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Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners



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Minutes of the South Carolina Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
Business Meeting, Application Hearing and Disciplinary Matters  
November 10, 2016  
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Room 105  
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Board members present were:

Rebecca M. Hughes, D.V.M., Chairperson  
Katherine Ann George, D.V.M., Vice Chairperson  
Elizabeth L. Fuller, D.V.M., Secretary  
Brent R. Goodson, D.V.M.  
W. Marshall, Liger, III, L.V.T.  
Gretchen Love, D.V.M  
Ginger D. Macaulay, D.V.M  
Bethany M. Tapp, D.V.M.

Board members with excused absences were:

Rebecca I. Shealy, Consumer Board member

Staff and others present were:

Erin G. Baldwin, LLR Litigation Attorney, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Tina Behles, Court Reporter  
Rita Melton, DMD, BSN, RN, LLR Administrator  
Hardwick Stuart, Jr., LLR Advice Attorney  
Christina Barnes, LLR, Administrative Assistant

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CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Session of the South Carolina Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners was held at the Synergy Office Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Room 105, in Columbia, South Carolina. Whereas, proper notice of date, time, place and agenda information having been properly provided to THE STATE NEWSPAPER and ASSOCIATED PRESS. Proper notice also having been posted at the LLR Office Building 24 hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting and a quorum having been noted as present, Chairman Dr. Rebecca Hughes called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted. Excused absences were noted.

#### APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Dr. Rita Melton, Board Administrator informed the Board members that Ms. Rebecca Shealy, Consumer Board member had an excused absence for the Meeting.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Dr. Ginger Macaulay to accept Ms. Shealy's excused absence. Dr. Gretchen Love seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**Motion:** A motion was made by Dr. Macaulay to approve the agenda. Dr. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Motion:** A motion was made by Dr. Macaulay to accept the August 11, 2016 Minutes as printed. Dr. Katherine George seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### DISCIPLINARY ISSUES:

There were none.

#### IRC Report:

The Investigative Review Committee Report (IRC) was presented by Mr. Mark Sanders, OIE Chief Investigator.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Dr. Macaulay to accept the seven (7) Dismissals. The motion was seconded by Dr. Elizabeth Fuller. The motion carried.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Dr. Macaulay to accept the one (1) Dismissal with a Cease and Desist. The motion was seconded by Dr. Janet McKim. The motion carried.

#### OIE and ODC Management Reports:

The OIE and ODC Management Reports were presented for OIE and ODC by Mr. Sanders and Ms. Erin Baldwin respectively. The reports were accepted as information by the Board.

#### APPLICATION HEARING:

##### Mark Anthony Dekich, DVM

An application hearing was held for Dr. Dekich. Mr. Stuart advised the Board. Dr. Dekich was present and waived the right to counsel. A court reporter was present. A quorum was noted as present. The hearing commenced.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Marshall Liger to go into Executive Session for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fuller. The motion carried.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Dr. Macaulay to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brent Goodson. The motion carried.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Dr. George to allow Dr. Dekich to be granted a full license. The motion was seconded by Dr. Love. The motion carried.

#### Lauren Nicole Wise, DVM

An application hearing was held for Dr. Wise. Mr. Stuart advised the Board. Dr. Wise spoke to the Board via teleconference and waived the right to counsel. A court reporter was present. A quorum was noted as present. The hearing commenced.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Dr. George to reject Dr. Wise's application unless she could provide proof of 30 hours of continuing education from an approved source. The motion was seconded by Dr. Love. The motion carried.

#### Administrative Report:

The Administrative Report was given by Dr. Melton that as of November 1, 2016 since the last Board Meeting, the Board has licensed 40 veterinarians and 37 veterinary technicians for a total of 77 individuals licensed. There are 1892 licensed veterinarians and 499 licensed veterinary technicians for a total 2391 licensed veterinary personnel in South Carolina as of this date.

Dr. Melton reminded the Board members that the new Animal Legislation is effective now. Some members had specific questions. It was recommended that since the Governmental Affairs and Communication Office follows legislative issues to invite Sym Singh and Rebecca Leach to provide a presentation on the new Animal Legislation at the next Board Meeting. Board members were asked to send their questions to Dr. Melton so that she could ensure that they reached Mr. Singh and Ms. Leach so that the questions could be answered during the presentation. Ms. Leach is serving as the LLR representative to the Governor's Taskforce working on several items related to the implementation of this new law.

