

MINUTES

Board of Veterinary Medicine General Business Meeting

Friday, December 12, 2025, at 9 A.M.
World Golf Village Renaissance ST. Augustine Resort
500 S. Legacy Trail
St. Augustine, FL 32092

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Leonard, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Melanie Griffin, Secretary
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:

Amy Bosecker, DVM
Mohammad Hassan, DVM
Richard Rubenstein, DVM

44 The following probationers were absent:

45

46 Valerie Biehl, DVM

47 Alfonso Paredes, DVM

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49

50

51 APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

52

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

54

55 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

56

57 Motion passed unanimously.

58

59

60 PETITION FOR DECLARATORY STATEMENT – DR. RENATA COUTO

61

62 Dr. Couto was not present.

63

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

65

66 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to decline to answer the declaratory statement
67 due to lack of information.

68

69 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.

70

71 Motion passed unanimously.

72

73

74

75 APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

76

77

78 Jerome Rusch – Endorsement with Laws & Rules Course

79

80 Dr. Rusch was present.

81

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

83

84 **MOTION:** Dr. Cabrera made a motion to approve the application.

85

86 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

87
88 Motion passed unanimously.
89
90

91 **Pureza Integrative Veterinary Medicine – Premise Permit**
92

93 There was no representative present for Pureza Integrative Medicine.
94

95 After discussion by the board the following motion was made:
96

97 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to deny the application for failure to comply with
98 the requirements for a veterinary premise permit per 61G18.002, F.A.C. and 474.215,
99 F.S..
100

101 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell.
102

103 Motion passed unanimously.
104

105
106 **Ehren Yablon – Endorsement with Laws & Rules Course**
107

108 Dr. Yablon was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
109

110 After discussion by the board, Dr. Yablon requested to withdraw his application on the
111 record. The following motion was made:
112

113 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to allow Dr. Yablon to withdraw his application.
114

115 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson
116

117 Motion passed unanimously.
118

119
120 **DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**
121

122
123 **Settlement Stipulations**
124

125 **Gregory Alan Ford, DVM**
126 **Case No. 2025-070351**
127 **PC: N/A**
128

129

130 Dr. Ford was not present.

131

132 Dr. Ford was charged with violation of 474.214(1)(o) Fraud, deceit, negligence,
133 incompetency, or misconduct, in or related to the practice of veterinary medicine.

134

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

136

137 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to accept the voluntary relinquishment.

138

139 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell.

140

141 Motion passed unanimously.

142

143

144 **Alberto J. Rullan, DVM**

145 **Case No. 2024-026787**

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

147

148

149 Dr. Rullan was present with Attorney Ed Bayo. Dr. Rullan was sworn in by the court
150 reporter.

151

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

157

158 After discussion by the board the following motions were made:

159

160 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to accept the settlement stipulation as
161 presented dismissing count I and imposing costs of \$1338.49 and fines of \$2000 to be
162 paid within 30 days of the filing of the final order, collection and review of 5 patient
163 records within 90 days to be reviewed by Dr. Richardson at Dr. Rullan's expense and 1
164 year of non-reporting probation with appearances at first and last meeting of probation.
165 This meeting counts as first appearance.

166

167 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.

168

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

170

171

172 **Bruce R. Bierbaum, DVM**

173 **Case No. 2024-045690**
174 **PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**
175
176 Dr. Bierbaum was not present.
177
178 Dr. Bierbaum was charged with violation of 474.214(1)(r), Being guilty of incompetence
179 or negligence by failing to practice medicine with that level of care, skill, and treatment
180 which is recognized by a reasonably prudent veterinarian as being acceptable under
181 similar conditions and circumstances, and 474.214(1)(ee) Failing to keep
182 contemporaneously written medical records as required by rule of the board.
183
184 After discussion by the board the following motions were made:
185
186 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to adopt findings of fact.
187
188 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.
189
190 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
191
192 **MOTION:** Dr. Smith made a motion to adopt Conclusions of Law.
193
194 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.
195
196 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
197
198 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to impose fines of \$4,000 and costs of
199 \$467.83 in costs to be paid within 30 days of the filing of this order, 2 hours of medical
200 records continuing education from last probation to be completed within 6 months of the
201 filing of this order, and 2 years of probation to run concurrent with current probation
202 with appearances at first and last meeting of probation. First appearance will be at the
203 March meeting.
204
205 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.
206
207 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
208
209
210 **Margo Ruth Roman, DVM**
211 **Case Nos. 2024-057110**
212 **PC: Dr. K. Jones and Dr. S. Powell**
213
214 Dr. Roman was not present.
215

