

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Board Zoom Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 14, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine met via Zoom meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Dr. Matthew Bradley, DVM, Chair
Dr. William Wright, DVM, Vice Chair
Dr. Larry Corry, DVM, Board Member
Dr. Beckey Malphus, DVM, Board Member
Dr. Wendy Cuevas, DACVPM, Board Member
Mr. Thomas Culpepper, Consumer Board Member
Ms. Jessica Sewell, LVT, Board Member

Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Tammy Vining, Licensing & Complaints/Compliance Analyst

Attorney General's Office

Mary Brannen, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Staff Absent

Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor

Board Members Absent

No members absent.

Visitors Present

Robin McCown, Georgia Professional Health Program, Inc., Executive Director
Dr. Jill Lancaster, DVM, Advocacy Chair, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)
Dr. Paul H. Early, M.D., DFASAM, Georgia Professionals Health Program, Inc., Medical Director
Jamie Rauscher, LVT, President, Georgia Veterinary Technician and Assistant Association (GVTAA)
Dr. Keri Riddick, DVM, Executive Director, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)

Call to Order: Dr. Bradley established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda

Dr. Wright motioned, Dr. Corry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted.

Open Session Board Minutes

1. October 19, 2022 Board Zoom Meeting Minutes

Ms. Sewell motioned, Dr. Corry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the October 19, 2022 Board Zoom Meeting Minutes as presented.

2. October 20, 2022 SB 604 Subcommittee Zoom Meeting Minutes

3. November 17, 2022 SB 604 Subcommittee Zoom Meeting Minutes

Dr. Wright motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the October 20, 2022 SB 604 Subcommittee Zoom Meeting Minutes, and the November 17, 2022 SB 604 Subcommittee Zoom Meeting Minutes as presented.

Dr. Malphus provided an update on the SB 604 Subcommittee meetings. The subcommittee is meeting roughly once a month and have been fact gathering. She stated the main issue now is getting the technical departments involved from all interested parties to ensure there will be no issues with the synchronization of data should the change of departmental agencies be made. Ms. Price stated that there was a meeting with Maggie Haisty, Legislative Director of the Georgia Office of Secretary of State (SOS), and representatives from GVMA and the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) for the purpose of discussing the reasons the parties have a desire to move the Board and why

the bill is at play. Customer service was given as the bottom line. It was underscored that those pressing for the change stated a need for a more dedicated staff to assist licensees.

Ms. Price apprised the Board and meeting visitors of the Subcommittee suggestion for polling licensees regarding their experience with the SOS Office, and the possibility that fees may need to increase should the Board be moved to the GDA. GVMA is to work on a draft of this survey. Once created, and if approved by the full Board, the Division Director must grant staff approval to send the survey out via email to all licensees. It was determined that it would be best for the survey to go out from the Board office instead of through GVMA due to the fact it will reach all licensees and not just the GVMA membership. The Subcommittee wants to be made aware of the issues licensees have so that those concerns may be addressed regardless of whether the Board is moved to the GDA.

4. December 13, 2022 Investigative Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes

Ms. Sewell motioned, Dr. Wright seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the December 13, 2022 Investigative Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes as presented.

Licenses to Ratify: October 12, 2022 – December 7, 2022

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Corry 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 – GVMA GVTAA Letter of Correspondence Regarding Use of LVT

Jaime Rauscher addressed the Board to provide some background into their letter to the Board regarding the use of the initials LVT to represent licensed veterinary technicians. Dr. Riddick followed by stating that GVMA did have their legal team review the matter and they were of the opinion that the Board could allow for the use of the initials by rule, and a statutory change should not be required. She continued that Veterinary Technician schools are still using the term, RVT, and suggested a letter be sent to all interested parties regarding the use of LVT. Ms. Sewell expressed her agreement for the purpose of identifying LVTs appropriately on name tags, and in hospitals, for example. Ms. Price noted that the Board has already issued letters to programs concerning the lawful terminology as it relates to licensed veterinary technicians. She further stated that the Georgia Veterinary Practice Act appears to allow the Board to make the distinction in rules. She remarked that if it is the will of the Board, there would need to be further discussion about it in order to initiate the rule promulgation process. Dr. Malphus underscored the need for technicians to be recognized in the manner the law dictates.

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Cuevas seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer the GVMA GVTAA letter to the Rules Committee for further discussion and to generate recommendations to the Board.

Correspondence – National Board of Certification for Animal Acupressure and Massage (NBCAAM)

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Cuevas seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine (GSBVM) is in support of the NBCAAM's efforts to standardize the practice of animal massage and animal acupressure across the nation provided that it is in collaboration with state boards of veterinary medicine.

