

Minutes of the Meeting of the
New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine
Friday, June 13, 2025
1411 Broadway, New York, NY

Dr. Sandra Van der Woerd called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Board Chair Dr. Thompson arrived shortly thereafter.

Welcome and Introductions

Board Members Present: Dr. Frank Capella, Dr. Julie Fixman, Dr. Howard Gittelman, Dr. Ashley Harris, Samantha Segal, Dr. Beth Ann Shane-Holser, Dr. Margret Thompson, Dr. Alexandra Van der Woerd, Dr. Paul Zoyhowski

NYSED Staff Present: Stephen Boese, Michelle Pawlowski, Lee Fitzgerald

Guests Present: Dr. Mark Chmielewicz-AAVSB Board Member, Dr. Beth Venit-AAVSB Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Stephanie Janeczko -Shelter Veterinarian and NYSVMS Board Member, Tim Atkinson-NYSVMS, Dr. Lauren Klein, Erin Henry, Kara Kochek, Aly Cohen, Alison Lindsay, Dr. Jessica Reed-Cornell University, Emily Whalen-Brown and Weintraub.

Motion to approve minutes of February 28, 2025 with corrections, using the word *workgroup* over *subcommittee* when referring to the group reviewing proposed policy concerning the names of veterinary PC's and PLLC's.

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

The Board did not have any questions regarding the enforcement actions.

Update from NYSED and the Office of Professions:

Board Membership: Vet Tech position is open, and the position will be posted on the Office of Professions social media page and reinforced on our website.

Shelter animals and vaccination: New Agricultural and Markets Law. The Veterinary Medicine Board is not affiliated with this legislation, and we did not advocate nor negotiate the legislation. Vaccination is within the scope of practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary technicians. It would take a change in legislation to meet the standard in this new law that a shelter needs to vaccinate animals upon intake. The Board will continue this discussion in October at the next Board meeting.

LVT and the Form 20: This new system is a direct source of verification that schools can opt into and list their graduating class of Veterinary Technicians. As of now we do not have a Form 20 for Veterinary Medicine applicants.

Delayed registration fines: Faculty members whose practice of veterinary medicine is incidental to his or her teaching position is exempt from having to register their license every

three years. If they want to practice on the side, then they will need to submit a delayed registration application but will not be fined as long as they were not practicing veterinary medicine on an unregistered license.

Dr. Thompson discussed an issue regarding some faculty members who received their education outside of the U.S. but did their clinicals in the U.S. and are boarded. They would like to practice but are not able to get a license in New York because they never took the NAVLE exams. State licensure requirements would require the faculty members to take the NAVLE and then apply for their license.

Licensure information/internationally educated veterinarians: The Board received a complaint that the quality of international veterinarians has gone down since we stopped requiring ECFVG. This is a misunderstanding since SED has never required ECFVG certification, SED strongly recommends applicants use of ECFVG but does not require it. Lee gave a review of SED requirements for licensure and reviewed both ECFVG and PAVE. ECFVG is a four-step certification program and PAVE is two steps through AAVSB. Both are costly and have time delays. We will check on the exact cost of using both.

Putting another standard in place for licensure could mean fewer licensures if ECFVG or PAVE were required. The NAVLE is still required for licensure even if ECFVG or PAVE is used.

What are other states doing in this area? How many complaints come through OPD on foreign trained veterinarians compared to U.S. trained.

If we receive more complaints or additional information on this complaint, then the Board will continue to discuss.

Updates from AAVSB: presented by Dr. Mark Chmielewicz

AAVSB encourages states to use Vet Techs because of what they can contribute.

AAVSB is going to try to be more open about process of what steps are involved in member board submission of amendments to By Laws and Resolutions.

VTNE is administered by AAVSB. Moving forward, AAVSB is using AI in question development on the exam. AAVSB will supply all resources and information for questions and will be reviewed by a human specialist.

Regarding the Colorado Veterinary Professional Associate (VPA) initiative; some member boards feel that AAVSB is endorsing the Colorado VPA initiative because AAVSB is assisting the state in putting together the language for the VPA initiative. AAVSB maintains that they are not endorsing the new title but instead are offering resources to the state who has established this as a new veterinary profession.

Presentation: AI and Veterinary Medicine: Dr. Beth Venit, Chief Veterinary Officer, AAVSB

The presentation focused on voluntary AI and its benefits and risks. There is a lack of real-world evidence in accuracy. Licensees tend to trust the data but must use their own judgement to verify AI output. The responsibility always lies with the Veterinarian to verify the results

It was suggested that Boards should provide guidance and educate licensees about proper AI use.

Review of Policy concerning the names of veterinary PC's and PLLC's:

Report from Workgroup: Under the preexisting policy a veterinarian or all shareholders of the PC or members of the PLLC must be board certified in that specialty if using specialty in the name of the practice. Every person who is part of that business must be certified in that specialty including the people who work there. The workgroup did not find this standard to be realistic. As long as the principles of the company have specialized certification then the people working or providing the services do not have to be specialized so as not to limit access to care and cause staffing shortages

The Board discussed emergency services and urgent care. If the owner(s) does not have AVMA Emergency and Critical Care Board Certification than the business can use the term Urgent Care. All owners must be board certified in Emergency and Critical Care to use the term Emergency and Critical Care in their company name.

All companies approved before the policy was instated in 2011 will not be held to the policy. Anyone applying after 2011 and any corporation changing owners will have to adhere to the new policy when they notify Professional Corporations of the change.

Next Meeting Dates: Friday, October 3, 2025 at 10:00 am and Friday, December 19, 2025 at 10:00 am

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm

Draft respectfully submitted,

Michelle Pawlowski
Education Credential Specialist 2