

1 **MINUTES**

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

5
6 **Friday, June 12, 2026, at 9 A.M.**
7 **The Shores Resort & 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 9:07 a.m.

15
16 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

17 Dr. Robert Leonard, 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 Bruce Bierbaum, DVM
41 Mohammad Hassan, DVM
42 Danielle Heckman, DVM
43 Melissa Page, DVM

Alfonso Paredes, DVM

APPROVAL OF MARCH 13, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Dr. Powell made a motion to approve the minutes.

SECOND: Dr. Cabrera.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

Bryan Scott Kennedy – Endorsement with Exam

Dr. Kennedy was not present.

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

MOTION: Ms. Johnson made a motion to deny the application due to crimes relating to the ability to practice, false application, prior discipline in Florida, failure to comply with terms of previous final order, and pending discipline in Mississippi.

SECOND: Dr. Powell.

Motion passed unanimously.

Nicole Rene Craft – Endorsement with Laws & Rules

Dr. Craft was present with PRN representative, Dr. Sorna, and was sworn in.

After discussion by the board the following motion was made:

MOTION: Dr. Leonard made a motion to approve the application with a PRN monitor for duration of contract.

SECOND: Dr. Nelson.

Motion passed unanimously.

87
88 **Mahavir Singh Rekhi – Endorsement with Exam**
89

90 Dr. Rekhi was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
91

92 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:
93

94 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to deny the application due to the nature of his
95 prior discipline in Ontario and Wisconsin.
96

97 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.
98

99 Motion passed unanimously.
100
101
102

103 **DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**
104
105

106 **Adoption of a Recommended Order**
107

108 **Cheng Fen Chow, DVM**

109 **Case No. 2023-052879**

110 **PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**
111

112 Dr. Chow was not present but her attorney, Ed Bayo, was present.
113

114 Dr. Chow was charged with violation of 474.214(1)(r), Being guilty of incompetence or
115 negligence by failing to practice medicine with that level of care, skill, and treatment
116 which is recognized by a reasonably prudent veterinarian as being acceptable under
117 similar conditions and circumstances.
118

119 After discussion by the board the following motions were made:
120

121 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to accept the findings of fact and conclusions of
122 law and to dismiss the charges against Dr. Chow.
123

124 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.
125

126 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
127
128

129 **Settlement Stipulations**

Jamie McAnly, DVM
Case No. 2025-036168
PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell

Dr. McAnly was present with PRN representative, Dr. Sorna and sworn in by the court reporter.

Dr. McAnly was charged with violation of 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 to accept the settlement stipulation as presented imposing costs of \$110.61 and fines of \$2000 to be paid within 30 days of the filing of the final order, and 1 year of non-reporting probation with appearances at first and last meeting of probation. This meeting counts as first appearance.

SECOND: Dr. Smith.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

Sheila Lomas Santiago, DVM
Case No. 2024-071721
PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell

Dr. Santiago was present with her attorney William Mims and was sworn in.

Dr. Santiago 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 motion was made:

MOTION: Dr. Cabrera made a motion to accept the settlement stipulation as presented imposing costs of \$297.98 and fines of \$2000 to be paid within 30 days of the filing of the final order, and 1 year of non-reporting probation with appearances at first and last meeting of probation. This meeting counts as first appearance.

SECOND: Dr. Smith.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

Hearing Without Issues of Disputed Material Fact

Melissa Anne Page, DVM

Case No. 2025-006541

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

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

Dr. Page 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: Ms. Johnson.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

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

SECOND: Dr. Cabrera.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

MOTION: Ms. Johnson made a motion to impose costs of \$130.09 and fines of \$2,000 to be paid within 5 years of probation, 2 years of supervised practice by approved monitor, 5 years of probation concurrent with PRN contract with appearances at every meeting the first year. Monitor must give quarterly reports and appear with Dr. Page the first year.

SECOND: Dr. Nelson.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

216 **PROBATION**

217
218
219 **Bruce Bierbaum, DVM**

2024-000153

220
221 Dr. Bierbaum was present and sworn in by the court reporter.

222
223 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:

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225 **MOTION:** Dr. Powell made a motion to accept appearance.

226
227 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

228
229 Motion passed unanimously.

230
231
232 **Mohammad Hassan, DVM**

2019-057849

233
234 Dr. Hassan was present and sworn in by the court reporter.

235
236 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:

237
238 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to accept appearance.

239
240 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

241
242 Motion passed unanimously.

243
244
245 **Danielle Heckman, DVM**

2023-009389

246
247 Dr. Heckman was present and sworn in by the court reporter.

248
249 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:

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251 **MOTION:** Dr. Powell made a motion to accept appearance.

