

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Professional Licensing Boards**  
**237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA**  
**Wednesday, August 15, 2018 - 9:30 a.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine met on Wednesday, August 15, 2018. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Dr. John Sundstrom, DVM, Chair  
Dr. Larry Corry, DVM, Board Member  
Dr. Henry Bohn, DVM, Board Member  
Dr. Beckey Malphus, DVM, Board Member

**Staff Present**

Ms. Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Ms. Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
Ms. Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor

**Board Members Absent**

Dr. Edsel Davis, Vice Chair  
Mr. Nic Haynes, Consumer Member

**Attorney General's Office**

Betsy Cohen, Assistant Attorney General (via teleconference)

**Visitors Present**

Dr. Wendy Cuevas, DVM, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)  
Dr. Doris Miller, DVM, Department of Pathology, UGA College of Veterinary Medicine  
Dr. Spencer Johnston, VMD, Head, Department of Small Animal Medicine/Surgery, UGA College of Veterinary Medicine  
Dr. Hannah Newman

**Call to Order:** Dr. Sundstrom established a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda** The Board accepted the agenda as presented.

**Open Session Board Minutes**

**1. June 20, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Corry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the June 20, 2018 open session Board meeting minutes as presented.

**2. August 14, 2018 Investigative Committee Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Sundstrom seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the August 14, 2018 investigative committee meeting minutes as presented.

**Licenses to Ratify April 11, 2018 – August 8, 2018**

Dr. Corry motioned, Dr. Malphus seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to ratify the licenses by application and by reinstatement that were issued in accordance with Board Rules and Policies, between board meetings.

**Correspondence – Use of Cannabidiol in Elderly Dogs with Chronic Pain – Dr. Mike Knight, DVM**

The Board voted to table the correspondence for executive session.

**Discussion – American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)**

**1. AAVSB Practice Act Model**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Corry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the AAVSB Practice Act Model as presented.

**2. AAVSB Resolution 2018-01**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Corry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Ms. Price to vote to approve AAVSB Resolution 2018-01 as a representative of the Board at the annual AAVSB conference.

**3. AAVSB Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) & Telemedicine Recommendations**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Corry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Ms. Price to abstain from voting on the AAVSB Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) & Telemedicine Recommendations as a representative of the Board at the annual AAVSB conference. Ms. Price is to present a statement to AAVSB that in Georgia, the VCPR requires an in-person consultation, and she is to provide a copy of Georgia's VCPR for their review.

#### **4. ICVA Program Report for AAVSB 2018 FINAL**

The Board accepts the ICVA Program Report for AAVSB 2018 FINAL as information.

#### **Discussion – Dr. Keith Harris, DVM, UGA**

Dr. Johnston presented the Board with concerns from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine as outlined in correspondence from Dr. Harris, Head, Department of Pathology, regarding continuing education requirements for licensure. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that it recognizes the distinction between generalized CE and in-house CE in that in-house CE only applies to courses that are not offered to the general public. The Board recognizes that the inclusion of a definition for in-house training within BR 700-7-.03(b)(4)(iv) is needed and will consider amendments during their upcoming Rules Committee meetings.

Dr. Johnston requested an update on the discussion that Dr. Harris had with Division Director, Lisa Durden, regarding electronic verification of licensure as is currently available for the nursing profession. Ms. Price informed Dr. Johnston that no new information is available at this time; however, the agency is working on the project.

He queried the Board about their ability to apply the locum tenens language in the revised statute to the employment of residents and interns. He was directed to discuss the issue with the school's legal counsel, as the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine and its staff may not provide what is considered legal advice to any third party due to any potential and unforeseen legal ramifications of such advice. As a result, it was suggested that UGACVM consult their counsel to assist them with interpreting the laws and rules regarding Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Spencer asked the Board what can be done to decrease the number of deficiency letters applicants receive about their initial date of employment with UGACVM. Ms. Price recommended that the school add language to their offer of employment letter which states that the potential faculty member will not be practicing veterinary medicine until approved for licensure in the state of Georgia as such language will clarify that whereas the individual may be scheduled to begin work on a specific date, he or she will not be allowed to practice veterinary medicine at all until a license has been issued by the Board. Dr. Spencer verbalized understanding.

#### **Discussion – 2019 Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine Meeting Dates**

##### **1. 2019 Veterinary Medicine Meeting Dates**

All meetings are scheduled for Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

**February 20, 2019**

**April 24, 2019**

**June 19, 2019**

**August 14, 2019**

**October 16, 2019**

**December 11, 2019**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Malphus seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the 2019 Veterinary Medicine Meeting Dates.

##### **2. 2019 Veterinary Medicine Investigative Committee Meeting Dates**

All meetings are scheduled for Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

**February 19, 2019**

**April 23, 2019**

**June 18, 2019**

**August 13, 2019**

**October 15, 2019**

**December 10, 2019**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Malphus seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the 2019 Veterinary Medicine Investigative Committee Meeting Dates.

#### **Discussion – Rules Committee Meeting Dates**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Corry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to schedule the Rules Committee meeting Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

**Executive Director’s Report – A. Price**

Executive Director’s report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications, the number of licensees, and complaints/compliance matters to include the number of Continuing Education applications pending, approved and denied. Ms. Price updated the Board on the appropriation of funds for a Vet Tech seat on the Board. She stated that the practice act has been amended several times since the 2003 addition of that seat and subsequent revisions did not include the provision. A request for statutory authority on this matter has been referred to the Attorney General’s Office as requested by the Board on August 5, 2018. Ms. Price related to the Board that electronic submission of graduation data in lieu of a transcript has been referred to the Attorney General’s Office for a Memorandum of Advice as directed by the Board.

