

Minutes of the Meeting of the
New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine
Friday, October 3, 2025
1411 Broadway, New York, NY

Dr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

Welcome and Introductions

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

Board Members Absent: Samantha Segal

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

Guests Present: Tim Atkinson and Dr. Lauren Klein of NYSVMS, Dr. David Chico of the Department of Agriculture and Markets, Feliza Lopez LVT, and Dr. Mark Chmielewicz of the AAVSB Board of Directors.

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve minutes of June 13, 2025.

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

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

Q&A with Dennis Spillane, Director of OPD:

Mr. Spillane discusses with the board several issues. If someone gets a misdemeanor or felony, there is no *automatic* action on their professional license. However, such an event would likely trigger an investigation and possible action on the license. Problems with records is a major factor in disciplinary investigations and the board members alert Mr. Spillane to the current benefits and challenges of AI recording and transcription services, including that recordings/transcripts may only be kept for a few weeks on a cloud service rather than being available permanently. Some veterinarians are asking to be able to hire social workers for bereavement and other services for pet owners. That has been consistently denied as a veterinarian would not be an appropriate supervisor for a social worker.

Update from NYSED and the Office of Professions:

Board Membership:

Feliza Lopez is the candidate for the Vet Tech position. Her appointment will be considered by the Board of Regents soon. Leadership is up for re-election in December. Please email nominations to Stephen before then.

PAVE and ECFVG cost breakdowns:

Ms. Pawlowski presents the most recent costs for each part of both certification processes. ECFVG is currently about \$15,000 and PAVE is about \$2,300 plus costs for an ECE through an AVMA-accredited program, which can be \$50,000 plus living expenses. The costs of H1B1 visas have recently been raised to \$100,000.

NYSVMS proposing new legislation regarding the VCPR:

Tim Atkinson describes the legislation NYSVMS is seeking regarding making VCPR requirements (modeled after the AVMA practice act) part of legal statute rather than just in practice guidelines. This will require an in-person visit to establish a VCPR. They are trying to establish requirements that will apply to standard veterinary practices as well as direct-to-consumer companies.

New Shelter Animal Law:

Dr. Chico discusses new legislation that was signed into law in 2022 but is going into effect now. It was put forth by the New York State Animal Protection Federation. They apply only to dogs and cats. The Department of Agriculture and Markets has been working on how to implement and enforce these new standards. They are also creating exemption policies. Dr. Chico also discussed an intent to seek new legislation extending similar standards to animal rescue organizations. The Department of Agriculture and Markets will be performing inspections of facilities to help them come into compliance with the law. After one year, they will start penalizing people who have not come into compliance. Vaccines can be administered by either a veterinarian or a vet tech under direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Updates from AAVSB:

Dr. Harris discusses her board member training and first meeting with the AAVSB. Resolutions were made to not support global expansion of the AAVSB, to oppose endorsement of the “veterinary practice associate,” to oppose allowing virtual VCPRs, and to support creating an LVT position on the board of directors. There were some changes to the model practice act. Dr. Venit gave an abbreviated version of the AI presentation she gave to this board in June.

Next Meeting Dates:

Next meeting is already set for Friday, 12/19/25 at 10:00 am. The following meetings are set for Friday, 3/20/26 at 10:00 am, Friday, 6/12/26 at 10:00 am, and 9/18/26 at 10:00 am.

Other Issues:

Dr. Thompson discusses a lawsuit against a number of corporate and academic entities regarding collusion on residents’ and interns’ salaries. There is an AVMA announcement about it.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 am

Draft respectfully submitted,

Carla Gibbons
Education Program Assistant 2