

1 **MINUTES**

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

5
6 **Friday, September 26, 2025, at 9 A.M.**
7 **Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown St. Petersburg**
8 **80 Beach Drive NE**
9 **St. Petersburg, FL 33701**

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12 **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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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**

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

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38 The following probationers were present:

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

The following probationers were absent:

Alfonso Paredes, DVM

APPROVAL OF JUNE 20, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

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

SECOND: Ms. Johnson.

Motion passed unanimously.

Petition for Declaratory Statement - Furry Friends Humane

There was no representative from Furry Friends Humane present.

After discussion by the board the following motion was made:

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

SECOND: Dr. Powell.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

Diarra Blue – Initial Licensure by Endorsement

Dr. Blue was not present.

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

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

SECOND: Dr. Powell

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88 Motion passed unanimously.
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91 **Nathan Craddock – Initial Licensure by Endorsement**
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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:
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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

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119 **Julie Rosetto – Endorsement with Laws & Rules**
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121 Dr. Rosetto was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
122

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Kari Lee Means – Endorsement with Laws & Rules

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

After discussion by the board the following motion was made:

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

SECOND: Dr. Powell

Meredeth Sammons – Endorsement with Laws & Rules

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

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

Settlement Stipulations

Anna Raquel Abril, DVM

Case No. 2024-050634

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

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

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

SECOND: Dr. Cabrera

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

Mario Arteaga, DVM

Case No. 2025-028310

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

Dr. Arteaga was present with Attorney Wes Reynolds. Dr. Arteaga was sworn in by the court reporter.

Dr. Arteaga was charged with violation of 455.227(1)(t) Failing to report in writing to the board or, if there is no board, to the department within 30 days after the licensee is convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction. A licensee must report a conviction, finding of guilt, plea, or adjudication entered before the effective date of this paragraph within 30 days after the effective date of this paragraph. and 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 motions were made:

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

SECOND: Dr. Nelson.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell & Dr. Cabrera were recused).

MOTION: Dr. Leonard made a motion to offer a counter stipulation including completion of a PRN evaluation before active practice, \$2000 in fines and \$332.43 in costs to be paid by end of probation, and 3 years of probation to be tolled until active practice. Once probation is active he must attend 5 board meetings (first and last meeting of probation and once each year of probation).

SECOND: Dr. Smith.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell & Dr. Cabrera were recused).

Mr. Reynolds accepted the counteroffer on record.

Donald A. Brainard, DVM

Case No. 2024-001148

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

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

Dr. Brainard 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. Leonard made a motion to reject the settlement stipulation as presented.

SECOND: Dr. Cabrera.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

MOTION: Dr. Leonard made a motion to offer a counter stipulation imposing costs of \$1104.83 and fines of \$4000 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. Nelson.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

Mr. Bayo accepted the counteroffer on record.

Ross Alan Fischer, DVM

Case Nos. 2023-036916 & 2022-049733

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

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

Dr. Fischer 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 \$834.25 and fines of \$2000 to be paid within 30 days of the filing of the final order, collection and review of 10 patient records within 90 days and 1 year of non-reporting probation with appearances at first and last meeting of probation. This meeting counts as first appearance.

SECOND: Dr. Nelson

OPPOSED: Dr. Leonard and Dr. Smith

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

Jacqueline Renee Garcin, DVM

Case No. 2025-012787

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

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

Dr. Garcin 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.

After discussion by the board the following motions were made:

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

SECOND: Dr. Cabrera.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

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

SECOND: Dr. Nelson.

Motion (Dr. Powell was recused).

Alexis Rafael Rendon, DVM

Case No. 2025-012893

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

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

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

After discussion by the board the following motion was made:

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

SECOND: Dr. Cabrera.

Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).

Hearings Without Issues of Disputed Material Fact

Margo Ruth Roman, DVM

Case No. 2024-057110

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

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

PROBATION

Michael McNulty, DVM

2022-031880

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

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

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

SECOND: Ms. Johnson

Kuria Muchemi, DVM

2023-002783

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

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

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

SECOND: Dr. Powell.

Motion passed unanimously.

Christopher Newton, DVM

2023-042809

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

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

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

SECOND: Ms. Johnson

Motion passed unanimously.

Alfonso Parades, DVM

2023-001514

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

His appearance was moved to next meeting in December.

Frederick Smith, DVM

2024-040028

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

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

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

SECOND: Dr. Cabrera

Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director – Ruthanne Christie

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

Board Counsel Report- Ed Tellechea

Attorney Tellechea discussed the Xylazine update.

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. Powell.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ratification of Applications

Licenses

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

SECOND: Dr. Powell.

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

Continuing Education

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

SECOND: Dr. Nelson.

Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

FVTA addressed the Board.

474
475 **PROBATION ROLL CALL**
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477 Ms. Oliveto called the probation roll.
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479 The following probationers were present:
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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
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490 The following probationers were absent:
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492 Alfonso Paredes, DVM
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495 **NEXT MEETING**
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497 December 12, 2025 at the World Golf Resort Village in St. Augustine.
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500 **ADJOURN**
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502 The meeting adjourned at 12:33 P.M.
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