

BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

MAY 16, 2024

9:30AM - 10:30AM

OPEN SESSION

MEETING MINUTES

HYBRID MEETING NOTICE

In-person meetings will resume in FY 2024, meeting dates can be found on the Board's webpage.

In-person meetings will be at 2201 Shannon Place SE, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20020.

Information on how to access the public portion of the meeting virtually is listed below:

This meeting is available by web:

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=meaac4d7d4904dd32c60e11d87ee69c30>

This meeting is available by phone:

Call in Number:

+1-202-860-2110 United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

1-650-479-3208 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

BOARD MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

	DANIEL TEICH, DVM — CHAIRPERSON	P
	SOPHIE KINDBERG-HANLON, BVetMed PGCertSAS MRCVS — BOARD MEMBER	P
	<i>Vacancy</i>	--
	AMY HAYWOOD, LVT — VETERINARY TECHNICIAN BOARD MEMBER	EA
	BLAIR ZERVOS — CONSUMER MEMBER	P

STAFF MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE:

STAFF MEMBERS:

	AYANNA BENNETT, MD, MSPH, FAAP — DIRECTOR	EA
	ARIAN R. GIBSON, M.S. — SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR	EA
	AISHA NIXON, MPT, CPM — ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR	EA
	VITO DELVENTO, DVM, MS — EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	P
	JOY MCFARLANE-MILLS, BS, CPM, ILAM — SUPERVISORY BIOLOGIST	P
	LAKETHIA MCCOY, INVESTIGATOR	P
	EMILIA MORAN — INVESTIGATOR	P
	WHITNEY MOORE — INVESTIGATOR	P
	SAHAR MAJID — HEALTH LICENSING SPECIALIST	P

LEGAL STAFF / ATTENDANCE:

LEGAL STAFF MEMBERS:

	ED RICH, ESQ — BOARD ATTORNEY	P
	MATTEO LIEB — LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS SPECIALIST	EA

BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

OPEN SESSION MINUTES MAY 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

OS-0516-01	<p><u>INTRODUCTIONS</u></p> <p>A. CALL TO ORDER – 9:32 AM B. PRESIDING — Dr. Dan Teich, DVM — Chairperson C. BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT — All Present except Amy Haywood (Excused absence) and one vacancy D. QUORUM — Yes E. STAFF PRESENT – All except Ayanna Bennett (Excused Absence), Arian Gibson (Excused absence), Aisha Nixon (Excused absence) and Matteo Lieb (Excused absence)/Replaced by Kera Johnson. F. PUBLIC ATTENDANCE — Sarah Sirica (City Wildlife)</p>
OS-0516-02	<p>Board Action:</p> <p>Acceptance of May 16, 2024 Open Session agenda.</p> <p>Motion: Members move to approve the Open Session meeting agenda for May 16, 2024.</p> <p>Moved By: Dr. Dan Teich, DVM, Board Chairperson</p> <p>Seconded By: Sophie Kindberg-Hanlon, BVetMed PGCertSAS MRCVS, Board Member</p> <p>Motion Carried</p>

MINUTES AND STAFF REPORTS		
OS-0516-03	<p><u>APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION MINUTES:</u></p> <p>Board Action:</p> <p>Consideration of Open Session minutes from April 18, 2024 meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Members move to approve the Open Session minutes for April 18, 2024 meeting.</p> <p>Moved By: Dr. Dan Teich, DVM, Chairperson</p> <p>Seconded By: Sophie Kindberg-Hanlon, BVetMed PGCertSAS MRCVS, Board Member</p> <p>Motion Carried</p>	
OS-0516-04	<p><u>OPEN SESSION CONSENT AGENDA:</u></p>	
OS-0516-05	<p><u>SENIOR DEPUTY REPORT:</u></p> <p>Dr. Vito DelVento reported on behalf of Mr. Arian Gibson who could not join the meeting due to other engagements. Mr. Gibson had nothing specific to report.</p>	