Discussion – American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)

- 1. WATCHDOG Tracking – Conventional Report_October 2022**
- 2. WATCHDOG Tracking – Updates by Jurisdiction_October 2022**
- 3. WATCHDOG Tracking – Activity at a Glance_October 2022**
- 4. Mid-November Bulletin 2022**
- 5. Watchdog Legislative Tracking & Reporting - November 2022 Conventional Report**
- 6. Watchdog Legislative Tracking & Reporting - November 2022 Jurisdiction Report**
- 7. Watchdog Legislative Tracking & Reporting - November 2022 At A Glance Report**

The Board accepted the correspondence in reference to AAVSB as information.

Discussion – International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA)

- 1. Getting to Know Chair Kathy Bowler**
- 2. 2021-2022 NAVLE Technical Report**

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to ICVA, as information.

Discussion – American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) – Council on Education Report of Accreditation Actions

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to AVMA, as information.

Petitions for Rule Variance

- 1. BR 700-7-.03 Claudia Wilkins, Animal Protection and Wellness Expo, Canine Officer Dies in Shelter**

Dr. Corry motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 700-7-.03 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

- 2. BR 700-7-.03 Claudia Wilkins, Animal Protection and Wellness Expo-AMERICA'S ANIMAL WELFARE SYSTEM IS BROKEN AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT**

Dr. Corry motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 700-7-.03 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

- 3. BR 700-7-.03 Claudia Wilkins, Animal Protection and Wellness Expo-Animal Cruelty and Coercive Control**

Dr. Corry motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 700-7-.03 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

- 4. BR 700-7-.03 Claudia Wilkins, Animal Protection and Wellness Expo-Animal Cruelty Statute, Report writing - Georgia's Title IV Provisions**

Dr. Corry motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 700-7-.03 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

- 5. BR 700-7-.03 Claudia Wilkins, Animal Protection and Wellness Expo-Big Dogs_Maximizing life-saving by taking an enrichment approach**

Dr. Corry motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 700-7-.03 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

- 6. BR 700-7-.03 Claudia Wilkins, Animal Protection and Wellness Expo-Rabies -What is it - and More**

Dr. Corry motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 700-7-.03 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

- 7. BR 700-7-.03 Claudia Wilkins, Animal Protection and Wellness Expo-Reducing hold times for animals seized as evidence**

Dr. Corry motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 700-7-.03 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

8. BR 700-7-.03 Claudia Wilkins, Animal Protection and Wellness Expo-The importance of education for Vets, Law Enforcement and ACO's

Dr. Corry motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 700-7-.03 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

9. BR 700-7-.03 Claudia Wilkins, Animal Protection and Wellness Expo-Veterinarian assistance to Law Enforcement and local agencies

Dr. Corry motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 700-7-.03 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

10. BR 700-7-.03 Claudia Wilkins, Animal Protection and Wellness Expo-Veterinarians and the Law

Dr. Corry motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 700-7-.03 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

11. BR 700-7-.03 Claudia Wilkins, Animal Protection and Wellness Expo-Welcome, Trends, Local Government Animal Emergency Fund

Dr. Corry motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 700-7-.03 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

Discussion – GPRR Active Supervision Decisions

- 1. BR 700-8-.01_Unprofessional Conduct_Approved**
- 2. BR 700-12-.08_Surgical Standards_Approved**
- 3. BR 700-12-.09_Examination Area_Approved**
- 4. BR 700-12-.11_Patient Care_Approved**

The Board accepts the GPRR Active Supervisions Decisions as information.

Dr. Malphus made a suggestion for GVMA to send letters to their membership when the rules listed have gone into effect and have been posted so as to further alert them that there has been a change. Ms. Price responded that she will alert Dr. Riddick of GVMA when they have gone into effect.

Georgia Professional Health Program, Inc. – Robin F. McCown, Executive Director

Ms McCown addressed the Board stating they met with the Investigative Committee December 13, 2022 and noted they will be part of their meeting on a regular basis in an effort to increase their visibility just as they do with the Georgia Medical Composite Board. She stated that there is no timeline yet for the inclusion of veterinarian technicians as the GaPHP continues to work on ensuring that they have the bandwidth for the veterinarians first.

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. In addition, she addressed the following topics with the Board:

- Annual Ethics Commission Affidavit of Public Officer Filings

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

Board Chair's Report – M. Bradley, DVM

No formal report was presented; however, Dr. Bradley noted that it has been a busy year with lots of meetings, and much time dedicated to their cause. He expressed thanks to everyone for their continued efforts and to Dr. Cuevas for her year as Board Chair.