Ms. Price provided an overview of a recent webinar she attended by AAVSB on their VetBoard Connect Controlled Substance Series entitled “Let’s Talk About Cannabis”. She explained to the Board that according to research in the webinar, hemp-based products have been classified by the DEA as Schedule I Drugs, which means that they are considered drugs, substances, or chemicals with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. As a result, it is against federal law to prescribe them. Cannabidiol (CBD oil) is from the cannabis plant, so it too is classified as a schedule I drug. Ms. Price said, according to the webinar, licensees risk losing their DEA license if they prescribe or recommend its use, even if it is an OTC CBD or one you can order online. The report indicated that presently, there is only one FDA approved hemp-based product, Epidiolex (cannabidiol) [CBD] oral solution for the treatment of seizures associated with two rare and severe forms of epilepsy, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome and Dravet syndrome, in patients two years of age and older and recommends that continued education, transparency and research would be the most rational approach to use of hemp based products for medicinal purposes as there are known benefits with several conditions. She stated that proper labeling, testing, verification of its therapeutic uses and active veterinary research and involvement on the state and federal level is warranted before any licensed practitioner should prescribe or recommend its use.

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bohn seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director’s report as presented.

**Correspondence – Use of Cannabidiol in Elderly Dogs with Chronic Pain – Dr. Mike Knight, DVM**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bohn seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer the writer to the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency and to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as well as to the recent AAVSB report on Cannabidiol Use in Veterinary Medicine, which can be found on their website.

**Board Chair’s Report – J. Sundstrom, DVM**

No report presented.

**Dr. Malphus made a motion, Dr. Corry seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(h)(2) and 43-1-2(k) to deliberate on enforcement matters and to receive information on investigative reports and the Assistant Attorney General’s report. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included: Dr. Sundstrom, Dr. Malphus, Dr. Bohn and Dr. Corry.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, Dr. Sundstrom declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken during executive session.**

**OPEN SESSION**

**Executive Session Board Minutes**

**1. June 20, 2018 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Corry motioned, Dr. Bohn seconded and the board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the June 20, 2018 executive session Board meeting minutes as presented.

**2. August 14, 2018 Investigative Committee Executive Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Sundstrom seconded and the board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the August 14, 2018 executive investigative committee meeting minutes as presented.

**Attorney General’s Report – B. Cohen**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Corry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General's report as presented.

**Investigative Committee Report – B. Malphus**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Sundstrom seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

- VET180053** Table and issue a mitigating circumstances letter requiring the completion of two (2) additional Continuing Education hours in the area of Ethics. Hours which may not be applied to future renewals and must be obtained in person. Respondent must provide an employee manual, which has policies and procedures to address the disposal of surgical waste/tissue by trained staff and social media.
- VET180024** Table and issue a mitigating circumstances letter requiring the completion of a course in anger management or a Dale Carnegie course in people skills or customer service training. This course must be pre-approved and can be taken in person or online.
- VET170069** Close with Letter of Concern regarding documentation to include ensuring that clients have readable and accessible medical records and prescription labels, as well as adequate documentation of client awareness of a valid VCPR and the availability of emergency care.
- VET170041** Referral to the Attorney General's Office for an Order for a Mental Physical Evaluation. If letter requesting inactive status is received, accept upon receipt and close the case.
- VET180061** Close the case upon receipt of proper documentation as discussed.
- VET190004** Refer to the Attorney General for a Private Consent Agreement for Licensure to include probation for a minimum of four (4) years with quarterly Aftercare/Psychotherapy, employer/supervisor reports, random drug and alcohol screenings for a minimum of one (1) year, and no prescribing or dispensing of narcotics for a minimum of one (1) year.
- VET140061** Table pending Investigative Interview.
- VET180067** Schedule an Investigative Interview.
- VET180080** Close with a Letter of Concern for regarding record keeping to include documenting that clients have been advised of possible reactions and outcomes with euthanasia and the inclusion of documentation concerning which agents are used, particularly with the use of controlled substances.
- VET180078** Schedule an Investigative Interview.
- VET180075** Close the case, no violation.
- VET180021** Close the case, no violation.
- VET180064** Close the case, no violation.
- VET150003** Close the case. If attempts to reinstate the license, present the file to the Board to review facts of this case.

**Applications for Board Review**

- Application 2735218** Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Corry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to issue the license with a Letter of Concern for failure to disclose previous licenses in other states.
- Application 2728401** Dr. Corry motioned, Dr. Bohn seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to issue license with a Letter of Concern regarding alcohol history.
- Application 2747013** Dr. Corry motioned, Dr. Bohn seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to issue license with a Letter of Concern regarding alcohol history.
- Application 2739666** Dr. Corry motioned, Dr. Bohn seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to issue license with a Letter of Concern regarding alcohol history.

**Adjournment** No further business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed and edited by:** Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes approved on:** November 14, 2018

**JOHN SUNDSTROM, DVM**  
**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

**ADRIENNE PRICE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**