

MINUTES

Board of Veterinary Medicine General Business Meeting

**Friday, September 26, 2025, at 9 A.M.
Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown St. Petersburg
80 Beach Drive NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701**

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:

- 40 Michael McNulty, DVM
- 41 Kuria Muchemi, DVM (late, due to parking)
- 42 Christopher Newton, DVM
- 43 Frederick Smith, DVM

44 The following probationers were absent:

45
46 Alfonso Paredes, DVM

47
48
49

50 **APPROVAL OF JUNE 20, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

51
52 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections.

53
54 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

55
56 Motion passed unanimously.

57
58

59 **Petition for Declaratory Statement - Furry Friends Humane**

60
61 There was no representative from Furry Friends Humane present.

62
63 After discussion by the board the following motion was made:

64
65 **MOTION:** Ms. Johnson made a motion to approve the declaratory statement.

66
67 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell.

68
69 Motion passed unanimously.

70
71
72

73 **APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW**

74
75
76 **Diarra Blue – Initial Licensure by Endorsement**

77
78 Dr. Blue was not present.

79
80 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:

81
82 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to approve the application contingent upon
83 passing the Florida Laws & Rules exam and appear before the board within 1 year. The
84 board reserves jurisdiction to impose conditions at that time.

85
86 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell

87
88 Motion passed unanimously.
89
90
91 **Nathan Craddock – Initial Licensure by Endorsement**
92
93 Dr. Craddock was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
94
95 After discussion by the board the following motion was made:
96
97 **MOTION:** Dr. Cabrera made a motion to approve the application and that he be
98 switched to Initial by Examination.
99
100 **SECOND:** Dr. Smith
101
102 Motion passed unanimously.
103
104
105 **Jon McClain – Initial Licensure by Endorsement**
106
107 Dr. McClain was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
108
109 After discussion by the board the following motion was made:
110
111 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve the application and that he be switched
112 to Initial by Examination.
113
114 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson
115
116 Motion passed unanimously.
117
118
119 **Julie Rosetto – Endorsement with Laws & Rules**
120
121 Dr. Rosetto was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
122
123 After discussion by the board the following motion was made:
124
125 **MOTION:** Ms. Johnson made a motion to approve the application and that she be
126 switched to Initial by Examination.
127
128 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera
129

130 Motion passed unanimously.

131

132

133 **Kari Lee Means – Endorsement with Laws & Rules**

134

135 Dr. Means was present and sworn in by the court reporter.

136

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

138

139 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve the application.

140

141 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell

142

143

144 **Meredeth Sammons – Endorsement with Laws & Rules**

145

146 Dr. Sammons had her attorney Ed Bayo withdraw her application before the meeting.

147

148

149

150 **DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

151

152 **Settlement Stipulations**

153

154 **Anna Raquel Abril, DVM**

155 **Case No. 2024-050634**

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

157

158 Dr. Abril was present and sworn in by the court reporter.

159

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

165

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

167

168 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to accept the settlement stipulation as
169 presented imposing costs of \$268.28 and fines of \$2000 to be paid within 30 days of the
170 filing of the final order, 2 hours of CE for medical records and 1 year of probation with
171 appearances at first and last meeting of probation period. This meeting will count as first
172 appearance.

