Veterinary Board of Governors
Regular Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2026

Location: Department of Health, TC2, Room 153
111 Isreal Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501 and Microsoft Teams

Board Members Present:	Katherine Bibi, DVM, Chair Maci Paden, DVM, Vice-Chair Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, DVM, Aja Senestraro, DVM Kathryn Haigh, DVM Kim Morgan, LVT Rebecca Knoke, General Member
Board Members Absent:	None
Staff Members' Present:	Amber Freeberg, Executive Director Poppy Budrow, Program Manager Katie Graue, Administrative Assistant Tara Mackemull, Program Support Megan Maxey. Policy Analyst Laura Riordan, Credentialing Supervisor Lydia Koroma, Staff Attorney Roseann Fitzpatrick, AAG
Other Attendees resent:	Ken Gordon, WSVMA Ashley Byrne, LVT, WSAVT Scott Young Shelbie Miller Sarah Newman Brittany Benesi Linda Sonett Ryan Frazier Marina Scott Allison Yang Katie Hadley Chris Bundy Divya Iyer Nadine Rosete Rachel Novak Kirsten Weiss Margaret Spath, Pinehurst Kina Wachsmith, Pinehurst Dave Cordray, Pinehurst Amanda Olson, Pinehurst

DRAFT

Notice of this meeting was published on the Veterinarian | Washington State Department of Health profession website and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

Open Session:

Opening of Public Meeting, Call to Order, Mission, and Board Roll Call – Katherine Bibi, DMV, Chair

Call to Order at 9:02 am

1. **Consent Agenda – Katherine Bibi, DMV, Chair**

1.1. Approval of September 11, 2026, meeting agenda. There was a motion to approve September 11, 2026, agenda as presented, seconded and approved unanimously.

1.2. Approval of June 5, 2026, draft business meeting minutes. There was a motion made to approve June 5, 2026, draft minutes, seconded and approved unanimously.

2. **Rules Hearing – Eligibility for Examination as Veterinary Technician WAC 246-935-060(4)**

The purpose of this rulemaking is to consider updates to criteria for eligibility for examination as a veterinary technician in WAC 246-935-060 (4). The CR-101 to open LVT Eligibility for Examination rules was filed on October 17, 2025, under WSR 25-21-093. The CR-102 to announce the hearing was filed on July 14, 2026, under WSR 26-15-060. This rulemaking is in response to petitions from WSVMA and WSVTA to close the "Wisconsin Loophole" in WAC 246-935-060(4).
Link to rules in progress: Rules in Progress | Washington State Department of Health

2.1. The Rules hearing started at 9:06 am. The board took public comments.

Ken Gordon with WSVMA support this rule change and thanked the Board for closing this loophole

Ashley Byrne, LVT, with WSAVT supports this rule and appreciates all the work that was put into this rule making.

2.2. There was no written comments and letters received will be reviewed.

There was a motion to approve the proposed language as written. Seconded and passed with a vote of 6:1.

Dr. Bibi called for a motion to close the hearing; the motion was seconded and approved.

Hearing was closed at 9:11 am.

3. **Open Forum (limited to 10 minutes)**

The Board will accept comments from the audience on issues significant to the profession.
Limit of three minutes per person or agency in total.
If your comment is regarding an agenda item, please wait for that agenda item.

Ken Gordon with WSVMA raised an urgent Issue relating to the "big beautiful bill", stating the clause requires associations to be separate from accredited organizations. Veterinary medical colleges are currently accredited by the council on education a subsidiary of the AVMA. Mr. Gordon continued expressing concern that under the new licensing rule AVMA accreditation of colleges will no longer be recognized once the comment period closes on September 21, 2026. As a result, new students would be unable to become licensed.

Program Manager, Poppy Budrow, stated she will continue to monitor the progress of this federal bill.

4. **Sanction Training - Lydia Koroma, Staff Attorney**

Ms. Koroma presented a PowerPoint and reviewed rules regarding sanctions and discipline. Ms. Koroma answered questions from the Board.

5. WPHP Annual Report – Dr. Chris Bundy with WPHP

Dr. Bundy with WPHP presented their annual report via PowerPoint Presentation.

6. Discipline Process Research Subcommittee

This subcommittee has been tasked with researching the discipline process, how complaints are assessed, how the board can be more transparent to the public and licensees, and making recommendations to streamline and clarify where possible.

