

Minutes of the Meeting of the
New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine
Friday, March 20, 2026
1411 Broadway, New York, NY

Dr. van der Woerdt called the meeting to order at 10:30 am

Welcome and Introductions:

Board Members Present: Dr. Frank Capella; Dr. Julie Fixman; Dr. Howard Gittelman; Dr. Ashley Harris; Feliza Lopez, LVT; Dr. Beth Ann Shane-Holser; Dr. Alexandra van der Woerdt; and Dr. Paul Zoyhowski.

Board Members Absent: Alexandria Kanos, LVT; Dr. Margret Thompson and Public Member Samantha Segal listened to the meeting remotely.

Staff Members Present: Stephen Boese, Executive Secretary to the Board; Carla Gibbons, Education Program Assistant 2; Lee Fitzgerald, Education Program Assistant 2; and Michelle Pawlowski, Education Credential Specialist 2.

Guests Present: Tim Atkinson and Dr. Paul Amerling of NYSVMS.

Review of Minutes:

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve minutes of December 19, 2025.

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

The board reviewed the most recent enforcement actions.

Update from NYSED and the Office of the Professions:

Board Membership: Dr. Zoyhowski will be ending his second term and cycling off the Board in June of 2026. However, because we still have the mandated number of members, there is no immediate need to find a replacement.

Dr. Chmielewitz is on the AAVSB board and would like continue on a second term. The board votes unanimously supports this action.

AAVSB has created a global task force. Stephen is participating on that board.

Emerging Trends:

Dr. Thompson discusses several issues arising in the profession.

A note is made to look into the new DEA mandate regarding vets and discuss it at the next meeting.

Mid-level providers: Veterinary Professional Associate. This is an initiative to create a position equivalent to a Physician Assistant. They would have diagnostic and prescriptive privileges. Objections include that they are unnecessary due to overlap with existing titles, that it wouldn't be effective because there are no approved education or clinical programs, and that it's not practical in trying to create scopes of those providers, terms of supervision, and the effort needed to create and implement these policies is not sustainable. Qualification would be largely experience-based and species-specific. There are several state boards developing education programs and statutes for this position.

There is discussion about the close of Mercy College for LVT programs. It was an AA program rather than a BA program.

Non-economic damages are being considered in certain states (NH, NJ, and AZ) in terms of lawsuits for malpractice. Alaska, Missouri, and Oklahoma are going in the opposite direction and want to specifically establish legally that animals are not humans and therefore not eligible for non-economic damages.

There is an AAVSB taskforce on the use of AI in equipment and instruments. The task force statement was that AI can be efficient for equipment such as imaging, but is not a substitute for a licensed practitioner.

Many states are now codifying VCPR regulations about time frames, conditions for establishing it via telehealth.

CVMA equivalence:

Mrs. Gibbons gave a comparison between the Canadian and American licensing exams and requirements. The main concern was about clinical competency. The Canadian CTE follows the same rubric and requirements as the ECFVG CTE with the same surgical log requirement. The Canadian system also requires an additional pre-requisite exam to the CTE that follows all preparation, performance, and completion tasks without performing a surgery on a live animal. The board agreed that the two processes are equivalent and the CVMA exam can be considered acceptable if they also pass TOEFL to meet the English proficiency requirement. That exam is a 2-hour computer-based exam that costs \$200-300 so it is deemed not an undue hardship by the board.

*Later discussion with Monica concluded that we could not request the TOEFL exam but that we could accept having taken the exam in English as proof of English proficiency.

Next Meeting Dates:

The following meetings are set for the Fridays of 6/12/26, 9/18/26, and 12/11/26 at 10:30 AM. 6/12 and 9/18 need to be rescheduled due to schedule conflicts from Stephen. June changed to 6/26 at 10:30 and September changed to 9/10 at 10:30.

Vote to go to executive section unanimously passed.
Public meeting adjourned at 12 PM.

Draft respectfully submitted,

Carla Gibbons
Education Program Assistant 2

DRAFT