



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2023
APPROVED BY VOTE OF THE BOARD FEBRUARY 23, 2023

By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled board meeting was held via video conference and at the State Office Building, 9th Floor, Conference Room C.

Members Present: Chair Rachel Bergartt, DVM; Denise Albert, DVM; Ciara Vollaro, DVM; Hal Geiger, PhD

Staff Present: Occupational Licensing Examiner (OLE) Tami Bowman, Board and Regulations Advisor Sara Chambers, Regulations Specialist 2 Alison Osborne

Members of the Public Present: McKayla Dick, DVM and AKVMA (Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association); Rosemarie Lombardi, DVM and AKVMA; James Delker, DVM; Pat Anderson

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The board was called to order at 10:19 am, Chair read the Mission Statement out loud.

2. Review Agenda

Motion to adopt agenda as proposed

Approved unanimously

3. Ethics Disclosure

All board members stated they had no conflicts to disclose.

4. Examiner Update

A. Introduction

New OLE Tami Bowman introduced herself

B. Renewal Update

Of 724 active Veterinarian and Vet Tech license active on 12/31, 137 have yet to renew. Board asked for the breakdown of how many licensees were veterinarians and how many were technicians. OLE Bowman said she would get back to them.

C. License/Courtesy License Update

OLE Bowman informed the board that courtesy licenses for the race season were coming along nicely. The three smaller races had all the paperwork to the division and the last were almost ready to go to the board. Iditarod is expecting about 50 licenses and only 7 had not submitted paperwork by the time of the meeting. All ballots sent to the board had been completed, and there were none that need to be discussed.

D. CBPL Staffing

Board Chair Bergartt asked for a staffing update. OLE Bowman deferred to Sara Chambers, who had just moved from the position of Division Director into a new position in the Commissioner's Office. She explained the staffing restructuring that is occurring in the division and the progress on filling vacancies.

5. Old Business: Legislative Planning

A. PDMP (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program)

The board is waiting for the report on the PDMP that was finalized the end of December. The board maintained their existing position to seek legislation to legally exempt veterinarians from the PDMP. They have the backing of the AKVMA. Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson has indicated to Chair Bergartt that she will sponsor the bill.

- B. **PAVE (Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence)**
The board maintained its existing position to pursue statute change that limits Alaska test acceptance for foreign-trained veterinarians to only the ECFVG (Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates). They would like to broaden the scope of the regulations to be able to accept appropriate tests such as PAVE in the future. The board discussed briefly and agreed to keep this bill and the bill re: PDMP separate. Sara Chambers stated that she would be available to advise the board on legislative process.
- C. **NAVLE (North American Veterinary Licensing Examination) Exams**
The discussion was specifically regarding licensure by exam or by credentials as related to AS 09.98.165 and 08.98.164: Dr. Albert shared her research comparing Alaska to AAVSB (American Association of Veterinary State Boards) recommendations and other states.

Motion to table the discussion regarding changes to AS 08.98.165 and 08.98.164 by Hal Geiger.
Approved unanimously.

Recess The board recessed at 11:20 a.m. for a short break; reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

6. Public Comment on Proposed Regulations

Ilsa Lund: Congratulated the board on their progress on proposed regulation 12 AAC 68.215 Veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

7. General Public Comment

McKayla Dick: On behalf of AKVMA, she wanted to reiterate that the PDMP and PAVE bills should stay separate. AKVMA supports these bills and will continue to pursue a sponsor for the PDMP Bill
No other comments were made by the public.

8. Administrative Business

A. Details regarding Upcoming Meetings

- a. **February Meeting:** OLE Bowman explained that with staffing changes, the upcoming meeting scheduled for February 23-24, 2023, has not been approved yet. She needed more information to get the approval pushed through. Sara Chambers explained the processes to complete requested travel and directed OLE Bowman on next steps.
- b. **May Meeting:** Dr. Geiger has a conflict with the original planned date for meeting on May 12. Board decided to change the date to May 24. This will be a Zoom meeting with an option for in-person attendance for Juneau residents.
- c. **October Meeting:** To coordinate with the AKVMA Symposium in Anchorage at the Captain Cook, the board will pursue an in-person meeting on 10/6.

B. Board/Staff Task List:

- a. **OLE:** OLE Bowman will publish the breakdown of Veterinarian and Vet Tech numbers and will pursue approval and travel for upcoming meetings.
- b. **Jurisprudence Exam:** Dr. Vollaro is working on this for the next meeting
- c. **Next Meeting Agenda:** OLE and Chair will work on this.

9. Adjourn

The chair declared the board off the record at 12:10 p.m.