Subcommittee Members: Dr. Katherine Bibi, Dr. Kathryn Haigh, and Ms. Becky Knoke

6.1. Open for Public Comment – There was no public comment received.

6.2. Dr. Katherine Bibi gave an update regarding the progress made in the discipline process research subcommittee.

6.3. The Board will review progress made on the Board Review document. Dr. Bibi took questions and suggestions from the Board regarding the "Board Review form". Ms. Budrow made the suggested changes to the form, and the subcommittee will re-evaluate at their next meeting, scheduled for September 29, 2026, at 7:00 am.

7. Reports

7.1. Katherine Bibi, DMV, Chair – Dr. Bibi had nothing to report at this time.

7.2. Amber Freeberg, Executive Director – Ms. Freeberg did not have anything to report at this time.

7.3. Poppy Budrow, Program Manager – Ms. Budrow updated the Board that the Vet fees passed on August 25, and the CR-103 to be filed next week. Ms. Budrow stated that with implementing HELMS it may take longer for the new fee to go in effect, DOH anticipates it will go into effect in February 2027. Ms. Budrow will also send reminders out via GovDelivery once the fees become effective.

7.4. Roseann Fitzpatrick, AAG – Ms. Fitzpatrick reported to the Board with three updates – 1) Unlicensed Practice Disciplinary Action: This hearing is scheduled for the first week of November. 2) a case challenging a rule to allow apprenticeship as a pathway to sit for the LVT exam: This case is currently in review at the court of appeals in Tacoma. And 3) the Schultz litigation: Oral arguments are set for December 14 at the court of appeals; this hearing will be broadcast on TVW.

8. Rules Update – Animal Healthcare Tasks

The purpose of this rulemaking is to consider updates to Animal Healthcare Tasks: WAC 246-935-040, 050, 010, and WAC 246-937-010

Link to rules in progress: **Rules in Progress | Washington State Department of Health**

Subcommittee Members: Dr. Katherine Bibi, Dr. Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, Ms. Kim Morgan, LVT

8.1. The Board discussed final review of language.

8.2. The Board discussed next-step options. Ms. Budrow let the Board know what their options were regarding Animal healthcare tasks. The options were as follows:

- **a.** Open a CR-101 to change the rule back
- **b.** Write an interpretive statement to delay enforcement, which will give the DVMs time to get trained. This will allow LVTs to continue with extractions for a time, maybe 6 months.
- **c.** Rule is complete – Do nothing.

8.3. Dr. Bibi opened the floor to the Board to ask questions for clarification. Amber Freeberg and Roseann Fitzpatrick answered questions and gave clarification on the Boards options. The Board took comments from the public.

Mr. Ken Gordon with WSVMA Criticized communication about the rule change. Mr. Gordon stated the veterinary community was done a disservice, and many vets still do not understand that this has

happened. Mr. Gordon stated that WSVMA supports the rule itself. Mr. Gordon recommended using an interpretive statement to clarify the rule followed by a strongly publicized campaign.

Dr. Maggie Spath with Pinehurst Veterinary Clinic and Surgery Center Stated she was unaware of the rule change and when it was occurring. Dr. Spath wanted to let the board know that they have felt a negative impact concerning dental extractions. Dr. Spath would like to see the WAC reversed.

Dr. Lanya Watson, Pinehurst Veterinary Clinic and Surgery Center reported they have seen other clinics stopping working on dental all together. Dr. Watson echoed Dr. Spath's views in hopes to see the WAC reversed and sees the harm this has done to the profession.

Email from Katie Sonenets regarding their disagreement regarding dental extractions – Email was read to the Board by Poppy Budrow, VBOG Program Manager.

Ashley Byrne, with WSAVT stated the WSAVT supports the rule change. Ms. Byrne would not oppose a delay to enforcement. Ms. Byrne stated the previous law was poorly understood and that the current rule is a clarification.

Amanda with Pinehurst Veterinary Clinic and Surgery Center would like to see the WAC reversed.

Dr. David Corrday, with Pinehurst Veterinary Clinic and Surgery Center, has seen a negative impact in his staff and would like to see the WAC reversed.

Dr. Bibi asked the Board what they would like to see done, each Board member expressed their professional opinion and/or concerns.

Majority of the Board would like to see an interruptive statement opened. Ms. Budrow will work on drafting an interruptive statement.

