

MINUTES

Board of Veterinary Medicine General Business Meeting

**Friday, June 20, 2025, at 9 A.M.
The Shores Resort and Spa
2637 South Atlantic Avenue
Daytona Beach Shores, FL 32118**

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Leonard, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Robert B. Leonard, Jr., Chair
Dr. Rudd Nelson, Vice Chair
Ms. Connie Johnson
Dr. Christopher Smith
Dr. Sharon Powell
Dr. Mario Cabrera

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Ruthanne Christie, Executive Director
Ed Tellechea, Board Counsel
Elizabeth Henderson, Prosecuting Attorney
Dina Oliveto, Government Analyst II
Lexitas Court Reporter – 888-811-3408

PROBATION ROLL CALL

Dr. Leonard asked Ms. Oliveto to call the roll.

The following probationers were present:

Mohammad Hassan, DVM
Lisa Laviola-Dowd, DVM

43 The following probationers were absent:

44 Alfonso Paredes, DVM

45

46

47

48 **APPROVAL OF JUNE 21, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

49

50 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections.

51

52 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

53

54 Motion passed unanimously.

55

56

57 **APPROVAL OF MARCH 15, 2024; DECEMBER 13, 2024; AND MARCH 14, 2025**
58 **MEETING MINUTES**

59

60 **MOTION:** Dr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as is.

61

62 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

63

64 Motion passed unanimously.

65

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67

68 **APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW**

69

70

71 **David Barth Bressman – Initial by Endorsement**

72

73 Dr. Bressman was present and was sworn in by the court reporter.

74

75 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:

76

77 **MOTION:** Dr. Cabrera made a motion to approve the application and that he be
78 switched to Initial by Examination.

79

80 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson

81

82 Motion passed unanimously.

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85 **Daniel Quinn – Initial by Examination**

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87 Dr. Quinn was present and was sworn in by the court reporter.

88
89 After discussion by the board, Dr. Quinn asked to withdraw his application. The
90 following motion was made:

91
92 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to accept the withdrawal of Dr. Quinn's
93 application.

94
95 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell

96
97 Motion passed unanimously.

100
101 **DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

102
103 **Settlement Stipulations**

104
105 **Danielle Kunz Heckman, DVM**

106 **Case No. 2023-009389**

107 **PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**

108
109 Dr. Heckman was present with Attorney DeGailer. Dr. Heckman was sworn in by the
110 court reporter.

111
112 Dr. Heckman was charged with violation of 474.214(1)(r), Being guilty of incompetence
113 or negligence by failing to practice medicine with that level of care, skill, and treatment
114 which is recognized by a reasonably prudent veterinarian as being acceptable under
115 similar conditions and circumstances, and 474.214(1)(ee) Failing to keep
116 contemporaneously written medical records as required by rule of the board.

117
118 After discussion by the board the following motions were made:

119
120 **MOTION:** Dr. Smith made a motion to reject the settlement stipulation.

121
122 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson

123
124 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

125
126 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to offer a counter stipulation dropping count II
127 and imposing a fine of \$2000 and \$892.58 in costs to be paid within 30 days of the filing
128 of the final order, and 1 year of non-reporting probation with appearances at the first
129 and last board meeting. This meeting counts as first appearance.

130
131 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson
132
133 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
134
135 Dr. Heckman accepted the counter offer on record.
136
137
138 **Katherine Marie Byrne, DVM**
139 **Case No. 2024-051730**
140 **PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**
141
142
143 Dr. Byrne was not present but was represented by Attorney Ed Bayo.
144
145 Dr. Byrne was charged with violation of 474.214(1)(b) Having a license or the authority
146 to practice veterinary medicine revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against,
147 including the denial of licensure, by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction, including
148 any agency or subdivision thereof. The licensing authority's acceptance of a
149 veterinarian's relinquishment of a license, stipulation, consent order, or other settlement,
150 offered in response to or in anticipation of the filing of administrative charges against the
151 veterinarian's license or authority to practice, shall be construed as action against the
152 veterinarian's license or authority to practice, and of 474.214(1)(jj) Failing to report to
153 the board within 30 days, in writing, any action set forth in paragraph (b) that has been
154 taken against the practitioner's license to practice veterinary medicine by any
155 jurisdiction, including any agency or subdivision thereof.
156
157
158 After discussion by the board the following motion was made:
159
160 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to accept the settlement stipulation as
161 presented imposing costs of \$231.09 and fines of \$1750 to be paid within 30 days of the
162 filing of the final order, and no probation.
163
164 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.
165
166 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
167
168
169 **Jonathan C. Goodwin, DVM**
170 **Case No. 2024-051715**
171 **PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**
172

173 Dr. Goodwin was not present.
174
175 Dr. Goodwin was charged with violation of 474.214(1)(b) Having a license or the
176 authority to practice veterinary medicine revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted
177 against, including the denial of licensure, by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction,
178 including any agency or subdivision thereof. The licensing authority's acceptance of a
179 veterinarian's relinquishment of a license, stipulation, consent order, or other settlement,
180 offered in response to or in anticipation of the filing of administrative charges against the
181 veterinarian's license or authority to practice, shall be construed as action against the
182 veterinarian's license or authority to practice, and of 474.214(1)(jj) Failing to report to
183 the board within 30 days, in writing, any action set forth in paragraph (b) that has been
184 taken against the practitioner's license to practice veterinary medicine by any
185 jurisdiction, including any agency or subdivision thereof.

