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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

**F I N A L M I N U T E S**

MEETING OF:

**STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

Held at

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

2525 North 7th Street

CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

**VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

September 5, 2025

1                   State Board of Veterinary Medicine  
2                                   September 5, 2025

3  
4 BOARD MEMBERS:

5  
6 Apryle Horbal, V.M.D., Chair  
7 Matthew Eaton, Deputy Commissioner Designee for Arion  
8       Claggett, Bureau of Professional and Occupational  
9       Affairs  
10 Joseph S. Bender V.M.D.  
11 Anjilla Cooley, D.V.M.  
12 Clement George, Public Member  
13 Valerie Kehoe, C.V.T.  
14 Hilary Vesell, Esquire, Public Member

15  
16  
17 BUREAU PERSONNEL:

18  
19 Ashley Keefer, Esquire, Board Counsel  
20 Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel  
21 Paul Jarabeck, Esquire, Senior Prosecutor  
22 Shana Walker, Deputy Chief Counsel of the Prosecution  
23       Division  
24 Denice Szekely, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison  
25 Gregory S. Liero, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison  
26 Sarah Buhite, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison  
27 Dana Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel  
28 Thomas Leech II, Esquire, Administrative Officer  
29 Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director, Office  
30       of Policy, Department of State  
31 Michelle Roberts, Board Administrator

32  
33  
34 ALSO PRESENT:

35  
36 Patty Mackavage, Esquire, Milliron & Goodman  
37 Susan Lloyd  
38 Paul Jarvis  
39 Joseph Breymeier, Esquire, Naulty, Scaricamazza, &  
40       McDevitt, LLC  
41 Erin Badstuebner, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,  
42       Inc.

1 \*\*\*

2 State Board of Veterinary Medicine

3 September 5, 2025

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5 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,  
6 at 9:00 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session  
7 with Ashley Keefer, Esquire, Board Counsel, for the  
8 purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations  
9 and to receive the advice of counsel. The Board  
10 returned to open session at 10:30 a.m.]

11 \*\*\*

12 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State  
13 Board of Veterinary Medicine was held on Friday,  
14 September 5, 2025. Apryle Horbal, V.M.D.,  
15 Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:30  
16 a.m.

17 \*\*\*

18 [Ashley Keefer, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the  
19 Board met in Executive Session for the purpose of  
20 conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on the  
21 matters under the Report of Prosecutors and the  
22 Report of Board Counsel.

23 Ms. Keefer noted the meeting was being recorded,  
24 and those who continued to participate were giving  
25 their consent to be recorded.

1

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2 Roll Call

3 [Apryle Horbal, V.M.D., Board Chair, conducted a roll  
4 call of the Board members. A quorum of Board members  
5 was present.]

6

\*\*\*

7 Introduction of Attendees

8 [Michelle Roberts, Board Administrator, provided an  
9 introduction of attendees.]

10

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11 Approval of Minutes of the July 25, 2025 meeting

12 CHAIR HORBAL:

13 Does anyone have any questions,  
14 concerns, comments with the minutes?

15 So would anyone like to make a  
16 motion?

17 MS. VESELL:

18 I'll make the motion.

19 DR. COOLEY:

20 I second.

21 CHAIR HORBAL:

22 Roll call.

23

24 Chair Horbal, aye; Dr. Bender, abstain;

25 Dr. Cooley, aye; Ms. Kehoe, aye; Ms.

1 Vesell, aye; Mr. George, aye; Mr.  
2 Eaton, aye.

3 [The motion carried. Dr. Bender abstained from  
4 voting on the motion.]

5 \*\*\*  
6 Report of Prosecutorial Division

7 [Greg Liero, Esquire, PA Department of State,  
8 presented the Consent Agreement for Item No. 2, Case  
9 Nos. 20-57-003698 and 24-57-014190.]

10 \*\*\*  
11 [Sarah Buhite, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison,  
12 presented on Item No. 3, Case No. 22-57-002134.  
13 Respondent's Attorney, Joseph Breymeier, Esquire, was  
14 also present.]

15 MS. KEEFER:

16 Based on deliberations in Executive  
17 Session, I believe the Chair would  
18 entertain a motion to approve the  
19 Consent Agreements at Item No. 2, Case  
20 Nos. 20-57-003698 and 24-57-014190, as  
21 well as Item No. 3, which is Case No.  
22 22-57-002134.