There was a motion to write an interruptive statement to delay enforcement for dental extractions, the motion was seconded, motion was passed.

Proposed subcommittee members: Dr. Katherine Bibi, Dr. Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, Ms. Kim Morgan, LVT

There was a motion to form the subcommittee, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The subcommittee scheduled their first subcommittee meeting for October 06, 2026, at 7:00 am, public is welcome at 7:30 am.

8.4. The Board reviewed the Animal Healthcare Tasks FAQ's.

9. HB 2247 – Veterinarian-Patient-Client Relationship (VCPR)

During the 2026 legislative session, ESHB 2247 passed, which allows VCPR to be established and maintained via telehealth in certain circumstances. In response to this bill passage, the CR-101 to open rules was filed on June 8, 2026, under WSR 26-13-019. These rules will implement ESHB 2247.

Link to Bill**:** 2247-S.SL.pdf

Link to Fiscal Note: Fiscal Note Package 77196

9.1. Dr. Bibi opened the floor for Public Comment. No public comment was given.

9.2. Dr. Senestraro gave an update on the progress of the VCPR. Dr. Senestraro let the Board know they met with the State veterinarian and the Pharmacy Commission for questions and clarifications.

9.3. The Board discussed further possible updates.

9.4. Ms. Budrow let the Board know the FAQ document is still being developed.

10. Veterinary Internship Research Committee

This subcommittee was developed in response to a petition for Mr. Rybka representing Fountain Veterinary Hospital for a post-DVM, pre-NAVLE internship.

CR-101 has not yet filed.

Subcommittee Members: Dr. Bibi; Haigh; Dr. Paden

10.1. Dr. Bibi opened the floor for Public Comment. No public comment was given.

10.2. The Board reviewed the most current letter from Mr. Rybka. Roseann Fitzpatrick let the Board know that there is not a required response.

10.3. Dr. Bibi let the Board know that the subcommittee has not met since the last Board meeting, and will schedule a meeting as soon as the interruptive statement is drafted.

10.4. The subcommittee will schedule a meeting at a future time.

11. 1705 Large Animal Veterinarian Recruitment Workgroup

WSU has created a workgroup to research how to train, retain, and attract large animal veterinarians.

Board Representative: Dr. Maci Paden

Alternate: Dr. Kathryn Haigh

11.1. Report on Meeting: Ms. Poppy Budrow gave the Board a summary on the Large Animal Veterinarian Recruitment Workgroup. Ms. Budrow let the Board know the group has been dissolved and is no longer meeting but Ms. Budrow will let the Board know if any new updates happen.

12. Correspondence

Any letters the Board has received and have not been addressed above will be reviewed. The Board may respond to correspondence.

12.1. The Board received a letter from the WSVMA, the letter was dated August 12, 2026, regarding ECFVG & PAVE Pathway. Dr. Bibi asked Mr. Ken Gordon of the WSVMA for an extension, the extension was granted.

The subcommittee will meet to draft a response, they will meet on September 15, 2026, at 7:00 am

13. Nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair

The Board will take nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Dr. Bibi was nominated for a second term as chair by Dr. Maci Paden.

Maci Paden nominated herself for a second term as Vice-Chair.

14. Conference and Presentations

Reminders for upcoming travel:

14.1. PNW Veterinary Conference, Tacoma, Washington: September 26-27, 2026
Attending: Dr. Andrea Sanchez-Chambers and Ms. Becky Knoke

14.2. AAVSB Annual Meeting: September 23-26, 2026
Attending: Dr. Katherine Bibi (Delegate) – Dr. Maci Paden (AAVSB Committee) – Dr. Aja Senestraro (AAVSB Committee) – Ms. Poppy Budrow (AAVSB Committee)

15. Reminder for Meeting Date for 2026 and 2027

Dates have been filed with the code revisor and are posted on the Veterinary Board's website.

15.1. December 18, 2026
15.2. March 12, 2027
15.3. June 4, 2027
15.4. September 10, 2027
15.5. December 17, 2027

16. Agenda Development

The Board reviewed and identified agenda items for the December 18, 2026, business meeting.

Open Session Meeting Adjournment at 1:13 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Submitted by:
Poppy Budrow, Program Manager
Veterinary Board of Governors

On file
SIGNATURE

DATE

Approved by:
Dr. Katherine Bibi, Chair
Veterinary Board of Governors

On file
SIGNATURE

DATE