186
187 After discussion by the board the following motion was made:
188

189 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard to accept the settlement stipulation as presented imposing
190 costs of \$190.44 and fines of \$3000 to be paid within 30 days of the filing of the final
191 order , and no probation.

192
193 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.
194

195 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
196
197

198 **Hearings Without Issues of Disputed Material Fact**

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200

201 **Bruce Bierbaum, DVM**
202 **Case No. 2024-000153**
203 **PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**

204
205 Dr. Bierbaum was present and sworn in by the court reporter.

206
207 Dr. Bierbaum was charged with violation of 474.214(1)(r), Being guilty of incompetence
208 or negligence by failing to practice medicine with that level of care, skill, and treatment
209 which is recognized by a reasonably prudent veterinarian as being acceptable under
210 similar conditions and circumstances, and 474.214(1)(ee) Failing to keep
211 contemporaneously written medical records as required by rule of the board.

212
213 After discussion by the board the following motions were made:

214
215 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to adopt findings of fact.

216
217 **SECOND:** Dr. Smith.
218
219 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
220
221 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to adopt Conclusions of Law.
222
223 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.
224
225 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
226
227 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to impose fines of \$4,000 and \$403.28 in
228 costs to be paid within 1 year of the filing of this order, 10 hours of continuing education
229 (2 hours small animal multi modal anesthesia, 2 hours post-surgical pain management,
230 2 hours treating of mass cell tumors including use of Stelfonta, 2 hours management of
231 diabetes, & 2 hours medical records) to be completed by end of first year of probation,
232 and 2 years of probation with 3 appearances. This meeting will count as first
233 appearance.
234
235 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.
236
237 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
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240 **Motion for Waiver of Rights and Final Order**
241
242
243 **Michael H. Elpert, DVM**
244 **Case No. 2024-042436**
245 **PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**
246
247 Dr. Elpert was not present.
248
249 Dr. Elpert was charged with violation 474.214(1)(f) Violating any provision of this
250 chapter or chapter 455, a rule of the board or department, or a lawful order of the board
251 or department previously entered in a disciplinary hearing or failing to comply with a
252 lawfully issued subpoena of the department.
253
254 After discussion by the board the following motion was made:
255
256 **MOTION:** Ms. Johnson made a motion that respondent waived his right to a hearing.
257
258 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

259
260 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
261
262 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to adopt Findings of Fact contained in the
263 administrative complaint.
264
265 **SECOND:** Dr. Smith.
266
267 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
268
269 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to revoke license with 2 aggravators and pay
270 costs of \$102.27 and fines of \$2,000 within 30 days of filing this order.
271
272 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.
273
274 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
275
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278
279 **PROBATION**
280
281 **Mohammad Naim Hassan, DVM** **2019-057849**
282
283 Dr. Hassan was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
284
285 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:
286
287 **MOTION:** Dr. Smith made a motion to accept appearance.
288
289 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera
290
291
292 **Lisa Laviola-Dowd, DVM** **2022-029209**
293
294 Dr. Laviola-Dowd was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
295
296 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:
297
298 **MOTION:** Dr. Powell made a motion to accept the final appearance.
299
300 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.
301

302 Motion passed unanimously.

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304

305 **Alfonso Parades, DVM**

2023-001514

306

307 Dr. Paredes was not present.

308

309 His appearance was moved to next meeting in September.

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314 **REPORTS**

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317 **Executive Director – Ruthanne Christie**

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319 Executive Director Christie updated the board on future meeting dates and locations.
320 She also discussed mobile radiology unit questions, Furry Friends Rescue restroom
321 location, and AAVSB annual conference. She will seek permission to send Dr. Leonard
322 and Dr. Nelson to the conference. Furry Friends will be instructed to seek a Declaratory
323 Statement.

324

325 **Board Counsel Report- Ed Tellechea**

326

327 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:

328

329 **MOTION:** Dr. Cabrera made a motion to delegate the approval of the Annual
330 Regulatory Plan to the Board Chair.

331

332 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

333

334

335 **Prosecuting Attorney – Elizabeth Henderson**

336

337 Attorney Henderson handed out the Public Case Report.

338

339 **MOTION:** Ms. Johnson made a motion to continue prosecution of year-old cases.

340

341 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.

342

343 Motion passed unanimously.

344

BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

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345
346 **Ratification of Applications**

347
348 **Licenses**

349
350 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve the licenses.

351
352 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

353
354 Motion passed unanimously. (Dr. Smith was recused).

355
356
357 **Continuing Education**

358
359 **MOTION:** Dr. Powell made a motion to approve the courses.

360
361 **SECOND:** Dr. Smith.

362
363 Motion passed unanimously.

364
365
366 **OLD BUSINESS**

367
368 None

369
370
371 **NEW BUSINESS**

372
373 **CE residency for Dr. Durr**

374 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:

375
376 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to accept his residency for CE requirements.

377
378 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell.

379
380 Motion passed unanimously.

381
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383
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385 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

386
387 None.

388
389
390 **PROBATION ROLL CALL**
391
392 Ms. Oliveto called the probation roll.
393
394 The following probationers were present:
395
396 Mohammed Hassan, DVM
397 Lisa Laviola-Dowd, DVM
398 Danielle Kunz Heckman, DVM
399 Bruce Bierbaum, DVM
400
401 The following probationers were absent:
402
403 Alfonso Paredes, DVM
404
405
406 **NEXT MEETING**
407
408 September 26, 2025 at the Hampton Inn in St. Pete
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410
411 **ADJOURN**
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413 The meeting adjourned at 12:17 P.M.
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