252
253 **SECOND:** Dr. Smith.

254
255 Motion passed unanimously.

256
257
258 **Melissa Anne Page, DVM**

2023-032173

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

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

MOTION: Dr. Cabrera made a motion to lift suspension on license and require her to maintain with PRN contract.

SECOND: Ms. Johnson.

Motion passed unanimously.

Alfonso Paredes, DVM

2023-001514

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

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

MOTION: Dr. Cabrera made a motion to accept appearance.

SECOND: Ms. Johnson.

REPORTS

Executive Director – Ruthanne Christie

Ms. Christie updated the board on financial and enforcement reports, . After discussion by the Board the following motion was made:

MOTION: Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve the Board delegations.

SECOND: Dr. Smith.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Christie discussed the AVMA accreditation actions and legislative updates.

After discussion with the Board and Mr. Tellechea, the following motions were made:

MOTION: Dr. Smith made a motion to authorize Ms. Christie to approve the draft language for 61G18-15.002 as presented.

61G18-15.002 Minimum Standards for Premises Where Veterinary Medicine Is Practiced.

(1) Exterior.

(a) All establishments where veterinary medicine is practiced must have the following:

1. Legible sign to identify location.
2. Facility clean and in good repair.
3. Telephone number for emergency veterinary service, contact information shall be visible and legible from the exterior.

(b) If premises where veterinary medicine is practiced have grounds, they must be clean and orderly.

(2) Interior.

(a) All premises where veterinary medicine is practiced must have the following:

1. Restroom – clean and orderly, operational, functional and in good working order.
2. Intake area.
 - a. Clean and orderly.
 - b. License renewal and premise permit displayed in view of customers.
 - c. Sign near point of sale regarding option for written prescription per 474.224(1)(d), F.S.
3. A telephone must be answered 24 hours a day which one may call for emergency service contact information.
4. Examination areas.
 - a. Clean and orderly, all equipment operational, functional and in good working order.
 - b. Lined waste receptacle.
 - c. Sink and disposable towels accessible from examination rooms, not required to be in the exam room. Sinks located in restrooms may not be used to satisfy this standard.
 - d. Examination table constructed of smooth impervious material.
5. Pharmacy.
 - a. Clean and orderly, all equipment operational, functional and in good working order.
 - b. Blood storage or blood donor on premises or through referral or delivery service.
 - c. Accurate controlled substance log.
 - d. If controlled substances are on premises, a locking, secure cabinet for storage in accordance with DEA requirements.
 - e. DEA certificate on premises.
 - f. Segregated area for the storage of expired drugs that is clearly labeled.
 - g. Disposable needles and syringes.
 - h. Refrigeration for stored drugs, biologicals, lab samples, reagents and other perishable items with a functioning thermometer.
 - i. All drugs stored in the pharmacy must be properly labeled with drug name, strength, and expiration date.
 - j. If drugs are dispensed to the public the drugs are to be distributed in child-resistant containers unless a specific written request for non child-resistant containers is made by the animal owner. All containers distributed must be labeled with the name of the drug contained within, the strength and quantity of the drug, the expiration date of the drug, instructions as to the use of the drug, the name and species of the animal for which the drug is intended to be administered, the last name of the animal's owner, and the name, address and telephone number of the veterinarian prescribing the drug.
6. Medical records as required by rule 61G18-18.002, F.A.C.
7. Laboratory.
 - a. Clean and orderly, all equipment operational, functional and in good working order.
 - b. Microscope.
 - c. Centrifuge.
 - d. Urinalysis equipment or outside laboratory services available.
 - e. Hematology facilities or outside laboratory service available.

