



Board of Veterinary Medicine Public Meeting

Minutes

Veterinary Medicine
Sep 20, 2023 at 8:30 AM EDT

Attendance

Present:

Members: Robyn Eldredge, Jill Patronagio, Claire Timbas, Elaine Forste

Absent:

Members: Stephen Crawford, Winifred Krogman

I. Call To Order at 8:30 a.m.

RSA 332-B:1-a Purpose. – The purpose of the board of veterinary medicine is to promote public health, safety, and welfare by safeguarding the people of New Hampshire against incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons and from unprofessional or illegal practices by persons licensed to practice veterinary medicine. The right to practice veterinary medicine is a privilege granted by legislative authority to persons possessing personal and professional qualifications specified in this chapter.

II. Review of Public Minutes

Motion to approve the 8/16/23 minutes:

Motion moved by JP and motion seconded by RE. roll call vote 4-0-0

III. Public Appearances

A. 9:00 a.m. Dr. David Sobel, DVM Hearing opened. Hearing closed at 9:30 a.m.

B. 9:30 a.m. Nancy Gritman, Chief Risk Management Officer, Channing Benson, Program Manager, Exams and Amy Farmer, Directory of Mobility all with AAVSB invited to talk with the Board about Vet Techs and taking the exam. Ed Carlson from NHVTA in attendance as well as Becky Gallant, NHVTA Board Member.

- One proposed path forward is to have the Board create rules that mirror an accredited educational program. The trainee would receive that education from a supervising veterinarian. The supervising veterinarian would sign off on the training as if they were in an accredited program. So essentially the Board is setting the qualifications. Because the Board lacks the authority to approve OJT candidates to take the exam, this would be a manner in which the Board could constructively provide approval through rule.
- Nancy Gritman - The sticking point is the current policy with AAVSB. When the AAVSB Board of Directors approved this process, they did so under the impression that, per NH rules, this process would end May 2026, and NH would pursue a license for veterinary technicians in the meantime.

- An alternative pathway would remove the Board from the process altogether. An applicant can go to Wisconsin, take the exam, get their credential, and apply to the NHVTA for credentialing by reciprocity.
- If credentialed individuals move in/out of NH to a Board that regulates, this could be a barrier to individuals with OJT.
- The Board would like to direct all interested candidates to contact the NHVTA for instructions on how to sit for the exam with the OJT.
- Alaska, Wisconsin, CA have very strict guidelines regarding supervision under a state licensed veterinarian for OJT training. Wisconsin has an outline of the Vet Tech certification process which is on their website. This requirement also applies to out of state OJT applicants.

Motion from RE to have NHVTA send a notice to all potential candidates informing them of the new process to take the exam, and providing a link to the NHVTA website, JP second the motion, all in favor 4-0-0.

IV. OPLC and/or Board Administration Updates – parking guideline reminder and alternate parking.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

A. Veterinary Practice in NH, question regarding processes and procedures.

We believe our system had a glitch and we are worried some vaccine certificates are not accurate with the correct lot # and expiration. Luckily no patients have had any reactions or side effects, but is there anything else we should be doing? Going forward we of course will be more diligent to make sure it updates correctly.

Administrator to write a letter informing the company, they should double check that all proper procedures and protocols are in place so this won't happen in the future.

B. Northernmost Veterinarian Shortage

One of the northernmost large animal clinic in the state is closing its doors and leaving a large chunk of the state with less access to services. While the Board is sympathetic with the situation at hand, out west some owners must drive 8 hours to get care for their animals. In Northern NH, people may be able to go across the border or go south to a bigger city which may be an hour or two.

