



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
*Olympia, Washington 98504*

**Washington State  
Veterinary Board of Governors  
March 27, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Washington State Veterinary Board of Governors was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on Friday, March 27, 2020, by Kirk Breuninger, Chair. The meeting was held via conference call.

Board Members

Present: Kirk Breuninger, VMD, MPH, DACVPM, Chair  
Aja Senestraro, DVM, Vice Chair  
Kim Morgan, LVT  
Dordor Vang, DVM, MPH  
Becky Knoke, Public Member

Board Members

Absent: Liz Davies, DVM  
Sue Moriyasu, DVM

Staff Present:

Brad Burnham, Executive Director, DOH  
Lisa Kelley, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)  
Sarah Beckham, Program Support, DOH  
Jeff Wise, Policy Analyst, DOH  
Sara Kirschenman, Staff Attorney, DOH  
Tanya Mills, Credentialing Supervisor, DOH

Guests Present:

Candace Joy, WSVMA  
Sherry Dean, WSVMA  
Lindsey Hornickel, DVM, WSVMA  
Karen Norton, LVT, WSAVT  
Teresa Stefan, LVT, WSAVT  
Benita Altier, LVT, WSAVT  
Dan Haskins, DVM  
Lisa Feder, Humane Society of SW Washington  
Julie Helligso, Hospital Administrator  
Paul Carkeek, Citizen

## **Open Session**

### **Call to Order and Introductions**

The open public meeting was called to order by Kirk Breuninger, Chair, at 10:02 a.m. He took roll call with the different groups of people in attendance – board members, DOH staff members, association representatives, veterinarians, veterinary technicians and general public. Not everyone who attended this meeting is listed.

#### **1. Approval of agenda**

Dr. Vang made a request to extend the open forum time due to the amount of people attending this meeting. The board decided removing the open forum and having time for attendees to speak at each topic as it is presented with a time limit of five minutes.

Dr. Senestraro made a motion to accept the agenda as modified. Kim Morgan, LVT, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **2. Issues relating to COVID-19 Outbreak**

The board discussed the options for creating and disseminating changes to current rules (WAC) during this current health crisis. One option is to do emergency rule making for 120 days. This rule making still goes through the department's regular rule making process which would take at least a couple weeks to be implemented. Another option is for the board to create a policy statement which would need to be reviewed by the policy office and management but should only take about a week to finalize. A third option is the board could send out a message on the listserv (GovDelivery).

Jeff Wise, policy analyst, said the policy office is trying to expedite processes but there would be a 4-6 week timeframe for emergency rules to be enacted.

#### **3. Issues Related to COVID-19 Outbreak (Discussion/Action)**

The board discussed policy issues regarding COVID-19 and how to inform licensees of any emergency changes to rules during this health crisis.

##### **3.1 Continuing education (CE)**

The board discussed options for changes to the CE requirements and the best way to get the information out to licensees and interested parties. Dr. Senestraro made a motion to create a policy statement with the chair and vice chair working with DOH staff to create the statement and implementation. Kim Morgan, LVT, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

##### **3.2 Veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) and telehealth**

The board discussed creating a policy statement explaining changes to the VCPR and how telehealth can be utilized during this health crisis. Dr. Senestraro made a motion to create a policy statement with the intent of not enforcing regulations that VCPR can only be in person. The policy statement shall also include being able to diagnose and treat via telemedicine. DOH staff will work with chair and vice chair on this policy statement. Dr. Vang seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**3.3 Telehealth**  
See Item 3.2

**3.4 Supervision and tasks for veterinary technicians and other staff**  
The board decided to move this topic for discussion at the next special meeting on April 3, 2020.

**3.5 Dispensing prescriptions**  
The board decided to move this issue to the next special meeting to have time to do further research on the subject.

**3.6 Essential procedures and use of personal protective equipment (PPE)**  
The board discussed the use of animal ventilators being used by humans. The board decided to send a message via GovDelivery saying to use professional judgment and sending complaints and conservation of PPE per state mandate. Dr. Senestraro made a motion to send a GovDelivery message about essential procedures and use of PPE. Kim Morgan, LVT, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**3.7 Other COVID-19 related issues**  
The board discussed licensing requirements for new graduates and testing being delayed at the current time. They considered allowing relaxation of regulations for graduates working under licensed veterinarian. RCW 18.92.120 allows a temporary practice permit for veterinarians only.

Dr. Senestraro made a motion to send GovDelivery message about the temporary practice permit for veterinary licenses. Kim Morgan, LVT, seconded the motion.

**4. Future Meetings (Discussion/Action)**  
The board decided to have weekly special meetings for April with the option to extend them into May. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for June 1 and whether that meeting will be in person or by phone will be decided by May 1.

**5. Agenda Development (Discussion/Action)**  
The board will identified the following agenda items for the next meeting:

- Supervision of veterinary technicians and other office personnel
- Dispensing of medication
- Students working through this time period
- Review of policy statements and communications through GovDelivery

**Adjournment of Open Session**

Dr. Vang made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kim Morgan, LVT, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24 p.m.