- 348 f. Blood chemistry facilities or outside laboratory service available.
349 g. Microbiological capability or outside laboratory service available.
350 8. Facilities and equipment to render immediate resuscitative care.
351 a. Clean and orderly, all equipment operational, functional and in good working order.
352
353 b. Oxygen and equipment for its administration.
354 9. Holding areas shall be capable of sanitation and shall be maintained by including proper ventilation, sufficient lighting
355 and be of a size consistent with the welfare of the animal.
356 a. Garbage and trash disposal.
357 b.. Sanitary cans lined with disposable bags.
358 c.. Effective insect and rodent control.
359 11. Carcass disposal – any adequate method used in area, provided the sanitary code is not violated.
360 12. Emergency lighting...
361 13. Fire extinguisher, with current annual inspection.
362 15. Comply with the requirements of rule 64E-16, F.A.C., concerning the handling and disposal of biohazardous waste.
363 (b) All premises must have facilities for radiology, surgery and long-term hospitalization, as described below or, in lieu
364 thereof, written evidence that arrangements have been made with a local clinic or hospital must be available for inspection. For the
365 purpose of this chapter local is defined as within 30 minutes or 30 miles whichever is greater to provide the service outside the
366 premise.
367 1. Radiology.
368 a. X-ray machine; 100 MA preferred minimum.
369 b. Equipment necessary to produce diagnostic radiographic images.
370 c. Monitoring of exposure of personnel to radiation required.
371 2. Surgery.
372 a. Clean and orderly, all equipment operational, functional and in good working order.
373 b. Method of sterilization of surgical equipment, either by autoclave or gas sterilization.
374 c. Operating table appropriate to the proposed use constructed of a smooth impervious surface.
375 d. Well lighted.
376 e. Oxygen and equipment for its administration.
377 f. Sterile instruments, drapes, caps and masks. g. Anesthesia equipment and agents necessary to
378 provide a surgical plane of anesthesia.
379 h. Vaporizer with a functioning pop-off valve, inspected or serviced per manufacturer's recommendations, no
380 less than once every 3 years.
381 h. Automatic emergency lighting - lighting that is powered by battery, generator, or alternate power source
382 other than electrical power, is activated automatically by electrical power failure, and provides sufficient light to complete
383 surgery or to stabilize the animal until surgery can be continued or the animal moved to another establishment.
384 3. Hospital wards.
385 a. Clean and orderly.
386 b. Holding areas shall be capable of sanitation and shall be maintained by including proper ventilation,
387 sufficient lighting and be of a size consistent with the welfare of the animal.
388 c. Well lighted.
389 d. Proper ventilation.
390 (c) Establishments where veterinary medicine is practiced are not required to have the following facilities. However, if they
391 do have them, the facilities must meet the standards set forth.
392 1. Reception area – entrance shall be free from hazards.
393 2. Grooming area – Clean and orderly.
394 3. Kitchen or food area – Clean and orderly.

395 4. Exercise runs.

396 a. Clean and secure.

397 b. No hazards.

398 (3) Veterinarians must furnish a permanent address at which they can be reached by clients in order that clients may obtain
399 veterinary medical records.

400 *Rulemaking Authority 474.206, 474.215(1) FS. Law Implemented 474.215(1), 474.216 FS. History--New 7-14-79, Amended 4-6-*
401 *81, Formerly 21X-15.02, Amended 10-14-86, 11-2-88, 8-29-89, 5-27-91, 3-24-93, Formerly 21X-15.002, Amended 7-4-95, 4-5-18.*

402 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

403
404 Motion passed unanimously.

405
406 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion there was no adverse financial impact in excess of
407 \$200,000 in one year or \$500,000 over five years and no Statement of Estimated Regulatory
408 Costs was required.

409
410 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

411
412 Motion passed unanimously.

413
414 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion that this rule would be a minor violation pursuant to
415 Section 120.695, F.S..

416
417 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

418
419 Motion passed unanimously.

420
421
422 **Board Counsel Report- Ed Tellechea**

423
424 Attorney Tellechea had nothing new to report.

425
426
427 **Prosecuting Attorney – Elizabeth Henderson**

428
429 Attorney Henderson discussed the Public Case Report. After discussion by the Board
430 the following motion was made:

431
432 **MOTION:** Dr. Powell made a motion to continue prosecution of year-old cases.

433
434 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.

435
436 Motion passed unanimously.

438 **Ratification of Applications**

439
440 **Licenses**

441
442 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve the licenses.

443
444 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell.

445
446 Motion passed unanimously.

447
448
449 **Continuing Education**

450
451 **MOTION:** Dr. Powell made a motion to approve the courses.

452
453 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.

454
455 Motion passed unanimously.

456
457
458 **OLD BUSINESS**

459
460 None.

461
462
463 **NEW BUSINESS**

464
465 None.

466
467
468 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

469
470 FVTA gave an update. FL FVMA discussed legislative updates.

471
472 **PROBATION ROLL CALL**

473
474 Ms. Oliveto called the probation roll.

475
476 **The following probationers were present:**

477
478 Bruce Bierbaum, DVM

479 Mohammad Hassan, DVM

480 Danielle Heckman, DVM

481 Melissa Anne Page, DVM
482 Alfonso Paredes, DVM
483 Jamie McAnly, DVM
484 Sheila Lomas Santiago, DVM

485
486 **The following probationers were absent:**

487
488 None

489
490
491 **NEXT MEETING**

492
493 September 11, 2026 – Hutchinson Island

494
495
496 **ADJOURN**

497
498 The meeting adjourned at 12:02 P.M.

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