173
174 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera
175
176 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
177
178
179 **Mario Arteaga, DVM**
180 **Case No. 2025-028310**
181 **PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**
182
183
184 Dr. Arteaga was present with Attorney Wes Reynolds. Dr. Arteaga was sworn in by the
185 court reporter.
186
187 Dr. Arteaga was charged with violation of 455.227(1)(t) Failing to report in writing to the
188 board or, if there is no board, to the department within 30 days after the licensee is
189 convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, regardless
190 of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction. A licensee must report a conviction, finding of
191 guilt, plea, or adjudication entered before the effective date of this paragraph within 30
192 days after the effective date of this paragraph. and 474.214(1)(f) Violating any provision
193 of this chapter or chapter 455, a rule of the board or department, or a lawful order of the
194 board or department previously entered in a disciplinary hearing or failing to comply with
195 a lawfully issued subpoena of the department.
196
197 After discussion by the board the following motions were made:
198
199 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to reject the settlement stipulation as
200 presented.
201
202 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.
203
204 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell & Dr. Cabrera were recused).
205
206 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to offer a counter stipulation including
207 completion of a PRN evaluation before active practice, \$2000 in fines and \$332.43 in
208 costs to be paid by end of probation, and 3 years of probation to be tolled until active
209 practice. Once probation is active he must attend 5 board meetings (first and last
210 meeting of probation and once each year of probation).
211
212 **SECOND:** Dr. Smith.
213
214 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell & Dr. Cabrera were recused).
215

216 Mr. Reynolds accepted the counteroffer on record.

217

218

219 **Donald A. Brainard, DVM**

220 **Case No. 2024-001148**

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

222

223 Dr. Brainard was present with Attorney Ed Bayo. Dr. Brainard was sworn in by the court
224 reporter.

225

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

231

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

233

234 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to reject the settlement stipulation as
235 presented.

236

237 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

238

239 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

240

241 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to offer a counter stipulation imposing costs of
242 \$1104.83 and fines of \$4000 to be paid within 30 days of the filing of the final order ,
243 and 1 year of non-reporting probation with appearances at first and last meeting of
244 probation. This meeting counts as first appearance.

245

246 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.

247

248 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

249

250 Mr. Bayo accepted the counteroffer on record.

251

252 **Ross Alan Fischer, DVM**

253 **Case Nos. 2023-036916 & 2022-049733**

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

255

256 Dr. Fischer was present with Attorney Ed Bayo. Dr. Fischer was sworn in by the court
257 reporter.

258

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

264
265 After discussion by the board the following motion was made:
266

267 **MOTION:** Dr. Cabrera made a motion to accept the settlement stipulation as
268 presented imposing costs of \$834.25 and fines of \$2000 to be paid within 30 days of the
269 filing of the final order, collection and review of 10 patient records within 90 days and 1
270 year of non-reporting probation with appearances at first and last meeting of probation.
271 This meeting counts as first appearance.

272
273 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson
274

275 **OPPOSED:** Dr. Leonard and Dr. Smith
276

277 Dr. Leonard and Dr. Smith objected. Motion passed. (Dr. Powell was recused).
278
279

280 **Jacqueline Renee Garcin, DVM**
281 **Case No. 2025-012787**
282 **PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**
283

284 Dr. Garcin was present with Attorney Kimare Dyer. Dr. Garcin was sworn in by the court
285 reporter.

286 Dr. Garcin was charged with violation of 474.214(1)(b) Having a license or the authority
287 to practice veterinary medicine revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against,
288 including the denial of licensure, by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction, including
289 any agency or subdivision thereof. The licensing authority's acceptance of a
290 veterinarian's relinquishment of a license, stipulation, consent order, or other settlement,
291 offered in response to or in anticipation of the filing of administrative charges against the
292 veterinarian's license or authority to practice, shall be construed as action against the
293 veterinarian's license or authority to practice.
294

295
296 After discussion by the board the following motions were made:
297

298 **MOTION:** Dr. Smith made a motion to reject the settlement stipulation as presented.
299
300 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.
301

302 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

303

304 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to accept the settlement stipulation as
305 presented imposing costs of \$322.81 and fines of \$1000 to be paid within 30 days of the
306 filing of the final order, and no probation.

307

308 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.

