



Board of Veterinary Examiners Special Meeting

Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

December 22nd, 2025 at 9:00 AM AKST via Zoom

These minutes have not been approved by the board.

Members Present: : Denise Albert, DVM; Hal Geiger, PhD; Robert Gerlach, VMD; Sarah Johnson, DVM; Ciara Vollaro, DVM.

Staff Present: Rachel Billiet, Program Coordinator 1; Keri Mell, Licensing Examiner 3; Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2;

Call to Order

Attendance

Members Present: Denise Albert, DVM; Hal Geiger, PhD; Robert Gerlach, VMD; Sarah Johnson, DVM; Ciara Vollaro DVM.

Dr. Geiger had problems with his internet and sporadically would not be in the meeting; quorum was maintained.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by Chair Dr. Gerlach and a quorum was established; he then read the board's mission statement onto the record. When asked if any board members had any conflicts of interest to declare, Dr. Albert stated that as the original reviewing board member for the case being discussed in agenda 5A, she would need to be recused. Dr. Geiger stated he did not have a conflict of interest but would be requesting recusal from agenda 5A as well per the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) recommendation.

Review and Approve Agenda

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE the agenda as written.

Motion moved by Dr. Albert and motion seconded by Dr. Johnson.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Public comment period opened without any members of the public present to speak. The board decided to move on, and they would listen to public comment later if someone joined while they were in deliberative session.

Approve Board Minutes

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE the November 14, 2025, meeting minutes.

Motion moved by Dr. Albert and motion seconded by Dr. Johnson.
The motion passed unanimously.

Investigations

Administrative Law Judge Beth Goldstein is presenting to the board the OAH's decision on Rex Rammell's appeal of his license denial in deliberative session, and Assistant Attorney General Kevin Higgins is present as the boards conflict counsel.

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE that the Board of Veterinary Examiners enter into deliberative session under AS 44.62.310(d) solely to make a decision in the following adjudicatory proceeding: *In the Matter of Rex Rammell*, Board Case Number 2024-000087, Office of Administrative Hearings Case Number 25-0492-VET.

The parties, their attorneys, all members of the Board's staff, and all members of the public will be excluded from the deliberative session. The administrative law judge will be invited to remain with the Board during the deliberative session.

Motion moved by Dr. Gerlach and motion seconded by Dr. Johnson.
The motion passed unanimously.

The board entered into deliberative session at 9:13 am and returned on the record at 9:44 am. After being granted recusal, Dr. Albert and Dr. Geiger were not included in the deliberative session. A quorum was maintained.

Attendance

Members Present: Denise Albert, DVM; Hal Geiger, PhD; Robert Gerlach, VMD; Sarah Johnson, DVM; Ciara Vollaro DVM.

Presentation of Proposed Decision- Rex Rammell (Deliberative Session)

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE the Board adopt the proposed decision in Office of Administrative Hearings Case Number 25-0492-VET as its final decision in this matter.

Motion moved by Dr. Johnson and motion seconded by Dr. Vollaro.
The motion passed by roll call vote. Dr. Gerlach yes, Dr. Johnson yes, Dr. Vollaro yes, Dr. Gerlach recused, Dr. Albert recused.

Update on Statute Changes for Legislatures

Dr. Albert presented to the board information regarding James "Bud" Sexton's, Representative Ruffridge's aide, response to sponsoring the board's statutes they want to change. Mr. Sexton discussed the response from legislative legal assessment with Dr. Albert. Dr. Albert stated these are recommendations only and the board does not have to make the changes.

Regarding AS 08.98.010 Creation and Membership of the Board, six members are not illegal but uncommon and a concern of a tie. The board asked Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2, if he has seen boards with six members and he stated it is not common with the 21 boards the division has and with six board members it will require a lot of people to make quorum. A suggestion Dr. Albert gave is to wait for the next veterinarian that finishes their appointed time and fill that seat with a veterinary technician. This would add a veterinary technician and keep the board members to 5. The board also discussed adding two veterinary technicians to the board to make an uneven number board. The board agreed to 5 board members; three veterinarians, one public member, and one veterinary technician when the next veterinarian board members time expires.

