

STATE OF NEVADA



BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Minutes

The Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners will conduct a board meeting on

Friday, September 24, 2021 at 1:00PM at

4600 Kietzke Ln Suite O-265

Reno, NV 89502

and

at the following conference number:

1-857-799-9907

Board Members Present

Ronald Sandoval, DVM, Vice President
Melissa Schalles, LVT
John Bullard, DVM
Jacqueline Peterson
Michael Knehr, DVM

Board Staff Present

Jennifer Pedigo, Executive Director
Christina Johnson, LVT, Hospital Inspector
John Crumley, DVM, Board Investigator
Louis Ling, Esq., Board Counsel

Dr. Sandoval, the Board Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. He took roll of Board members and staff. Dr. White, Dr. O’Dea, and Dr. Damonte were not present for the workshop.

Public Comment: None

Regular Agenda

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

A. Reviewing draft language and possible topics for regulation changes on the following:

Jennifer Pedigo gave a brief update prior to beginning review of the changes made requested at the last workshop.

Section 1- Ms. Pedigo explained that no changes were made to this section other than removing the definition of VCPR.

Section 2- Change of fee schedule to align with the new renewal schedule and how it will be altered if applying for licensure mid-cycle.

Ronald Sandoval, DVM- Does this add a level of difficulty for staff trying to keep track of this?

Ms. Pedigo- We already have communications that begin in October for licensing new applicants. We let them know that they will have to renew by December 31 if their license is issued in this calendar year, or if they can wait until January 1, we will issue the first day of the new year to save them that expense. It does add a slight level of complexity, but if we have it by policy or it doesn’t work out, we can bring it back to you and amend it in the future. Renewal fees have remained the same, they have just been doubled to reflect the biennial renewal and is explained in paragraph 3 along with the non-refundable fees.

Section 3- Updates the number of CE hours needed for the 24-month renewal period doubling the hours required for both LVT’s and DVM’s. Paragraph 4 outlines the CE requirement for new licensees.

Dr. Sandoval- Do we need to address the number of hours that are in-person or that can be earned online?

Ms. Pedigo- The same stipulations have been applied. Half of the hours earned must be perform live or in-person. This has been amended when the situation has called for it, but if we want to switch to all online, going forward we would need to change the regulations.

Melissa Schalles, LVT- Was there a reason we went to half online, half in-person?

Ms. Pedigo- Yes. The impetus was that hands on learning is important and getting those hours in a lab or in-person lecture could prove more beneficial. The prevalence and quality of online CE has improved over time. So, if want to revisit that requirement we can do that now.

Ms. Schalles- I think in the time and era we are in, it is going to be harder and harder to find in-person that isn’t going to require the distancing, and it will be harder find quality in-person CE. Whereas the quality of online CE has been amazing.

Dr. Sandoval- Although, here in Nevada, with both Western (Viticus) and Wild West, we have two great options of getting at least half of your required hours done for the 2-year period. Also, I believe it helps to promote the profession. I would like to keep it at half and half.

Dr. Knehr- I agree with Dr. Sandoval.

Ms. Schalles- I was looking at it from the technician standpoint with the time away from the clinic, the cost of the conferences, and the cost to the clinic being down 1 or more technician for the period of the conferences.

Dr. Bullard- Melissa can you share some of those online CE suggestions?

Ms. Schalles- ACT, IDEXX, Hills are all quality programs, and even Royal Canin.

Dr. Sandoval- @Dove, VetGirl

Ms. Schalles- Vet Med Team.

Ms. Pedigo- In the bulletin, we try to include suggestions for free CE. It sounds like we want to keep the half and half in place, but I think in January we will want to re-evaluate a possible waiver again for the next renewal period based on conditions at that time.

Section 4- Removes the notary requirement from DVM reactivation applications.

Section 5- Removes the notary requirement from DVM and LVT applications.

Section 6- Removes the notary requirement for facility applications.

Section 7- Changes the dates for renewals and removes the notary requirement.

Section 8- Removes the notary requirement from Physical Therapy applications.

Section 9- Is a technical section, regarding civil procedure, about service and notification if we have not been able to reach an individual for a hearing.

Section 10- Changes the renewal dates for physical therapy licenses.

Section 11 and Section 12- Changes the renewal dates for chiropractic licenses and removes the notary requirement.

Section 13- The changes made to the definition of "physical Exam" based on our discussion and with input from the NVMA.

Dr. Sandoval – I have some questions on how this would work for herd medicine and maybe clarifying or creating a specific definition for herd medicine. Does it just need to be clarified more specifically?

Ms. Pedigo – I think it needs to be called out specifically to ensure that individuals do not try to circumvent the intention of the regulation.

Louis Ling- I agree with Jennifer, the only time a veterinarian is not likely going to need to go out and touch and objectively evaluate a herd of cattle. If treating an individual animal, a physical exam will be needed.

Dr. Sandoval- We would get a shipment of cattle and go out and make a general observation and determine what was needed and then the rancher would provide the injections.

Ms. Pedigo- I think the definition should specify the herd medicine requires observation on premises.

Nina Laxalt- I think this would meet the ranchers' expectations.

Mr. Ling- I just want to make sure that it is clear that the herd vs. individual animal (horse or cattle) are not being treated under the herd medicine definition to try and circumvent the VCPR requirement.

Ms. Schalles- Doctors, how would this work in daily practice when you have a litter of puppies, and one tests positive for giardia? Do you generally treat the whole litter?

Ms. Pedigo- In the past, the regulations have treated them as a herd. So, we leave out the word livestock to leave it up to the medical professional to make the determination of what a herd is. Do we include in the definition that for herd medicine individual examination is not required?

Louis Ling- We will make this item 1 and add a subsection that includes an exception to specifically address this situation. What about an animal control situation where a large group of animals are seized. Are they taken to a private hospital for examination or to a shelter? If taken to a private practice, are they seen individually or as a whole?

Dr. Knehr- The physically proximate definition is close to what you are trying to achieve.

Louis Ling- The key is the 'physically proximate' because you should not be able to phone in herd medicine.

Dr. Sandoval- The term of herd health could state "requires physical proximity sufficient to establish...."

Ms. Pedigo- I will bring these changes back for review in October. The reason for the changes to the definition are due to some arguments as to how the definition of physical can be interpreted. Louis, can this language be approved outside of a workshop in October?

Louis Ling- These changes need to be reviewed by the Board at a workshop before we can move to hearing. A workshop in October would be prove to the legislature that we attempted to get as much outside input as possible, prior to moving to hearing.

Dr. Sandoval- So, we need a vote to continue a workshop at the October Board meeting.

Motion: Ms. Schalles moved to adjourn the workshop.

Second: Dr. Sandoval

Passed: Unanimous

2. Public Comment: None

3. Adjournment for Possible Action

Motion: Ms. Schalles moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Dr. Knehr

Passed: Unanimous