23 MS. KEHOE:

24 I'll make a motion.

25 DR. COOLEY:

1 I'll second.

2 CHAIR HORBAL:

3 I'll call roll.

4

5 Dr. Bender, abstain; Dr. Cooley, aye;

6 Ms. Kehoe, aye; Ms. Vesell, aye; Mr.

7 George, aye; Mr. Eaton, aye.

8 [The motions carried. Dr. Bender abstained from  
9 voting on the motion. The Respondent's name at Case  
10 Nos. 20-57-003698 and 24-57-014190 is Gregory Paul  
11 Skelton, D.V.M. The Respondent's name at Case No.  
12 22-57-002134 is Stephen Y. Syken, V.M.D.]

13

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14 [Mr. Eaton advised the Board, for the record,  
15 Attorney Dana Archer and Thomas Leech had joined the  
16 meeting. There was one other guest that had joined  
17 the group but would not provide their name.]

18

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19 Appointment - Shana Walter, Deputy Chief Counsel for  
20 Prosecution

21 [Shana Walter, Deputy Chief Counsel for Prosecution,  
22 introduced herself to the Board and the meeting  
23 attendees. She provided a summary of her  
24 professional background and stated she would see  
25 everyone again at the beginning of the year for the

1 annual report of 2025.]

2

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3 Report of Board Counsel - HB1750 and SB950  
4 [Ashley Keefer, Esquire, Board Counsel, provided  
5 information on legislation that could affect  
6 veterinarians. This legislation included House Bill  
7 1750 and Senate Bill 950, both involving the  
8 mishandling of pet remains.

9 This legislation was specifically directed  
10 towards the providers of companion animal cremation  
11 services and any entities that make referrals to  
12 same, including veterinarians. The bill would  
13 require cremation providers to give a clear written  
14 description of their cremation services and inform  
15 pet owners of their rights related to those services.

16 Ms. Keefer stated the bill included a  
17 recordkeeping requirement and would grant the  
18 Attorney General's office enforcement powers under  
19 the unfair trade practices and consumer protection  
20 law. The bill would also authorize the Board to  
21 suspend or revoke a veterinarian's license for  
22 noncompliance with this legislation; however, the  
23 bill was in the amendment process now.

24 Ms. Keefer informed the Board that Counsel for  
25 the Board of Funeral Directors and she were working

1 together and with other agencies in order to ensure  
2 that whatever law may ultimately be passed is the  
3 most workable and helpful version.

4 Dr. Cooley asked why the human side of cremation  
5 and veterinary medicine were both involved in this  
6 process. Ms. Keefer explained that both funeral  
7 directors and veterinarians work with or provide  
8 cremation services for animals, but animal cremation  
9 is not directly regulated by either Board.

10 Ms. Keefer advised that, under the law, if a  
11 licensee were to engage in misconduct and found by  
12 the Attorney General's office to have violated the  
13 law, the Board could pursue disciplinary action  
14 against that licensee.]

15 \*\*\*  
16 Report of Regulatory Counsel - Status of Regulations  
17 [Ashley Keefer, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the  
18 Regulatory Report prepared by Thomas M. Davis,  
19 Esquire, Regulatory Counsel. She stated he was  
20 working on the fee regulation.]

21 \*\*\*  
22 Report of Board Chairperson - No Report

23 \*\*\*  
24 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report

25 \*\*\*

1 Upcoming Meeting Dates

2 [Michelle Roberts, Board Administrator, announced the  
3 upcoming Board meeting dates as follows: November  
4 21, 2025; January 30, 2026; March 27, 2026; May 29,  
5 2026; July 31, 2026; September 25, 2026; and November  
6 20, 2026.]

7

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8 Public Comments

9 [Patty Mackavage, Esquire, informed the Board that  
10 she is working with the Pennsylvania Veterinary  
11 Medical Association (PVMA) on the amendment of HB  
12 1750 that is being drafted to address some of their  
13 concerns.]