Motion:

RESOLVED TO APPROVE retaining 5 board members on the Board of Veterinary Examiners; 3 veterinarians, 1 public member and 1 veterinarian that will be replaced with a veterinarian technician when their time expires.

Motion moved by Dr. Albert and motion seconded by Dr Vollaro.
The motion passed unanimously.

There were no issues with AS 08.98.180 Student permit request.

In AS 08.98.180 Temporary license, changing examinations to examination is unnecessary. Per legal, pleural equals singular as well in legalese.

The board had no comments regarding legal urging to be sure there is no aspect of AS 08.98.150 Administration of Examination and AS 08.98.160 Reexamination Eligibility that is needed in statute before deleting it.

Dr. Albert asked if any of the board members had a senator as a contact as it would be beneficial to have a representative and a senator supporting the proposed statute changes. Dr. Gerlach stated he will contact Senator Dunbar and Senator Tilton, and Dr. Geiger stated he will contact Senator Kiehl. The board agreed that Senator Kiehl would bring good diversity as a Democrat since their Representative for the bill is a Republican.

Break

The board went off the record at 10:24 am and returned on the record at 10:36 am.

Attendance

Members Present: Denise Albert, DVM; Hal Geiger, PhD; Robert Gerlach, VMD; Sarah Johnson, DVM; Ciara Vollaro DVM.

Next Meeting Date

Dr. Geiger can not make the next board meeting on January 23rd, 2026 and asked if the board can reschedule for another day. The board agreed on Jan 26th, 2026.

AO360

The board was thankful with the spreadsheet Rachel Billiet put together for the board to see all the regulations, the count from the division, and suggestions for change. The board decided to work off that document. Dr. Albert had also sent in a few suggestions she had and was added to the board packet for the board to review.

The board decided taking out “on a department form” in discretionary regulations [12 AAC 68.010(a)(1), 12 AAC 68.035(a)(1), 12 AAC 68.041(b)(1), 12 AAC 68.045(a)(1), 12 AAC 68.046(a)(1), 12 AAC 68.047(a)(1), 12 AAC 68.047(c)(2)] except for letter of references [12 AAC 68.010(a)(7)] because they have specific wording on the forms the board is looking for. The board also does not want to remove the requirement of letter of references because the board has used the references as putting stipulations on licenses. It also puts a good foundation to justify the board’s decision on giving a license when the recommendations are positive.

After a discussion about regulations [12 AAC 68.010 (a)(8), 12 AAC 68.035(a)(8)], stating “other documentation the board deems necessary”, the board decided to remove them because in other regulations it allows them to ask for the appropriate documentation, they would need for each situation.

12 AAC 68.015(c) and 12 AAC 68.045(a)(4) the board decided to remove the wording “passage is 90%”.

Dr. Albert suggested in 12 AAC 68.041(c) that wording be added by the legal department to be able to approve a 90 day courtesy license in emergencies.

The board agreed to remove notarized copy in regulations 12 AAC 68.041(e), 12 AAC 68.045(a)(3), and 12 AAC 68.046(a)(3).

In 12 AAC 68.046(a)(1) the board removed with signatures from the applicant and licensee.

In 12 AAC 68.047(c)(2) the board decided to combine the wording so it will say “applicable license fees”.

12 AAC 68.048(b) the board would like to take out “about any administrative, civil, or criminal action listed”.

The board noted a typo in 12 AAC 68.047(b) and would like to fix it. It says established in 12AAC 03.350. It should say established in 12AAC 02.350.

The board had a discussion about the veterinarian ethics and confidentiality regarding 12AAC 68.100 and decided to leave the regulation but possibly moving it in medical records.

The board agreed to work on regulations themselves before the next board meeting with emphasis on regulations regarding medical records. They will send their suggestions to Ms. Mell, and she will assemble them for the next board meeting.

Adjourn

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE adjourning the December 22, 2025, special meeting of the Board of Veterinary Examiners.

Motion moved by Dr. Vollaro and motion seconded by Dr. Geiger.
The motion passed unanimously.

The board went off record at 1:18 pm.