



# Board of Veterinary Examiners

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
August 25, 2022 via Zoom teleconference

These minutes were approved by the board at their June 8, 2023, meeting.

Present: Rachel Bergartt, DVM, chair; Hal Geiger, PhD; Ciara Vollaro, DVM; Denise Albert, DVM  
Warren Gordon, examiner; Lacey Derr, supervisor

## **Call to Order**

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:10a.m. All members were present. Chair Bergartt was the only member who disclosed potential ethical considerations: contact with AKVMA regarding legislative planning and a referral to investigations by a public person. None of these contacts were determined to constitute an ethical concern. The chair read the position statement into the record.

## **VCPR Regulations**

The board brought up next steps in the VCPR regulations process.

**Motion by Dr. Albert: I move to approve for public comment the rekeyed version of 12 AAC 68.215.**  
Seconded by Dr. Vollaro.

Dr. Geiger asked the board to reconsider proposing the term "impossible" in 12 AAC 68.215(e)(1) and again recommended the term "impractical." He indicated that he would not support the regulations using that term. Dr. Albert reminded the board that at the last meeting, a majority of the board agreed that the term "impossible" since "impractical" might be interpreted as a matter of convenience, which the board wanted to discourage.

Chair Bergartt reminded the board that others outside the board will need to be able to interpret the terminology used. Dr. Geiger maintained his objection.

**Drs. Albert, Vollaro, Bergartt: Yea**  
**Dr. Geiger: Nay**  
**The motion passed.**

RLS Derr explained that the VCPR regulations would go back out for public comment and walked through that timeline.

## **Temporary Military Courtesy License Regulations**

The board discussed two comments received during the public comment period. Dr. Geiger didn't feel that the decrease in continuing education was troubling, especially in the context of the upheaval in a military family's life. Drs. Albert and Vollaro disagreed, saying that it was easy and inexpensive to obtain continuing education online. RLS Derr clarified that the military license was a stop-gap measure to licensure but that the veterinarian applying under this measure would have to apply for a full license before the military license lapsed, if they wish to continue to practice in Alaska. She also stated that the board could remove the continuing education statement, if they wished.

**Motion by Dr. Albert: I move to remove “or failure to obtain the required continuing education requirements” from 12 AAC 68.043(b)(4) from the proposed regulations. Seconded by Vollaro. Unanimously approved.**

**Motion by Dr. Geiger: I move to adopt 12 AAC 68.043 as amended. Seconded by Dr. Vollaro. Unanimously approved.**

#### **Designate representatives for the upcoming meetings**

The board intends to hold their October meeting in conjunction with the AKVMA Symposium in Anchorage, as is the board’s custom. RLS Derr suggested a delegate to the Symposium be selected. Chair Bergartt mentioned that AKVMA invited her to present a board update at the Symposium, which the board members each stated they appreciated. RLS Derr clarified what portion of the travel would be funded by the state and what would be the responsibility of individual board members who may wish to stay through the conference.

**Motion by Dr. Geiger: I move to elect Dr. Bergartt to represent the board at the AKVMA meeting this October in Anchorage. Seconded by Dr. Vollaro. Dr. Bergartt abstained from the vote. All remaining members voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.**

The board discussed options to represent the board at the September AAVSB meeting. Dr. Bergartt stated she should already be there since she serves on the Regulatory Task Force and would not be a board representative.

**Motion by Dr. Vollaro: I move to elect Dr. Albert as primary and Dr. Geiger as secondary selections to represent the board at the AAVSB meeting this September in Charlotte, North Carolina. Seconded by Dr. Geiger. Unanimously approved.**

#### **Annual Report**

The board reviewed the draft FY22 annual report and made several minor changes.

**Motion by Dr. Geiger: I move to approve the board’s narrative statement in the FY22 Annual Report as discussed. Seconded by Dr. Albert. Unanimously approved.**

**Motion by Dr. Geiger: I move to approve the board’s goals and objectives in the FY22 Annual Report. Seconded by Dr. Albert. Unanimously approved.**

#### **Discussion About Meeting Minutes**

RLS Derr explained the governor’s Administrative Order and the new direction by the division director to authorize condensed meeting minutes that focus on board deliberations and actions, capturing the topics necessary for a meaningful record. If the board wants more expanded meeting minutes, the board will need to identify a board member to type those. The board supported this change, especially if it results in quicker turnaround on the web site.

#### **Applications/OnBoard**

Examiner Gordon requested that members complete voting on ballots currently posted online. The chair encouraged the board to continue to vote timely and appreciated getting veterinarians licensed without delay.

### **New Business**

RLS Derr suggested the board discuss topics for upcoming meetings. The board discussed future agenda items should include the status of the PDMP bill, the need for PAVE legislation, and changes to statute to eliminate the gap for applicants who fall short of the 60 month/5-year requirement. Additional topics include regulations conforming to HB265 regarding telehealth and tele-prescription of controlled substances, training on the investigative process, jurisprudence exam review, and ongoing VCPR regulations progress.

In addition to the legislative changes, the board thought an investigative process review would be appropriate since Drs. Albert and Vollaro had not been through it. The chair asked staff to provide a list of questions that are frequently missed, as well as preparing for a full review to ensure the exam is up-to-date. The board reinforced Dr. Bergartt continuing in the role of legislative liaison.

The board took a break between 11:20 and 11:30a.m. and established quorum upon return.

### **Public Comment**

Dr. Montalbano offered details about the AKVMA Symposium. Dr. Geiger said that he had been excluded from attendance by the AKVMA when he attempted to attend last year. Dr. Coburn clarified that an AKVMA membership meeting may have been closed to non-members, but if he was registered for the Symposium, he should have been able to participate in the public portions.

Having no further business to conduct, the board adjourned at 12:00 p.m.