#### Financial Report:

Financial Report was given and accepted as information.

#### AAVSB Report

Dr. Hughes and Mr. Liger had been approved at the last meeting to attend the AAVSB conference on September 22-24, 2016 in Scottsdale, Arizona to represent the Board. They provided the Board with a written report on the discussion topics that had been given at the AAVSB Meeting. The Board received it as information.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was none.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### Ratification/Addition of names for the IRC Members 2017-2018

**Motion:** Dr. Hughes made a motion to add Dr. Albert Platt, former Board member to the IRC Members list. The motion was seconded by Dr. Macaulay. The motion carried.

### Euthanasia Certification

Dr. Fuller provided board members with handouts that included “Euthanasia Training for Non-Veterinarians,” a copy of the laws related to euthanasia methods and a copy of Article 7 entitled “Animal Euthanasia and Tranquilization.” She stated that she provides euthanasia training for veterinary personnel and uses these documents in their training. She discussed some of the methods, drugs, etc. being used to provide this procedure to animals. The Board received the presentation as information.

### DHEC Response on Euthanized Animals

Mr. Hardwick Stuart stated that several questions had been received on the appropriate disposal of animal waste (euthanized carcasses). He shared the DHEC email he received when he inquired about this process related to the different types of landfills in which these remains can be disposed of depending on the method of death. There are 2 types of landfills (Class 2 and Class 3). In a Class 3 landfill, the remains are covered routinely as it comes in at the landfill by a bulldozer. In the Class 2 landfill there is a separate area for burial of the remains. The remains must be hydrated with lime and the carcasses must be buried up to 12 inches of dirt immediately is placed on it. The Board received the materials and discussion as information.

### Interpretation of 40-69-270 related to Alternative Therapies (Chiro procedures and Acupuncture, etc.).

The Board has received several questions on what procedures are allowable, whether a referral can be made and who is responsible for the Alternative Therapies when these procedures are being provided to animals by persons who are not licensed as a veterinarian Ex. Chiropractors, Massage Therapies, etc.

Code 40-69-270 was reviewed. The Board determined that based on the law that the delegating veterinarian remains responsible for the general care of the patient (animal) regardless of whether he or she performs the procedure or makes a referral to another provider. Board members discussed the credentials that a person performing the manipulation or usage of the alternative therapy must have in order to be qualified to perform the procedure.

Dr. Hughes asked for volunteers from the Board willing to serve on a taskforce to research what other states are doing within this area and to report back at the next board meeting. Mr. Liger and Dr. Macaulay volunteered to work on the taskforce and research these areas with other states.

### Prescribing anti-anxiety drugs to animals needing them in order for the animal to be examined for the initial visit or for an emergency situation

Dr. Macaulay asked the question about whether anti-anxiety drugs can be prescribed for the initial visit or for emergency situation in which the animal’s behavior prevents them from being seen without some type of sedation. Members discussed whether a referral could be made to one of the veterinarians that make

house calls so that a client-patient relationship could be established and at least a visible examination of the animal would be possible prior to prescribing any anti-anxiety drugs.

**Motion:** Dr. Love made a motion that an FAQ be placed on the Board website that no anti-anxiety drugs may be prescribed for an animal that has not been seen without the establishment of a client-patient relationship be in place.

LEGAL:

There was none.

REINSTATEMENT HEARING:

**Motion:** A motion was made by Dr. Macaulay to go into Executive Session to hear a closed case and to receive legal advice. Dr. Goodson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Dr. Macaulay to come out of Executive Session and return to open session. Dr. Fuller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Board Newsletter

Dr. Melton stated that several of years ago that the Veterinary Board had a newsletter and asked the board members if they thought that it would a valuable tool to inform the licensees about updates and changes in legislation, changes to the Practice Act, Board policies and procedures related to veterinary matters. The Board agreed that they would like to offer a board newsletter again in the spring and fall. Dr. McKim and Dr. Goodson volunteered to assist Dr. Melton in producing it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next Board Meeting for 2017 are: February 9, May 11, August 10 and November 9, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business for discussion.

**Motion:** Dr. Hughes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Dr. Love. The motion carried.

Most Respectfully,

Rita A. Melton, DMD, BSN, RN  
Administrator