



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

**Washington State
Veterinary Board of Governors
May 1, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Washington State Veterinary Board of Governors was called to order at 8:02 a.m. on Friday, April 10, 2020, by Aja Senestraro, DVM, Vice Chair. The meeting was held via conference call.

Board Members

Present: Aja Senestraro, DVM, Vice Chair
Kim Morgan, LVT
Dordor Vang, DVM, MPH
Sue Moriyasu, DVM
Becky Knoke, Public member

Board Members

Absent: Liz Davies, DVM
Kirk Breuninger, VMD, MPH, DACVPM, Chair

Department of

Health (DOH) Staff Present: Brad Burnham, Executive Director
Lisa Kelley, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)
Loralei Walker, Program Manager
Sarah Beckham, Program Support
Jeff Wise, Policy Analyst
Sara Kirschenman, Staff Attorney
Tanya Mills, Credentialing office

Guests Present:

Candace Joy, WSVMA
Karen Norton, WSAVT
Teresa Stefan, WSAVT
Benita Altier, WSAVT
Ashley Burn, LVT, WSAVT
Paul Carkeek

Open Session

Call to Order and Introductions – Aja Senestraro, DVM, Vice Chair

Dr. Senestraro called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Dr. Senestraro took roll call and outlined the topics to be discussed during today's meeting. Not all attendees may be listed above.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Kim Morgan, LVT, made a motion to accept the agenda for this meeting. Becky Knoke, public member, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Business

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

The board heard comments from the general public on issues relating to COVID-19 in relation to the veterinarian profession.

A question was asked about when elective procedures may start. Lorelei Walker mentioned there is no definitive answer from the governors' office yet. There is a press conference scheduled for this afternoon which may answer this question.

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

The board discussed the policy issues regarding COVID-19 and could possibly adopt policies, conduct rulemaking, or otherwise act in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. If time allows, the board may accept comments from the audience on the issues discussed.

- **Review of continuing work from past meetings**

- Update on policy statements

Brad Burnham said the draft policies for continuing education and veterinary-client-patient relationship are being reviewed. DOH staff have been working diligently to get them reviewed and approved. No specific timeline but will be pushed through DOH process as quickly as possible

- Options for graduating students

Brad Burnham was able to contact WSU and they are on their usual schedule regarding graduation and transcripts. They have not changed their processes due to COVID19. In early May students will graduate and transcripts will be available mid-May. Status of externships did not change because they were not students anymore; they ended because of stay home, stay healthy proclamation.

The board decided no action is needed at this time since transcripts will be coming.

- Dispensation of prescriptions

The board discussed supervision by a veterinarian for veterinary medication clerk (VMC) in relation to dispensing medications. Possible solutions to the requirement of prescriptions being reviewed by a veterinarian were discussed. The board agreed this is more of a long term issue not just for the current health crisis and should be put on the agenda at the regular board meeting. This issue will be added to the agenda for the regular board meeting on June 1.

- **COVID-19 transmission between people and companion animals**

Paul Carkeek talked about health of pets and safety of owners and if the board is aware of any transmission of COVID-19 between animals and humans. He is concerned about the recent closure of some meat packing plants. Dr. Senestraro said the board is following CDC guidelines and urging licensees to do the same. Food regulation is governed by USDA and the Washington State Department of Agriculture. There is no action for the board to be able to take right now and the board will continue to keep up to date with guidelines from CDC.

- **Other COVID-19 related issues**

No other issues were discussed.

4. **Future Meetings (Discussion/Action)**

The board discussed the need for another special meeting before the next scheduled business meeting and whether to change the June 1 business meeting to a teleconference meeting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The board decided to have another special COVID-19 meeting in two weeks on Friday, May 15, 2020, at 8:00 a.m.

Brad Burnham said the Department of Health is requiring all board/commission/committee meetings be held by teleconference for the near future. Kim Morgan, LVT, made a motion to change the June 1 regular board meeting to be by phone/teleconference. Dr. Vang seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. **Agenda Development (Discussion/Action)**

The board identified possible agenda items for the next special meeting on May 15, 2020.

- Update on policy statements

Adjournment of Open Session

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

- The next Veterinary Board of Governors special COVID-19 meeting will be on Friday, May 15, 2020, at 8:00 a.m.