OS-0516-06	<p><u>ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:</u></p> <p>Dr. Vito DelVento reported on behalf of Ms. Aisha Nixon who could not join the meeting due to other engagements. Ms. Nixon thanked everyone for their continued support for DC Health. She further stated that DC Health is still in the process of settling in the new workspace and we hope to get all tech issues resolved soon.</p>	
OS-0516-07	<p><u>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT</u></p> <p><i>Census</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Licenses: 422 • Paid Inactive: 24 • Expired Licenses: 667 • Approved Renewal Applications: 377 • New Applications Under Review: 25 • Renewal Applications Under Review: 02 <p>Dr. Vito stated that currently DC has jurisdiction over 422 licensees. New applications are coming in from fresh graduates and we are processing their applications in a timely manner. We are also in the process of launching the veterinary technician licensing portal soon.</p>	
OS-0516-08	<p><u>ANIMAL SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT (ASP)</u></p> <p>ONLINE DOG LICENSING APPLICATIONS</p> <p>DC Health, Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA) is excited to announce the opening of our new online dog licensing system. All dog owners in the District are required to submit their dog registration or renewal applications by going to the below link and submitting an online application.</p>	

<https://dchealth.force.com/animalservices/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fanimalservices%2Fs%2F>

Ms. Joy McFarlane Mills stated that DC Health Animal Services is gearing up for the arbovirus season. The season will officially start in June.

Dr. Sarah Sirica reported a surge in nesting ducklets in DC that started in April 2024.

Bear Sighting in Northeast DC

Dr. Vito DelVento reported the incident of a bear, sighted in DC on May 8, 2024. Here is the summary of the incident and response from partner agencies:

Date & Location: On May 8, 2024, a juvenile bear was spotted in the Brookland neighborhood of Northeast D.C.

Response: The Humane Rescue Alliance (HRA) Field Services Team, along with the Department of Energy and Environment and Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, responded to monitor the situation.

Best Practices: The strategy is to allow the bear to leave the area naturally without intervention, ensuring safe passage for the bear and community safety.

Bear Behavior: Black bears are generally non-aggressive and pose little threat to humans. If encountered, it's advised to back away calmly and provide an escape route for the bear.

Public Safety: People are urged not to approach or photograph the bear at close range to prevent creating an unsafe environment.

Monitoring: The bear had been moving through the region, following a pattern of traveling at night and resting in secluded areas during the day. The bear was not considered a threat. Monitoring continued, and resources were ready if sedation and relocation became necessary. The bear had been avoiding human contact and was expected to move out of the city. HRA and partners were patrolling and maintaining situational awareness, hoping the bear would reach Maryland over the weekend at the latest. The National Park Service (NPS) had been informed and was requested to report any sightings as the bear exits the city.

On May 12, 2024, there were two overnight sightings, with the last one around 4 am on the 4400 block of Chestnut Ln NW, indicating the bear might be heading into VA as anticipated.

	<p>Current Status: By Monday, May 13, 2024, the bear had successfully reached Virginia. However, there had been reports of patrons inappropriately leaving their dogs tied up to pursue the bear. The situation was being closely monitored, and efforts were ongoing to ensure the bear's safe passage while maintaining public safety.</p> <p>Action plan for dog licensing through partnership with veterinary facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: Use the influence and reach of veterinary facilities to educate dog owners about the importance of licensing their pets. - Action Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide veterinary facilities with dog license manuals that highlight the benefits of licensing. - Ensure these manuals contain a QR code that directly links to the dog licensing portal, simplifying the application process. <p>Update: Dr. Teich will further discuss this plan with DC Health Animal Services team and he may start to spread the word about dog licensing amongst his clients starting from his Navy Yard facility.</p>	
OS-0516-09	<p><u>BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT</u></p> <p>Dr. Dan Teich had nothing specific to report.</p>	
OS-0516-10	<p><u>BOARD COUNSELOR'S REPORT</u></p> <p>Commercial animal facility regulations</p> <p>Maryland Criminal Code on Animals</p>	