309 Motion (Dr. Powell was recused).

310

311

312

313 **Alexis Rafael Rendon, DVM**

314 **Case No. 2025-012893**

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

316

317 Dr. Rendon was present with Attorney Ed Bayo. Dr. Rendon was sworn in by the court
318 reporter.

319

320 Dr. Rendon was charged with violation of 474.214(1)(t) Fraudulently issuing or using
321 any false health certificate, vaccination certificate, test chart, or other blank form used in
322 the practice of veterinary medicine relating to the presence or absence of animal
323 disease or transporting animals or issuing any false certificate relating to the sale of
324 products of animal origin for human consumption and 474.214(1) (d) Making or filing a
325 report or record which the licensee knows to be false, intentionally or negligently failing
326 to file a report or record required by state or federal law, willfully impeding or obstructing
327 such filing, or inducing another person to impede or obstruct such filing. Such reports or
328 records shall include only those which are signed in the capacity of a licensed
329 veterinarian.

330

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

332

333 **MOTION:** Dr. Smith to accept the settlement stipulation as presented imposing costs
334 of \$197.09 and fines of \$4000 to be paid within 30 days of the filing of the final order ,
335 and 2 years of non-reporting probation with appearances at first and last meeting of
336 probation. This meeting counts as first appearance.

337

338 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

339

340 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

341

342

343

344

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

346

347

348 **Margo Ruth Roman, DVM**

349 **Case No. 2024-057110**

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

351

352 Dr. Roman's case was continued to a future meeting.

353

354

355

356

357 **PROBATION**

358

359 **Michael McNulty, DVM** **2022-031880**

360

361 Dr. McNulty was present and sworn in by the court reporter.

362

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

364

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

366

367 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson

368

369

370 **Kuria Muchemi, DVM** **2023-002783**

371

372 Dr. Muchemi was present and sworn in by the court reporter.

373

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

375

376 **MOTION:** Ms. Johnson made a motion to accept appearance.

377

378 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell.

379

380 Motion passed unanimously.

381

382

383 **Christopher Newton, DVM** **2023-042809**

384

385 Dr. Newton was present and sworn in by the court reporter.

386

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

388
389 **MOTION:** Dr. Powell made a motion to accept appearance.
390

391 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson
392

393 Motion passed unanimously.
394

395
396 **Alfonso Parades, DVM** **2023-001514**
397

398 Dr. Paredes was not present and is in violation of his final order.
399

400 His appearance was moved to next meeting in December.
401

402
403 **Frederick Smith, DVM** **2024-040028**
404

405 Dr. Smith was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
406

407 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:
408

409 **MOTION:** Ms. Johnson made a motion to accept appearance.
410

411 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera
412

413 Motion passed unanimously.
414

415
416 **REPORTS**
417

418
419 **Executive Director – Ruthanne Christie**
420

421 Executive Director Christie updated the board on future meeting dates and locations.
422 She also discussed the CE Audit.
423

424 **Board Counsel Report- Ed Tellechea**
425

426 Attorney Tellechea discussed the Xylazine update.
427

428
429 **Prosecuting Attorney – Elizabeth Henderson**
430

431 Attorney Henderson handed out the Public Case Report.

432

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

434

435 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell.

436

437 Motion passed unanimously.

438

439

440 **Ratification of Applications**

441 **Licenses**

442

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

444

445 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell.

446

447 Motion passed unanimously. (Dr. Smith was recused).

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 **OLD BUSINESS**

457

458 None.

459

460 **NEW BUSINESS**

461

462 None.

463

464

465 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

466

467 None.

468

469

470 FVTA addressed the Board.

474
475 **PROBATION ROLL CALL**

476
477 Ms. Oliveto called the probation roll.
478

479 The following probationers were present:

480
481 Michael McNulty, DVM
482 Kuria Muchemi, DVM
483 Christopher Newton, DVM
484 Frederick Smith, DVM
485 Anna Abril, DVM
486 Donald Brainard, DVM
487 Ross Fischer, DVM
488 Alexis Rendon, DVM

489
490 The following probationers were absent:

491
492 Alfonso Paredes, DVM

493
494
495 **NEXT MEETING**

496
497 December 12, 2025 at the World Golf Resort Village in St. Augustine.

498
499
500 **ADJOURN**

501
502 The meeting adjourned at 12:33 P.M.

503