

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Teleconference Committee Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2022**

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and on the board website and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone. The telephone number and access code are provided on the posted agenda.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

W. Marshall Liger, LVT - Chair
Elizabeth Fuller, DVM
Tracie Quick, DVM
Bethany Tapp, DVM
Scott Bryant, DVM
Melissa Entrekin, LVT
Nikki Milligan, DVM
Denise Wilkinson, PawMetto Lifeline
Ginger Macaulay, DVM
Boyd Parr, DVM
Adrienne Kruzer, LVT
Michelle McConnell, LVT
Rob Presley, DVM
Zohra Badat, LVT
Susan Etherton, LTV

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Hardwick Stuart, Office of Advice Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Board Administrator
Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator

PRESENT:

Robin Reibold, Court Reporter
Marie Queen, SC Association of Veterinarians
Dawn Wilkinson, PawMetto Lifeline
Barbara Nelson
Joe Elmore, Charleston Animal Society
Tanya Niles
Kendall Bak

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Liger called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.
Entrekin/Bryant/Approved.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee and LLR staff members introduced themselves.

REGULATION 120-1 AND 120-9

Mr. Stuart and Ms. Buttler provided an update to the committee regarding previous discussion recognizing licensed veterinary technicians holding specialty certifications. To official recognize the specialty certifications as a separate licensure type, a statutory revision would be required. As such, the committee is not able to propose creation of the licensure type.

Ms. Entrekin brought a recent disciplinary matter before the committee. Mr. Stuart explained the matter cannot be addressed nor discussed by the Board as it is not on the meeting agenda. Mr. Liger directed the committee's attention to review of Regulation 129-8(D). This section was added under the licensed veterinarians scope of practice as it pertains to the supervision of unlicensed veterinary aides.

The committee reviewed the need to further define training qualifications of unlicensed aides. Ms. Milligan shared with the committee an evaluation tool she developed to assist with understanding and documenting aides competency. Dr. Quick reminded the committee of SC Code of Law 40-69-270(C) which allows a licensed veterinarians to delegate the performance of procedures to qualified persons. With statute taking precedence over regulations, Dr. Quick reflected that the supervision scope of practice for unlicensed veterinary aides is in contradiction and proposed it be removed with additional revisions to 120-8(D) introductory language.

Motion: To accept proposed language of 120-8(D) as proposed
Parr/Kruzer
Opposed: Quick/Wilkinson
Approved.

Ms. Wilkinson requested further discussion of Dr. Quick's proposal. Removing the supervision scope of practice puts the responsibility on the licensed veterinarian to document the training and qualifications of all unlicensed veterinary aides. This would allow flexibility to rural and large animal veterinarians who have difficulty securing licensed veterinary technicians. For licensed veterinary technicians, the licensed veterinarians would not have to document skill qualifications as the Board has the jurisdiction to promulgate a scope of practice for the license type. Several committee members voiced concerns and questioned the pathway to provide guidance to licensed veterinarians as to what an unlicensed veterinary aide may or may not do.

Motion: proposed Regulation 120-8(D)(1)(a), to leave as is.
Kruzer/Bryant/Approved.

Motion: proposed Regulation 120-8(D)(1)(b), to leave as is
Bryant/Tapp
Opposed: Badat, Etherton, Kruzer, Entrekin, Presley, McConnell
Approved.

Motion: In Regulation 120-8(D)(1)(c), to approve with the removal of "casts".
Kruzer/Entrekin/Approved.

Motion: Move proposed Regulation 120-8(D)(1)(d) to 120-8(D)(5).
Entrekin/Presley
Opposed: Milligan, Wilkinson, Quick, Bryant, Tapp
Approved.

Motion: Proposed Regulation 120-8(D)(1)(e), to leave as is.
Quick/Bryant/Approved.

Motion: Move proposed Regulation 120-8(D)(1)(f) to 120-8(D)(5).
Entrekin/Presley
Opposed: Wilkinson, Quick, Bryant
Approved.

Motion: Move proposed Regulation 120-8(D)(1)(g) to 120-8(D)(5).
Entrekin/McConnell

Dr. Quick requested clarification from the committee if this included picc lines. Dr. Quick and Dr. Tapp advocated moving the regulation to prohibited practice will limit the licensed veterinarians authority.

Opposed: Milligan, Wikinson, Quick, Bryant, Tapp
Abstain: Parr
Approved.

Motion: proposed Regulation 120-8(D)(2)(a), to move to immediate supervision.
Entrekin/Kruzer
Opposed: Wilkinson, Bryant, Quick, Tapp, Pressley, MacCauley, Parr
Motion did not pass.

Motion: proposed Regulation 120-8(D)(2)(b), to leave as is.
Parr/Quick
Opposed: Badat, Entrekin, McConnell, Kruzer
Approved.

Motion: proposed Regulation 120-8(D)(2)(c), to leave as is.
Kruzer/Entrekin/Approved.

Motion: proposed Regulation 120-8(D)(2)(d), to leave as is.
Kruzer/Pressley/Approved.

Motion: proposed Regulation 120-8(D)(2)(e), to table till next meeting
Milligan/Kruzer/Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Elmore of the Charleston Animal Society addressed the committee expressing concerns regarding access to care. Mr. Elmore is concerned the proposals of the committee will result in further limiting the access to care instead of assisting the public. Mr. Elmore made the committee aware of the numerous closings of veterinary clinics and emergency facilities due to lack of personnel. He stated further

restrictions placed on unlicensed aides worsen conditions.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Buttler will schedule the next South Carolina Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners Committee Meeting following conclusion of the requested additional research. Committee members and the public will be notified in accordance with SC Freedom of Information Act, Section 30-4-80.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Pressley/Quick/Approved.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.