Topics of Legislative Priorities:

1. Cosmetic treatments on pets
2. Artificial intelligence in veterinary medicine

i. Client Communication and Education:

- Chatbots powered by AI can provide instant answers to common pet-related questions.
- Educational resources can be personalized based on an individual pet's needs.

ii. Natural Language Processing (NLP):

- NLP algorithms can analyze veterinary literature, case reports, and clinical notes to extract relevant information.
- Veterinarians can benefit from AI-generated summaries and recommendations.

iii. Diagnostics and Imaging:

- AI algorithms can analyze medical images (such as X-rays, MRIs, and ultrasounds) to assist veterinarians in diagnosing conditions like fractures, tumors, or organ abnormalities.

iv. Predictive Analytics:

- AI models can predict disease outbreaks, track disease trends, and assess risk factors in animal populations for example, predicting the spread of infectious diseases or identifying at-risk animals for preventive measures.

v. Treatment Planning:

- AI can recommend personalized treatment plans based on an individual animal's health history, genetics, and response to previous treatments.
- It can also suggest optimal drug dosages and monitor treatment effectiveness.

vi. Health Monitoring:

- Wearable devices and sensors equipped with AI can continuously monitor vital signs, detect anomalies, and alert veterinarians to potential health issues.

- This real-time monitoring enhances early disease detection and intervention.

vii. Research and Drug Discovery:

- AI assists in analyzing large datasets, identifying genetic markers, and predicting drug interactions.

- It accelerates research and drug development for both animals and humans.

viii. Population Health Management:

- AI helps track population health trends, assess vaccination coverage, and manage disease control programs.

- It contributes to better overall animal welfare.

Dr. Vito DelVento stated that soon after the veterinary technician licensing portal will be launched, all technicians in DC will be required to get a license. Veterinary facilities are required to monitor the license status of their technician employees.

Regarding the telemedicine policy, Board will work with the Counsel to prepare a policy statement and regulations.

Motion 1: Counsel will draft a policy statement regarding Board's requirement for telemedicine.

Motion 2: Counsel will draft regulations regarding Board's position surrounding telemedicine.

Moved by: Dr. Dan Teich, DVM, Board Chairperson

Seconded by: Sophie Kindberg-Hanlon, BVetMed PGCertSAS MRCVS, Board Member

Motion Carried

OS-0516-11	<p><u>COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC</u></p> <p>There were no comments from the public.</p>	
OS-0516-12	<p><u>HOUSEKEEPING</u></p> <p>Future Board meeting dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 20, 2024 • July 18, 2024 • August 2024 (Recess) • September 19, 2024 • October 17, 2024 • November 21, 2024 • December 19, 2024 	
OS-0516-13	<p><u>INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VETERINARY ASSESSMENT (ICVA) UPDATES - FYI</u></p>	
OS-0516-14	<p><u>AVMA UPDATES – FYI</u></p>	
OS-0516-15	<p><u>AAVSB UPDATES – FYI</u></p> <p>Watchdog Tracking Report</p> <p>AAVSB’s Watchdog released its monthly report for the month of September 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2024 Report 	

Watchdog is your resource center for:

- Legislative and regulatory activity reports
- Board updates
- VMA updates
- Map view of Legislative Sessions
- Conveniently linked news coverage of recent legislative activity and issues affecting the veterinary regulatory community.

The AAVSB is thrilled to bring you this new member service in support of its mission to support and advance the regulatory process for veterinary medicine. As this online resource center expands, Member Boards will gain a powerful research tool and increase their usability of key legislative advancements.

Dates to Remember

- 2024 AAVSB Annual Meeting & Conference — September 25 - 28, 2024 at the Loews Coronado Bay Resort in San Diego, CA

New Opportunities

Now is the time for you or members of your board to take the opportunity to join the AAVSB leadership. Nominations for the 2024-2025 leadership year are now open. The AAVSB Nominating Committee asks that you review the [Call for Nominations document](#) and visit www.aavsb.org/nominations to submit nominations online. Nominations are due **May 29, 2024**.

