

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
PUBLIC MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2020**

Suzan Watkins, DVM, President of the NH Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”), convened a public meeting of the Board on August 26, 2020 at 9:04 am. Due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. There is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor’s Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, it was confirmed that public access to the meeting by telephone or other electronic means was possible. Zoom teleconferencing technology was in use for this electronic meeting.

All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 646 558 8656, or by clicking on the following website address:

<https://zoom.us/j/96666044695?pwd=VmdxbTQ3RGRYZGZHQXozM0tEbitiUT09>

Public notice with the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonic instructions have also been provided on the website of the Board at: <https://www.oplc.nh.gov/veterinary-medicine/index.htm>. Additionally, the public notice indicated to contact Christine Senko at 271-7618 or Christine.Senko@oplc.nh.gov if there were problems with access.

It was noted that no one from the public expressed issues in accessing the meeting platform. In the event the public was unable to access the meeting, the meeting would have been adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** taken during this meeting were done by **roll call vote**. The following members announced their presence and confirmed no one else was in the room with them.

President, Suzan Watkins, DVM (SW)
Vice President, Judith Leclerc, DVM (JL)
Kirk Smith, DVM (KS)
Winifred Krogman, DVM (WK)
Public Member, Elaine Forst (EF)
Jill Patronagio, DVM (JP)
Steve Crawford, DVM (Ex Officio)
Administrator: Christine Senko (CS)

The Board of Veterinary Medicine Mission Statement 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.

1. **Review of Public Minutes**

August 26, 2020 - members reviewed the minutes and corrected typographical errors as noted (#3.a -change form to from; #5.a – change Sinosa to Spinosa) upon motion by SC and second by JL, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes of August 26, 2020 as corrected.

2. **Rules Revision Process** – Members agreed to defer review and discussion until next month when Attorney Broderick is available. Dr. Crawford presented a summary explaining some of the rules changes. Members reviewed and agreed to post this explanation on the website, after the rules are approved.

3. **OPLC Update – Lindsey Courtney, Executive Director** – Lindsey provided a detailed update on the activities at OPLC. The offices moved to 7 Eagle square in mid-July, with staff coming back into the office. Public access to the building remains limited and meetings will remain with the zoom format. An overview of the organizational changes within the agency was also provided. Three divisions are being created: licensure, board administration and enforcement. The enforcement division will eventually replace some of the investigative functions that the APU is completing for the boards. Some of the strategic plan includes moving to electronic renewals, increasing IT functions and electronic functions, reducing time frame to obtain a license, revisit SB576. Members were asked to think about any legislative priorities that the Board may have, as they will be due early this fall. One potential example may be corporate ownership. The presentation will be forwarded to members.

4. **Correspondence and New Business**

- a. Lap of Love – an inquiry was received regarding the handling of controlled substances across the Massachusetts state border. The Lap of Love organization provides in home and end of life care for pets. The questions asked are:
1. Is the veterinarian able to offer house call visits in MA and transport controlled substances ? recommended to contact the Board of Pharmacy and DEA field office
 2. Is the veterinarian able to transport a pet from MA to NH to have the pet cremated in NH ? SC indicated he may be able to assist with this question.
 3. Are there any laws or rules prohibiting the Lap of Love veterinarian from offering these services in MA ? need to check with the MA Board.

Members agreed to respond back with the answers indicated above.

- b. **Request from Dr. Gentilella – Microchips-** Dr. Gentilella was inquiring about the obligation to contact whomever the chip is registered to when a microchip is found during surgery. If the animal was a stray then the chip would be used to find the owner. Members discussed and noted that sometimes owners do not update the chip when ownership has transferred. Members agreed to respond to

Dr. Gentilella that the person who is in possession of the animal and the microchip is the owner.

- c. **Request from Dr. Davis – Owners No Bite Statement** – Dr. Davis was inquiring about the procedure to obtain the owners statement about no biting prior to administering the rabies vaccine. During current pandemic practices, verbal confirmation is being obtained rather than passing papers. Members reviewed and discussed and agreed to respond that it is appropriate to tell the owner that it a note of the verbal response will be recorded in the medical record.
5. **Update from the American Association of Veterinary State Boards** – members reviewed the update and topics of discussion circulated from the AAVSB. Utilizing the AAVSB for the testing service remains an objective of the Board. The Board Basics and Beyond conference is being held on April 23-34, 2021. The annual meeting is being held on September 30 – October 2. WK indicated that she would like to attend.
6. **Tabled Item – Criminal Offender Records Information (CORI)** – continues to be tabled and research what needs to be completed for criminal records,
7. **Schedule of Hearings** – members reviewed the following dates and agreed to put forward the Notice of Hearings as indicated:

Spinosa @ Jaques (#4-7/17) – September 23

Bartol, Jacqueline and Jones, Barbara @BVM – October 28

Brown, Sandra – November 18 (tentative)

At 10:30 am, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, and upon motion by JL and second by SW, the Board voted by roll call to go out of public session and into non-public session because public disclosure may render a proposed action ineffective or adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a Board member.

At 12:22 pm, SC moved to seal the non-public minutes. WK seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously by roll call, to maintain the privacy of the items discussed in non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, 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, with the exceptions of hearing date for Dr. Brown and the action of Dr. Craft's license.

Dr. Watkins adjourned the meeting at 12:27 pm.