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

227
228 After discussion by the board the following motions were made:
229

230 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to adopt findings of fact.
231

232 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.
233

234 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
235

236 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to adopt Conclusions of Law.
237

238 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.
239

240 Motion passed unanimously (Dr. Powell was recused).
241

242 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to impose fines of \$5,200 and \$420.79 in
243 costs to be paid within 30 days of the filing of this order and no probation.
244

245 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson.
246

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

249
250

251 **PROBATION** 252

253 **Valerie Biehl, DVM**

2022-022219

254 Dr. Biehl was not present.
255

256 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:
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259 **MOTION:** Ms. Johnson made a motion to refer Dr. Biehl to Regulation for discipline
260 for failing to comply with final order and do another surgical records pull before the end
261 of probation.

262
263 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson
264
265

266 **Amy Bosecker, DVM** 2022-056910
267

268 Dr. Bosecker was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
269

270 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:
271

272 **MOTION:** Dr. Cabrera made a motion to accept appearance.
273

274 **SECOND:** Dr. Smith.
275

276 Motion passed unanimously.
277

278 **Mohammad Hassan, DVM** 2019-057849
279

280 Dr. Hassan was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
281

282 After discussion by the board, the following motions were made:
283

284 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion to suspend record pulls and inspections for
285 the remainder of probation unless a need arises.
286

287 **SECOND:** Dr. Powell.
288

289 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to accept appearance.
290

291 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson
292

293 Motion passed unanimously.
294

295 **Alfonso Parades, DVM** 2023-001514
296

297 Dr. Paredes was not present and is in violation of his final order.
298

299 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:
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302
303 **MOTION:** Dr. Leonard made a motion for Dr. Paredes to provide medical
304 documentation for non-appearance or open a case for non-compliance.
305
306 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.
307
308

309 **Richard Rubenstein, DVM** 2024-002926
310

311 Dr. Rubenstein was present and sworn in by the court reporter.
312

313 After discussion by the board, the following motion was made:
314

315 **MOTION:** Dr. Powell made a motion to accept appearance.
316

317 **SECOND:** Ms. Johnson
318

319 Motion passed unanimously.
320

321
322 **REPORTS**
323

324
325 **Executive Director – Ruthanne Christie**
326

327 Executive Director Christie updated the board on financial and enforcement reports.
328 She also discussed the NAVLE retake policy.
329

330 **Board Counsel Report- Ed Tellechea**
331

332 Attorney Tellechea had nothing new to report.
333

334
335 **Prosecuting Attorney – Elizabeth Henderson**
336

337 Attorney Henderson discussed the Public Case Report.
338

339 **MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to continue prosecution of year-old cases.
340

341 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.
342

343 Motion passed unanimously.
344

345
346 **Ratification of Applications**
347

348 **Licenses**

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

351
352 **SECOND:** Dr. Nelson.

353
354 Motion passed unanimously.

355
356
357 **Continuing Education**

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

360
361 **SECOND:** Dr. Cabrera.

362
363 Motion passed unanimously.

364
365
366 **OLD BUSINESS**

367
368 None.

369
370
371 **NEW BUSINESS**

372
373 None.

374
375
376 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

377 Dr. Kelly and Dr. Carney from Lincoln Memorial University addressed the Board and
378 answered questions about their new College of Veterinary Medicine in Orange Park.
379 Dr. Williams from FVMA spoke about Xylazine and upcoming bills in the Legislature.
380 The Board celebrated their 100th anniversary with recognition by Secretary Melanie
381 Griffin for a Century of Service.

382
383
384 **PROBATION ROLL CALL**

385
386 Ms. Oliveto called the probation roll.

387

388 The following probationers were present:

389

390 Amy Bosecker, DVM

391 Mohammad Hassan, DVM

392 Richard Rubenstein, DVM

393 Alberto Rullan, DVM

394

395 The following probationers were absent:

396

397 Valerie Biehl, DVM

398 Alfonso Paredes, DVM

399

400

401 **NEXT MEETING**

402

403 March 13, 2026 – TBD – somewhere in Gainesville.

404

405

406 **ADJOURN**

407

408 The meeting adjourned at 12:26 P.M.

409