14

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15 [Susan Lloyd proceeded to publicly comment about  
16 circumstances related to the death of her dogs. Ms.  
17 Keefer stated that pursuant to the Pennsylvania  
18 Supreme Court decision in Lyness v. State Bd. of  
19 Medicine, 605 A.2d 1204 (Pa. 1992), the Board was  
20 prohibited from commingling the prosecutorial and  
21 adjudicatory functions. Ms. Keefer stated Ms. Lloyd  
22 must refrain from presenting to the Board information  
23 relating to a specific licensee that may be in the  
24 investigatory process and matters which had not yet  
25 come to the Board after formal charges were filed and

1 a hearing held as it would constitute a violation of  
2 the Lyness mandate. Ms. Keefer stated that should  
3 Ms. Lloyd attempt to address matters falling within  
4 that scope, she would be directed to cease  
5 immediately so as to not prejudice the Board from  
6 future deliberations, if necessary. Ms. Keefer asked  
7 Ms. Lloyd if she wanted to remark on matters that did  
8 not fall within the scope Ms. Keefer outlined.

9 Ms. Lloyd stated her case was dismissed, unless  
10 the Board could tell her otherwise.

11 Paul Jarabeck, Esquire, Senior Prosecutor,  
12 explained any case could not be discussed before the  
13 Board due to the prejudice noted by the Lyness  
14 ruling.

15 Ms. Lloyd again stated her case had been  
16 dismissed so it was no longer before the Board,  
17 unless the Board could tell her otherwise. Ms. Lloyd  
18 inquired why a specific veterinarian was permitted to  
19 practice.

20 Mr. Jarabeck objected to Ms. Lloyd's commenting  
21 on somebody in the public based upon a complaint  
22 process.

23 Ms. Lloyd then told the Board that the public  
24 wanted to know why the Board was allowing these  
25 animals to be killed by veterinarians, and nothing

1 was being done with her complaints. She further  
2 claimed the veterinarians that killed her dogs also  
3 falsified medical records.

4 Ms. Keefer advised Ms. Lloyd again that she was  
5 speaking about subject matter that was within the  
6 scope of what could not be discussed in public with  
7 the Board at this juncture. She informed Ms. Lloyd  
8 that her question had already been answered by the  
9 Prosecutorial Division and was being investigated or  
10 already had been investigated.

11 Ms. Lloyd reiterated that her claims were never  
12 investigated properly. She further claimed that she  
13 had expert reports stating that two veterinarians  
14 killed her dogs.

15 Mr. Jarabeck objected again to the line of  
16 questioning by Ms. Lloyd.

17 Ms. Lloyd declared that not allowing the public  
18 to make public comments at a public meeting is a  
19 violation of the Sunshine Law and the First  
20 Amendment. She stated she had a right to make  
21 comments at a public meeting, and everything that  
22 goes on with the Board should be public. She  
23 commented that the secrecy has got to stop.

24 Ms. Keefer asked Ms. Lloyd if she wanted to  
25 remark on matters that did not fall within the scope

1 Ms. Keefer previously outlined.

2 Ms. Lloyd again commented that the public wants  
3 to know why they were allowing veterinarians to kill  
4 animals.

5 Mr. Eaton then advised Ms. Lloyd that her  
6 microphone would be muted, unless she had something  
7 else to discuss.

8 Ms. Lloyd again commented that the public wants  
9 to know why the Board is allowing veterinarians to  
10 kill animals, at which time her microphone was  
11 muted.]

12 \*\*\*

13 CHAIR HORBAL:

14 I will accept a motion to adjourn the  
15 meeting.

16 MS. KEHOE:

17 I make the motion to adjourn.

18 DR. COOLEY:

19 I second the motion.

20 [There being no further business, the State Board of  
21 Veterinary Medicine Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.]

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine Meeting.



Erin Badstuebner,  
Minute Clerk  
Sargent's Court Reporting  
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
REFERENCE INDEX

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TIME	AGENDA
9:00	Executive Session
10:30	Return to Open Session
10:30	Official Call to Order
10:31	Roll Call
10:32	Introduction of Attendees
10:32	Approval of Minutes
10:33	Report of Prosecution
10:42	Appointment
10:43	Report of Board Counsel
10:47	Report of Regulatory Counsel
10:48	Report of Board Administrator
10:50	Public Session
10:54	Adjournment