C. Communication/Position Statement from the NH Board of Nursing to Other Boards - Board Advisement

- D. Listserv Questions from AAVSB regarding Teletriage - Board Advisement. The Board would like to keep this on their radar for the future. CA & AZ just passed a similar bill. People are bypassing the Boards and going to the legislature to get bills passed without reviewing potential or factual consequences. There is no difference between telemedicine and teletriage.
- E. Question to the Board regarding the use of CBD products for companion animals. *AVMA Principles of Ethics* are outlined in state rules governing the Veterinary practice. The *principles* state, in part, “VI. C. It is unethical for veterinarians to promote, sell, prescribe, dispense, or use secret remedies or any other product for which they do not know the ingredients.”
- In addition, on the Board’s website located here; [Board of Veterinary Medicine Forms and Other Documents | NH Office of Professional Licensure and Certification](#) has the link to the FDA Regulation of Cannabis and Cannabis-Derived Products. While the Board can direct you to the available information, the Board is not able to provide legal advice or guidance regarding your practice. The Board encourages you to seek your own interpretation and/or legal advice regarding this matter.
- F. Question to the Board could the Board consider how the definition of ‘licensed humane society’ is used, as defined in 644:8-aa section III **vs** the Boards intent to define ‘Animal Shelter’. The Board does not choose to change any wording.
- G. Tail Docking of Dogs – First this procedure is legal. It is not prohibited. Second: Question, does it have to be done by a licensed veterinarian. It comes back to are you charging for it, is it your pet. The Board would have to set those rules. The definition of practice of veterinary medicine outlines receipt of compensation.
- #3 the acceptable age range to tail dock is 2-4 days. Essentially it is like circumcision and like people, it could be botched. Where do you get this knowledge to do this procedure? You get this from your training to be a veterinarian.
- The Boards response - It is not prohibited in the state of NH, please direct to the statute for further guidance.
- H. Vet CE RACE approval request, complementary and western medicine. Response: please review the Board rules and or laws for medical vs non-medical and then apply what is applicable from the syllabus of the course.

- I. Board Meeting dates for the rest of 2023 & 2024 – Any changes required? CT will not be in attendance 2/24 but may be able to attend via zoom and also 5/24 at all. July 17th RE will not be in attendance.
- J. Stratham-Newfields Veterinary Hospital – We were told Ocean Valley Vet in Stratham, NH closed recently. We were told they were open for a short time to provide records, but now the doors are closed, and phone is disconnected. Multiple people are attempting to access to their records. Can the Board help in any way. Unfortunately, the Board does not govern the veterinary practice or office.

VII. Licensure

VIII. Administrative Rules & Legislative Topics

- A. 1:00 p.m. Vet 200 Public Hearing opened at 1:08 p.m. and closed at 1:23 p.m. without comment.
- B. Vet 802.01 Final Proposal Annotated-Draft – one amendment.
Motion to accept the final proposal draft of Vet 802 as amended. Vet 802.01 (d) to read as follows: other services shall only be delegated by the supervising veterinarian, to a veterinary nurse or a technician. rest reads as written.
Motion moved by Jill Patronagio and motion seconded by Claire Timbas. roll call vote 4-0-0.
- C. Plc 100 Organization and Plc 200 Practice and Procedure
These rules are being proposed and will affect all Boards and professions whether directly or indirectly.
The Proposed Rules are posted in the Proposed Rules section of the OPLC laws and rules page.
- D. Legislative Bill Tracking Update
HB 308 will go into effect on 10/03 (relative to a quorum for meetings open to the public to include remote presence)
Plc 313 Interim Rules - for discussion. Creating a matrix for the Veterinary profession. An applicant who has the PAVE credential (through AAVSB) could they get a license in NH? PAVE is for the US and Canada. 301.01(g) lays out some of the requirements. Other bill discussed is remote participation. We Currently have 6 people they would need to have 2 people in office to have a quorum. The appropriate way to get ahold of the chair for approval is through the Administrator.
HB 594 reciprocity which took effect August 27, 2023. An individual holding an active license in another state that is substantially equivalent can be issued a license in NH under that same license type. Plc 313 is proposed interim rules on

particular license types. They did some for veterinarians and Board Council wanted feedback to take to the rule writer. Substantially similar means the candidate has graduated by the AVMA or a certificate. Does the intent mean the United States or whole world. The JP exam needs to be included there as well. **HB 321** will go into effect on 10/3. (relative to meeting minutes from NP session under the right to know law). This bill allows any non-public minutes, after 10 years old to be made public. In the future Boards will review previous meeting minutes to determine if they need to continue to be sealed or if they could be made public. The Board will make a vote and that vote will either keep them sealed or allow them to go public. Non-Public minutes are subject to the right to know law anyways.

IX. Non-Public Session

Non-Public session conducted for the purpose of discussing investigations of alleged licensee misconduct and other confidential Board business. Such a non-public session is authorized by RSA 91-A:3, II (c) & (e), RSA 91-A:5, IV, *Lodge v. Knowlton*, (1978), and the Board's executive and deliberative privileges.

Motion to Non-Public Session at 11:55 a.m. Motion moved by JP and motion seconded by RE, roll call vote 4-0-0

X. Resume Public Session at 1:05 p.m.

XI. Seal The Minutes of the Non-Public Session

Seal The Minutes of the Non-Public Session

Minutes of the non-public session are sealed to maintain the privacy of the items discussed in non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), on the grounds that public disclosure may adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a Board member or render the proposed action ineffective.

Motion to Seal the Minutes:

Motion moved JP and motion seconded by RE roll call vote 4-0-0

XII. Adjourned at 1:24 p.m.