AAVSB VTNE Scholarship Award

The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) is pleased to announce the recipients of the Spring 2024 Veterinary Technician National Examination® Award. This Award is presented by the faculty of American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Education and Activities (AVMA-CVTEA) and Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) accredited veterinary technology/nursing programs, to one graduating student every year, and covers the cost of the VTNE® exam. Learn more about [VTNE awards](#).

OS-0516-16

LEGISLATIVE/REGULATIONS

PDMP

DC Health Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Oversight

- DC Health will have its Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Oversight hearing in early April. This hearing offers an opportunity for the Committee on Health to review DC Health’s proposed budget for the 2025 Fiscal Year.
 - You can find information about the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget [here](#).
- There were two hearings, one on [April 10th](#) for public witnesses and one on [April 11th](#) for representatives from DC Health. During the hearing, there was discussion around staffing for health professional licensing boards and investments to address healthcare workforce issues.
- The mark-up for DC Health’s budget in the Committee on Health will be held on May 9th.

Health Occupations Revision Act (HORA) Update:

- DC Health worked on a significant revision of the HORA. This would be the first significant revision in seventeen years.
- The revised HORA received Mayoral approval and has been introduced in the Council as the *Health Occupations Revision General Amendment Act of 2023* ([B25-0545](#)).
- This legislation received a hearing on [December 7th](#). Over 80 witnesses, many of whom were healthcare professionals, signed up to provide testimony. DC Health’s Associate Director of Health Professional Licensing Boards provided testimony in support and answered questions from the Council.
- DC Health has been working on the Committee on Health following that hearing. A mark-up was held on [March 21st, 2024](#). The legislation was passed unanimously by the Committee of the Whole on First Reading on April 2nd and on Second Reading on May 7th. It now goes to the Mayor and subsequently through Congressional Review.

Veterinarian Regulations

<https://dcregs.dc.gov/Common/DCMR/RuleList.aspx?ChapterNum=17-28&ChapterId=699>

	<p><u>Veterinary Technician Regulations</u></p> <p>https://dcregs.dc.gov/Common/DCMR/RuleList.aspx?ChapterNum=17-112&ChapterId=3904</p> <p><u>Veterinary Euthanasia Technician Regulations</u></p> <p>https://dcregs.dc.gov/Common/DCMR/RuleList.aspx?ChapterNum=17-111&ChapterId=3903</p> <p>The new Veterinary Technician and Euthanasia Technicians regulations became effective Friday, August 6, 2021. At this time, the DC Department of Health will not be issuing registrations until the process is in place.</p> <p>The Department of Health is currently creating the platform by which individuals can submit an application for registration as either a Veterinary Technician or a Veterinary Euthanasia Technician. Once the platform is available, there will be a grace period for which individuals will need to come into full compliance.</p>	
OS-0516-17	<p><u>LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS</u></p> <p>https://dccouncil.us/events/list/</p>	

DISCUSSION ITEMS	
OS-0516-18	<p><u>MATTERS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION</u></p>
OS-0516-19	<p><u>FINAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC</u></p>

OS-0516-20	<u>READING OF OPEN SESSION MOTIONS</u>
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CLOSING	
OS-0516-21	<p><u>MOTION TO CLOSE</u></p> <p>Board Action: To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p>Background: This concludes the Public Open Session of the meeting. The Board will now move into the Executive Section, which is closed to the public, to seek the advice of counsel to the board, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(4); to administer licensing of health professionals governed by the Board, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(6); to discuss disciplinary matters pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(9); administration of licensing pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(6); discuss ongoing or planned investigations pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(14). This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov</p>
OS-0516-22	<p><u>MOTION TO ADJOURN</u></p> <p>Board Action: To adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Background: At the end of every meeting, a motion to adjourn must be made in open session to close out the business of the Board.</p>

This ends the Open Session Agenda, next meeting is scheduled for **June 20, 2024**

This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov