

1 **MINUTES**

2  
3 **Board of Veterinary Medicine**  
4 **General Business Meeting**

5  
6 **Friday, June 20, 2025, at 9 A.M.**  
7 **The Shores Resort and Spa**  
8 **2637 South Atlantic Avenue**  
9 **Daytona Beach Shores, FL 32118**

10  
11  
12 **CALL TO ORDER**

13  
14 Dr. Leonard, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

15  
16 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

17 Dr. Robert B. Leonard, Jr., Chair  
18 Dr. Rudd Nelson, Vice Chair  
19 Ms. Connie Johnson  
20 Dr. Christopher Smith  
21 Dr. Sharon Powell  
22 Dr. Mario Cabrera

23  
24 **MEMBERS ABSENT**

25 None

26  
27 **OTHERS PRESENT**

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

33  
34 **PROBATION ROLL CALL**

35  
36 Dr. Leonard asked Ms. Oliveto to call the roll.

37  
38 The following probationers were present:

39  
40 Mohammad Hassan, DVM  
41 Lisa Laviola-Dowd, DVM

42  
43 The following probationers were absent:

Alfonso Paredes, DVM

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

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

**SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

**SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW**

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

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

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

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

**SECOND:** Ms. Johnson

Motion passed unanimously.

### **Daniel Quinn – Initial by Examination**

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

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

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

**SECOND:** Dr. Powell

Motion passed unanimously.

## **DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

### **Settlement Stipulations**

**Danielle Kunz Heckman, DVM**

**Case No. 2023-009389**

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

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

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

After discussion by the board the following motions were made:

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

**SECOND:** Ms. Johnson

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

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

**SECOND:** Dr. Nelson

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

Dr. Heckman accepted the counter offer on record.

**Katherine Marie Byrne, DVM**  
**Case No. 2024-051730**  
**PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**

Dr. Byrne was not present but was represented by Attorney Ed Bayo.

Dr. Byrne was charged with violation of 474.214(1)(b) Having a license or the authority to practice veterinary medicine revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including the denial of licensure, by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction, including any agency or subdivision thereof. The licensing authority's acceptance of a veterinarian's relinquishment of a license, stipulation, consent order, or other settlement, offered in response to or in anticipation of the filing of administrative charges against the veterinarian's license or authority to practice, shall be construed as action against the veterinarian's license or authority to practice, and of 474.214(1)(jj) Failing to report to the board within 30 days, in writing, any action set forth in paragraph (b) that has been taken against the practitioner's license to practice veterinary medicine by any jurisdiction, including any agency or subdivision thereof.

After discussion by the board the following motion was made:

**MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to accept the settlement stipulation as presented imposing costs of \$231.09 and fines of \$1750 to be paid within 30 days of the filing of the final order, and no probation.

**SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

**Jonathan C. Goodwin, DVM**  
**Case No. 2024-051715**  
**PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**

Dr. Goodwin was not present.

Dr. Goodwin was charged with violation of 474.214(1)(b) Having a license or the authority to practice veterinary medicine revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including the denial of licensure, by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction, including any agency or subdivision thereof. The licensing authority's acceptance of a veterinarian's relinquishment of a license, stipulation, consent order, or other settlement, offered in response to or in anticipation of the filing of administrative charges against the veterinarian's license or authority to practice, shall be construed as action against the veterinarian's license or authority to practice, and of 474.214(1)(jj) Failing to report to the board within 30 days, in writing, any action set forth in paragraph (b) that has been taken against the practitioner's license to practice veterinary medicine by any jurisdiction, including any agency or subdivision thereof.

After discussion by the board the following motion was made:

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

**SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

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

**Bruce Bierbaum, DVM**

**Case No. 2024-000153**

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

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

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

After discussion by the board the following motions were made:

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

**SECOND:** Dr. Smith.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

**MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to adopt Conclusions of Law.

**SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

**MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to impose fines of \$4,000 and \$403.28 in costs to be paid within 1 year of the filing of this order, 10 hours of continuing education (2 hours small animal multi modal anesthesia, 2 hours post-surgical pain management, 2 hours treating of mass cell tumors including use of Stelfonta, 2 hours management of diabetes, & 2 hours medical records) to be completed by end of first year of probation, and 2 years of probation with 3 appearances. This meeting will count as first appearance.

**SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

### **Motion for Waiver of Rights and Final Order**

**Michael H. Elpert, DVM**

**Case No. 2024-042436**

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

Dr. Elpert was not present.

Dr. Elpert was charged with violation 474.214(1)(f) Violating any provision of this chapter or chapter 455, a rule of the board or department, or a lawful order of the board or department previously entered in a disciplinary hearing or failing to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena of the department.

After discussion by the board the following motion was made:

**MOTION:** Ms. Johnson made a motion that respondent waived his right to a hearing.

**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  
276  
277  
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.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Alfonso Parades, DVM**

**2023-001514**

Dr. Paredes was not present.

His appearance was moved to next meeting in September.

## **REPORTS**

### **Executive Director – Ruthanne Christie**

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

### **Board Counsel Report- Ed Tellechea**

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

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

**SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

### **Prosecuting Attorney – Elizabeth Henderson**

Attorney Henderson handed out the Public Case Report.

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

**SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.

Motion passed unanimously.



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

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

378  
379 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell.

380  
381 Motion passed unanimously.

382  
383  
384  
385 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

386  
387 None.

388  
389  
390  
391  
392  
393  
394  
395  
396  
397  
398  
399  
400  
401  
402  
403  
404  
405  
406  
407  
408  
409  
410  
411  
412  
413  
414

**PROBATION ROLL CALL**

Ms. Oliveto called the probation roll.

The following probationers were present:

Mohammed Hassan, DVM  
Lisa Laviola-Dowd, DVM  
Danielle Kunz Heckman, DVM  
Bruce Bierbaum, DVM

The following probationers were absent:

Alfonso Paredes, DVM

**NEXT MEETING**

September 26, 2025 at the Hampton Inn in St. Pete

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 P.M.