

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine  
Thursday, September 10, 2026  
1411 Broadway, New York, NY

Dr. Van der Woerd 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, Alexandria Kanis, LVT, Feliza Lopez, LVT, Dr. Beth Ann Shane-Holser, Dr. Alexandra Van der Woerd

Board Members Absent: Public member Samantha Segal Esq. (attending remotely)

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

Guests Present: OPD Director Dennis Spillane, Beth Venit, Chief Veterinary Officer, AAVSB, Kathleen Makolinski, DVM, DABVP (Shelter Medicine Practice), Molly Ridley from Brown & Weinraub. Dr. Ali Lindsay, Assistant Clinical Professor of Community Medicine at Cornell University.

**Review of Minutes:**

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve minutes of June 26, 2026

**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: Following Dr. Thompson's resignation from the board, former vice-chair Dr. Van der Woerd will serve as interim chair until 2027. The board has nominated Dr. Gittelman to serve as vice-chair until 2027. An election will be held in 2027 to elect a new chair and vice-chair for the following year.

There is an immediate vacancy for a veterinarian member of the board. In early 2027, an additional veterinarian vacancy and an LVT vacancy will open.

**Review of Agenda-AAVSB Annual Meeting:**

Dr. Harris will attend the upcoming AAVSB annual meeting and will vote as a representative of New York State. They will be voting on AAVSB bylaw changes. They will also vote on changes

to a proposed model practice act. Most of the proposed bylaw changes are operational and procedural items. The most major proposed changes involve the ICVA, who hosts the NAVLE examination, and the VTNE. The ICVA is proposing to change their bylaws to allow them to fill an immediate vacancy for an ICVA position if it arises. The current language would leave the open vacancy until the next election cycle. The proposed VTNE changes are seeking to strengthen the examination but also make it more accessible.

The New York State Veterinary Board is unique in that it is not involved in the creation of legislation or lobbying in NYS. While it can be helpful to understand how the AAVSB and other state veterinary boards operate, Mr. Boese takes a moment to clarify that most of these issues would not directly impact the practice act in NYS.

### **“Ask Dennis”:**

OPD Director Dennis Spillane meets with the board to answer questions regarding the disciplinary process. The New York State Education Department's Office of the Professions (OP) investigates and prosecutes professional misconduct in all professions except medicine. Professional misconduct is the failure of a licensed professional to meet expected standards of practice. Members from the Veterinary Board may sometimes sit on disciplinary panels and be consulted on their opinions on professional practice.

### **Report from the Veterinary Technician Workgroup:**

The NYS Veterinary Medical Society requested clarification from the Veterinary Board on what tasks can be performed by licensed veterinary technicians. Dr. Gittelman led a workgroup consisting of members from the Veterinary Board to create a guidance document. Dr. Gittelman presented a draft to the board members at today's meeting for their feedback. The guidance is based off of NYS regulation and also considers guidelines on this topic from other organizations like the AAHA and AAVSB.

The AAHA guidelines use color-coded levels for their recommendations. For example, what tasks require general supervision from a veterinarian, what tasks require intermediate supervision and what tasks they are not allowed to perform at all.

LVTs are able to assist in surgical procedures but they cannot perform surgery. In this sense they would not be able to make an incision, but they could be asked to suture an opening closed for example.

There was a question if unlicensed assistants could hook and unhook an IV line. Dr. Gittleman explains that when we look at these tasks, the veterinarian should consider if medical judgement is required. There are many variables to consider, like constant Rate Infusions, specific requirements for controlled medications, air bubbles, etc. that may require education and training. There are not many tasks that can be delegated to unlicensed assistants.

There is a carveout under the department of Agriculture & Markets for unlicensed persons employed by animal shelters performing on shelter-owned animals. If it's a shelter-owned

animal, then any person could provide treatment to an animal as long as not considered cruelty. It is common for unlicensed persons in a shelter to administer vaccines. Once a shelter formally has possession of an animal, anyone may administer vaccines in a shelter except for rabies, which in accordance with NYSDOH must be administered by a veterinarian or an LVT.

The workgroup will continue to revise the proposed guidance document and will follow-up at the December meeting.

### **Discussion of Rabies Vaccination Guidelines:**

Rabies is regulated in NY by the NYS DOH . There is a guidance document on the DOH website advising that if an LVT administers a rabies vaccine, then the supervising veterinarian should be physically on-site at the premises. The veterinary Board discusses if this requirement is necessary. On one hand, it is important to ensure the vaccine is administered correctly. On the other, this requirement may hinder accessibility to the vaccine and consequently endanger the public. The veterinarian is the one who must sign the rabies vaccination certificate, so the responsibility ultimately falls on the vet.

Because LVTs are trained and educated, and because veterinarians assume responsibility, the board agrees that general supervision under the law would be sufficient, and in-person supervision is not necessary. NYSED will contact the DOH to request that they revise their guidance.

### **Next Meeting Dates:**

The next meeting date is 12/11/26 at 10:30 AM. The following meeting set for March 12, 2027 will be rescheduled to March 19 at 10:30 AM. The summer meeting will be scheduled for June 11, 2027 at 10:30 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Draft respectfully submitted,

Lee Fitzgerald  
Education Program Assistant 2