposed settlement for parallel discipline for Dr. Key.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to accept the parallel discipline.

Second: Dr. White

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

E. 07-2025DVM-76: Samantha Rodriguez, DVM (3133): Letter of Reprimand or Board Decision to Proceed to Hearing.

Mr. Ling presented the proposed settlement for parallel discipline for Letter of Reprimand for Dr. Rodriguez.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to accept the Letter of Reprimand.

Second: Dr. Damonte

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

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

A. Vinicius Gargaro Silva: VGAL Extension Application

Ms. Pedigo presented Dr. Gargaro Silva's VGAL extension request.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to approve a 1 year extension.

Second: Dr. O'Dea

Vote: All aye.

B. Caitlin Hanrahan: VGAL Extension Application

Ms. Pedigo presented Dr. Hanrahan's VGAL extension request.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to approve a 1 year extension.

Second: Dr. Knehr

Vote: All aye. Dr. Bullard recused himself.

C. Chanika Hanna: VGAL Extension Application

Ms. Pedigo presented Dr. Hanna's VGAL extension request.

Motion: Dr. White moved to approve a 1 year extension.

Second: Dr. O'Dea

Vote: All aye. Dr. Bullard recused himself.

D. Pablo Mendoza Araya: VGAL Extension Application

Ms. Pedigo presented Dr. Mendoza's VGAL extension request.

Motion: Dr. White moved to approve a 1 year extension.

Second: Dr. O'Dea

Vote: All aye

E. Maja Panic: VGAL Extension Application

Ms. Pedigo presented Dr. Panic's VGAL extension request.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to approve a 1 year extension.

Second: Dr. Knehr

Vote: All aye.

Motion:

Dr. O'Dea moved to approve a 1 year extension.

All aye.

F. Rachel Schneider: VGAL Extension Application

Ms. Pedigo presented Dr. Schneider's VGAL extension request.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to approve a 1 year extension.

Second: Dr. O'Dea

Vote: All aye. Dr. Bullard recused himself.

G. LaTroya Scott: VGAL Extension Application

Ms. Pedigo presented Dr. Scott's VGAL application request.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to approve a 1 year extension.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

H. Wendy Bettencourt: LVT Application Review and Approval.

Ms. Pedigo presented Ms. Bettencourt's application and education for review.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to accept education for licensure.

Second: Dr. Knehr

Vote: All aye.

I. Anna Bank: Diplomate License Application

Jennifer presented Dr. Bank's application for licensure.

Motion: Dr. White moved to approve Dr. Banks application.

Second: Dr. Phillips

Vote: All aye.

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

A. Inspection Report

Ms. Pedigo presented the Inspection Report.

B. Administrative Report

Ms. Pedigo presented the Administrative report.

C. Financial Report

Ms. Pedigo presented the Financial report.

Motion: Dr. White moved to approve the financial report,

Second:

Vote: All aye.

D. Budget FY2026

Ms. Pedigo presented the Budget for fiscal year 2026.

Motion: Dr. White moved to approve the budget.

Second: Dr. O'Dea

Vote: All aye.

E. Investigation Report

Dr. Crumley presented the Investigation report.

F. Legal Report

Mr. Ling presented the Legal report.

G. Legislative Report

Ms. Pedigo and Mr. Ling presented the Legislative report.

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

Ms. Pedigo and Mr. Ling presented the draft proposed regulations.

Public Comment

Heather Davis made comment regarding identifying staff to clients and why that item was not being included for change. Ms. Davis asked for clarification regarding dental

procedures and stated that including regulations requiring a License Veterinary Technician (LVT) to report certain findings to the veterinarian may put undue pressure on the LVT to recognize abnormalities in the mouth which could be considered diagnosis. Ms. Davis also made recommendations regarding the timeline for retention of cremains and how to manage the volume of retained patients remains.

Rachel Schneider, VGAL made comment asking for consideration for possible limited practice when a VGAL is making a 6th attempt at the NAVLE rather than requiring them to cease practice. This would be especially important to consider when an individual that is required to be employed to maintain their work visa.

Destiny Cain, LVT made comment stating that veterinarians are typically not involved in dental procedures and should codify that the veterinarian must examine the patient prior to the completion or at some point during the dentistry procedure. Ms. Cain also requested that the Board consider for future regulations, a permit for sonography for LVT's.

Suzanne Zervantian, DVM, commented on the definitions of sedation and anesthesia and asked why recording vaccine volume is required in the medical record. She also requested that the Board ensure policies related to the retention of remains do not disadvantage larger breeds. She asked if medication administration in medical records is a concern. She reiterated concerns requiring LVTs to report dental abnormalities, and asked why veterinarians must document examination of a patient during a dental procedure when the requirement already exists.

7. Executive Director Annual Review and Salary Determination (For Possible Action)

Dr. O'Dea presented the performance review of Ms. Pedigo and discussed the findings.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to increase Executive Director salary by 7%.

Second: Dr. Knehr

Vote: All aye.

8. Election of Officer Positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer (For Possible Action)

Jennifer led a discussion regarding holding officer elections.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved to hold officer election in annually, starting in January 2026.

Second: Dr. O'Dea

Vote: All aye.

9. Designation of Board Legislative Liaison (For Possible Action)

Ms. Pedigo requested a new volunteer for legislative liaison.

Motion: Dr. Knehr moved for Dr. Phillips to be the legislative liaison.

Second: Dr. O'dea

Vote: All aye.

10. AAVSB Model Regulations for Comment

Ms. Pedigo led a discussion of the AAVSB Model Regulations.

11. Policy: Consumer Use of Assistive Technology for Complaint Submission (For Possible Action)

Ms. Pedigo led a discussion and made staff recommendations regarding the use of assistive technology when submitting consumer complaints.

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to adopt the recommended changes to the complaint form submission as recommended by staff as part of the assistive technology policy for consumer complaints.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.

12. Policy: Procedure for Continuing Education Audit Violation Cases (For Possible Action)

Ms. Pedigo asked for a review and Board direction regarding actions against individuals who are unable to comply with the continuing education (CE) audit.

Motion: Dr. Damonte moved to proceed with a process in which CE audit violations will be issued a Letter of Correction with an administrative fee and audits for the 3 renewal cycles.

Second: Dr. O'Dea

Vote: All aye.

13. 2026 and 2027 Board Meeting Schedule (For Possible Action)

Ms. Pedigo presented the dates for the 2026 and 2027 Board meetings.

14. Report from the Nevada Veterinary Medical Association

Ms. Nichols updated the Board on current NVMA projects and partnerships.

15. Agenda items for next meeting

- A. White Paper Presentation: Regulation of Use of Artificial Intelligence in Veterinary Medicine with Dr. Elizabeth Venit, VMD, MPH, DACVMP (AAVSB CVO)
- B. Disciplinary Action Review and Discussion
- C. Board Training-Retreat for April
- D. VGAL scope of practice

16. Public Comment

No public comment given.

17. Adjournment Motion:

Motion: Dr. O'Dea moved to adjourn at 3:59 p.m.

Second: Dr. White

Vote: All aye.