

MEETING MINUTES MULTIDISCIPLINARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Department of Consumer Affairs
Veterinary Medical Board
1747 N. Market Blvd.
1st Floor Hearing Room
Sacramento, California 95834

10:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 8, 2019

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (Committee) Chair, Dr. Jeff Pollard, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Veterinary Medical Board (Board) Executive Officer, Ms. Jessica Sieferman, called roll; nine members of the Committee were present, and a quorum was established.

2. Committee Chair's Remarks, Committee Member Comments, and Introductions

Dr. Pollard announced that two members' terms expire in June 2020.

Members Present

Jeff Pollard, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), Chair
Kristi Pawlowski, Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT), Vice-Chair
Stuart Eckmann, Public Member
Kevin Lazarcheff, DVM
Jennifer Loreda, RVT, Board Liaison
Leah Shufelt, RVT
Richard Sullivan, DVM
Margaret Warner, DVM
Cheryl Waterhouse, DVM, Board Liaison

Staff Present

Jessica Sieferman, Executive Officer
Moneel Singh, Administrative Program Manager
Robert Stephanopoulos, Enforcement Manager
Tara Welch, Attorney III, Department of Consumer Affairs
Beth Parvin, DVM, Board Consultant and Subject Matter Expert

Guests Present or Appearing by Teleconference

Mark Cushing, Animal Policy Group (APG)
Peter Ellis
Nancy Erhlich, California Registered Veterinary Technicians Association (CaRVTA)
Valerie Fenstermaker, California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)

Shawn Gadsen
Cindy Gonzalez, County of Riverside
Jennifer Hawkins, DVM, Orange County Animal Care
Naomi Kirschenbaum, DVM
Bonnie Lutz, Esq.
Grant Miller, DVM, CVMA
Paula Moore-Smith
Mark Nunez, DVM, Board
John Pascoe, DVM, University of California, Davis (UC Davis)
Anonymous Individuals (2)

3. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

4. Review and Approval of July 16, 2019 Committee Meeting Minutes

The MDC made no changes to the [July 16, 2019](#) meeting minutes.

- Dr. Kevin Lazarcheff moved and Mr. Stuart Eckmann seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried 8-0-1. Ms. Kristi Pawlowski abstained.

5. Discussion and Potential Recommendation on Legislative and Regulatory Proposals Regarding Corporate Practice of Veterinary Medicine

Ms. Kristi Pawlowski asked the public to share any experience, stories, or concerns on how a corporation influenced their practice of veterinary medicine.

Public comments were received describing individual experiences with corporate veterinary premises owners. Some comments expressed no concern with corporate owner involvement in veterinary practice; other comments expressed numerous concerns with corporate owner influence over veterinary practice. Ms. Pawlowski stated the Subcommittee spent several months researching and collecting surveys. Ms. Pawlowski discussed the legislative and regulatory proposal and encouraged stakeholders to participate in finding solutions.

Ms. Bonnie Lutz offered suggested revisions to the legislative and regulatory proposal.

Mr. Mark Cushing argued against the legislative and regulatory proposal, advised the Committee it did not have enough evidence to support the proposal, and warned the Committee against moving the proposal to the Board.

Committee members discussed applying undue influence prohibitions to corporations, small practices, and animal shelters and tightening up premises registration requirements to designate the corporate name.

Ms. Valerie Fenstermaker requested the statutes be clarified to clearly state that a non-veterinarian can own a practice.

Dr. Beth Parvin advised the Board receives complaints about non-core vaccines given to animals routinely by veterinarian assistants without veterinarian review. Licensee managers have to ensure compliance with minimum standards which is made difficult by non-veterinarian owner influence.

The Committee discussed the issues presented regarding corporate practice. Ms. Pawlowski stated the Subcommittee's goals for the next Committee meeting would be to clarify the language to make it clear for veterinary professionals and promote the best interest of consumers and veterinary professionals to ensure the practice of veterinary medicine is not being practiced by a non-veterinary entity. Dr. Richard Sullivan requested staff come up with ideas on how to tighten-up the premises permit as it relates to corporations, including veterinarian owned corporations.

6. Discussion and Potential Recommendation on Guidelines for the Appropriate Administration for Use of Medicinal Cannabis on an Animal Patient

Dr. Margaret Warner summarized the Committee's discussion at the July 2019 meeting regarding guidelines for veterinarian discussion of the use of cannabis on an animal patient and provided a status update of those guidelines. Dr. Warner advised of the Board's direction to the Committee to examine cannabis discussion topics. Dr. Warner and Dr. Pollard discussed the subcommittee's discussion topics and meeting materials. The Committee discussed the issues surrounding cannabis treatment on animals.

Ms. Lutz and Dr. Grant Miller requested the Cannabis Discussion Guidelines be clarified to address industrial hemp.

7. Discussion on Potential Ways Shelters with Limited Resources Can Recruit Veterinarians to Serve as Managing Licensees

Dr. Pollard opened discussion on animal shelters and the need for veterinary resources and asked for any comments or suggestions for rural shelters that are poorly served. The Committee discussed the need for shelter veterinarians and their lack of resources. The Committee received public comment on the problems shelters face in recruiting and retaining veterinarians.

8. Future Agenda Items, Committee Priorities, and Meeting Dates

Ms. Sieferman advised the Board has moved its meetings from Wednesday and Thursday to Thursday and Friday, which will change the Committee meetings from Tuesday to Wednesday. This change will take effect January 2020.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Jennifer Loreda moved and Dr. Sullivan seconded the motion to adjourn.

The Committee adjourned at 2:35 p.m.