Ms. Price offered an additional comment on the SB 604 Subcommittee by reporting that as requested she did make the ask for a SOS IT person to meet with the IT representatives from GDA, the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, and Systems Automation, but has not yet received a response. The election/holidays may delay that decision.

Ms. Sewell made a motion, Dr. Cuevas seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2(k); 43-1-19 (h) and 50-14-2 (1) to receive and review information pertaining to investigative reports, pending cases and enforcement matters and to receive the Assistant Attorney General's report. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included: Dr. Bradley, Dr. Corry, Dr. Malphus, Dr. Wright, Dr. Cuevas, Mr. Culpepper, and Ms. Sewell.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, Dr. Bradley 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. October 19, 2022 Executive Session Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**
- 2. December 13, 2022 Executive Session Investigative Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Wright motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the October 19, 2022 Executive Session Board Zoom Meeting Minutes and the December 13, 2022 Executive Session Investigative Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes as presented.

Attorney General's Report – M. Brannen

Dr. Malphus motioned, Mr. Culpepper seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General's Report as presented.

Investigative Committee Report – L. Corry, DVM

Ms. Sewell motioned, Dr. Wright seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session as amended for VET230009 to schedule an Investigative Interview with Respondent.

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| VET210117 | If Respondent applies for renewal, hand-serve notice for an Investigative Interview. If Respondent does not renew, close the case, no jurisdiction. |
| VET220990 | If Respondent applies for renewal, hand-serve notice for an Investigative Interview. If Respondent does not renew, close the case, no jurisdiction. |
| VET220036 | Close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding compliance with supervision requirements, and appropriate use of veterinary assistants and technicians as the veterinarian is ultimately responsible for ensuring the statutes and rules are followed |
| VET220085 | Close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding compliance with supervision requirements, and appropriate use of veterinary assistants and technicians as the veterinarian is ultimately responsible for ensuring the statutes and rules are followed. |
| VET220133 | Close the case. |
| VET220097 | Reschedule Investigative Interview for Respondent #2. Close the case on Respondent #1. |
| VET200018 | Close the case. |
| VET220009 | Close the case. |
| VET220055 | Close the case. |

VET220113	Close the case.
VET220120	Close with a Letter of Concern regarding legible medical records in compliance with BR 700-8-.01(C)(2)(i-xv).
VET220128	Close the case.
VET220136	Close the case.
VET220138	Close the case.
VET220141	Close the case.
VET230001	Close the case.
VET230004	Close the case.
VET230009	Schedule an Investigative Interview with Respondent.
VET230020	Close the case.
VET230026	Close the case.
VET230028	Close with a Letter of Concern regarding record-keeping.
VET230029	Close the case.
VET230032	Close the case.
VET230033	Close the case.
VET230039	Close the case with a Letter of concern regarding facility violations as discussed.
VET230041	Close the case.
VET230058	Close the case.
VET220102	Accept the Letter of Intent not to renew license with terms and conditions as discussed.

Applications for Board Review

Arrests

Dr. Malphus motioned, Ms. Sewell seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

Applicant 3058080 Issue license with Letter of concern regarding criminal history.

Applicant 3058442 Issue license with Letter of concern regarding criminal history.

Initial Applications

Applicant 3050607 Issue the license.

Applicant 3058075 Issue the license.

Peer Reviewer Applications

Applicant 30023 Approve as a General Practice and Specialty Peer Reviewer.

Applicant 2686095 Approve as a Canine and Feline Peer Reviewer.

Applicant 938294 Approve as a Canine and Feline Peer Reviewer.

Applicant 1088800 Approve as Exotics and Laboratory Animal Peer Reviewer.

Applicant 897363 Approve as a General Practice Peer Reviewer.

Applicant 33028 Approve as a General Practice Peer Reviewer.

Applicant 902672 Approve as a Canine and Feline Peer Reviewer.

Applicant 34299 Approve as a Canine and Feline Peer Reviewer.

Renewals

Applicant 3002340 Waive the renewal fee in accordance with Board Rule 700-7-.01(2) and notify the licensee that Board Rule 700-7-.03 is applicable. Must submit proof that CE requirements have been met prior to the license being renewed.

Adjournment No further business was discussed, and the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed by: Adrienne Price, Executive Director & Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor

Minutes approved on: February 8, 2023

MATTHEW BRADLEY, DVM

BOARD CHAIRPERSON

ADRIENNE PRICE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR