Minutes of the Meeting of the
New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine
Friday, January 7, 2021
Meeting Held Via WebEx

Meeting is available via WebEx and being recorded.

Dr. Doug Aspros called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Introductions and Review of Roster.

Board Members Present: Dr. Doug Aspros, Dr. David Chico, Dr. Mark Chmielewicz, Dr. Howard Gittelman, Dr. Margret Thompson, Dr. Alexandra Van der Woerdt, Dr. Paul Zoyhofsiki, Alexandria Kanes LVT, and Erica McKee LVT.

Board Member Absent: Public member Samantha Segal.

NYSED Staff Present: Stephen Boese, Executive Secretary to the Board; Carla Wells, Education Program Assistant 2; Lee Fitzgerald, Education Program Assistant; and Heidi Weinman, Secretary.

Guests Present: Timothy Atkinson and Emily Whalen of NYSVMS and public guest Dr. Yauhen Rakhmanenka.

Motion to approve minutes of September 2021, seconded, and passed with a small change that Dr. Aspros will email to Ms. Wells.

Review Public Record of Board of Regents Enforcement Action in Veterinary Medicine:

Everyone has received a list of cases resolved since the last meeting.

Update from NYSED and the Office of Professions:

The open meetings law amendment allowing teleconference meetings remains in effect.

The Vet Tech Limited Permit application is being worked on and almost ready to go live online.

Update to legislation on animal cruelty: new law says has been changed from a veterinarian “may” release records to authorities to report animal abuse to “shall”. Effective 2/27/22.

Board Leadership Election:

Mr. Boese has received no nominations via email. Dr. Aspros is nominated again for chair. Vote is unanimous. Dr. Chico is nominated again for Vice-Chair. Vote is unanimous.

Supervision of Veterinarians Providing Care in Multi-Doctor Practices:

Dr. Aspros discusses some minor proposed changes to Regents rule section 29.6 that were suggested. There is discussion about how to make medical records somewhat uniform across practices. Motion is
made to make a recommendation to the department to accept the changes discussed. Motion is passed through unanimous vote.

**Exemption from Rabies Vaccination:**

Dr. Chico discusses that veterinarians are able to give a dog an exemption from receiving a rabies shot if it is counter to the health of the animal. Some veterinarians are beginning to grant those exemptions without examining the animal. There is a rabies exemption form that does say the animal was examined and must be renewed every year, but there is no statute or regulation that requires it. Rabies vaccinations are regulated by the Department of Health.

**Other Issues:**

Dr. Rakhmanenka has applied for a license and would like to know if anything is being done in the office to improve the time frames for processing applications. Ms. Wells will follow up with him about his case.

Dr. Aspros asks if the new acting director of DPLS can be invited to the next meeting to give an idea of how the unit is running and what are reasonable expectations for new graduates.

Tim Atkinson had written a letter to the board about the pre-professional education requirement and would like to know if anyone had thoughts on it to share. Mr. Boese explains that at the last meeting the board recommended to the department a reduction of the requirement to 30 credit hours from 60.

Dr. Chico reviews some new legislation. One will ban “puppy mills” and breeders selling animals to pet stores. They can now only showcase rescue and shelter animals. The other is about transportation of animals between shelters and rescues.

There is a general discussion about concern over companies and organizations that offer telemedicine services. There are no specific statutes or regulations that apply separately to telemedicine, all of our established laws apply to telemedicine practice.

There is a discussion about wanting to get information from Dennis Spillane concerning veterinary telemedicine. Dr. Aspros and Mr. Boese will discuss Board questions with Dennis Spillane and report back for the next meeting.

There is discussion on the issue of establishing VCPRs.

**Next Meeting Dates:**

The next meeting is set for Friday, May 6, 2022 at 10:00 am via WebEx.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am

Draft respectfully submitted,

Carla Wells

Education Program Assistant 2