



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
PO BOX 45020
NEWARK, NJ 07101

MATTHEW J. PLATKIN
Attorney General

CARI FAIS
Acting Director

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 30, 2024

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT NOTICE

The October 30, 2024 meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners was not at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey, but is being conducted electronically using a remote platform. The requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act were satisfied by transmitting notice of this meeting by mail (and by e-mail) to the Secretary of State, The Press of Atlantic City, Bergen Record, Courier-Post, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, and Asbury Park Press in the Board's written annual notice of its meeting schedule, all on the 1st day of December, 2023 and by posting electronic notice of the meeting on the Board's website on the 1st day of December, 2023. The meeting was held virtually as permitted by the Open Public Meetings Act and began at 10:12 A.M.

I. ROLL CALL

Table with 3 columns: Name, Present, Absent. Rows include Board President Mark Logan, Board Members Barry Adler, Neal Beeber, Donald Bruno, Steven Charnick, and David Croman.

Board Staff Present:

Acting Executive Director, Howard Pine
DCA Staff: Ashlee Lynch, Tiffany Salek
Deputy Attorney General, Barbara Lopez
Deputy Attorney General, James Pham
Deputy Section Chief, Wendy Faulk
Regulatory Analyst, Nicole Parelli
Board Staff, Rhonda Frobose



Court Reporter

Cindy Pineiro, Degnan and Bateman

Members of the Public:

Michael Azzarello, President, New Jersey Veterinary Technician Association

Rebecca Linke

Matthew Edson, Dean of Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine

Megan Williams

Dr. Michael Yurkus

Louis Grasso

JT Gabriel

**II. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES:**

**i. Public Minutes – September 18, 2024**

The Board reviewed the September 18, 2024 public minutes.

On a motion by Dr. Beeber, seconded by Dr. Bruno, the Board approved the September 18, 2024 public minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

**III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**i. Status of Board Operations**

Acting Executive Director, Howard Pine, informed the Board he is actively working on the Board's request to fill the State Member seat that has remained open since 2022.

The Division of Consumer Affairs will begin interviewing in the next two weeks for the position of Executive Director for this Board. Mr. Pine anticipates filling this role within the next several months.

In person meeting update: The Board's request for in person meetings with some hybrid capability can be accommodated with at least two months advance notice.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE:**

**i. 2025 NJ State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners Meeting Dates**

Informational

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

None at this time

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

None at this time

**VII. COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**i. Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine Committee Report**

The committee met on October 18, 2024. The committee discussed options for licensure of veterinarians applying for licensure who have institutional licenses only as well as veterinarians who have graduated from non-accredited veterinary schools but are (American) Board certified with attention to processing applications expeditiously.

At this time, there is no future committee meeting scheduled.

Motion by Dr. Croman, seconded by Dr. Beeber to form a sub-committee of 3 Board members to review applications to be ratified at next available Board meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Application review committee members:

- Dr. Bruno
- Dr. Croman
- Dr. Logan

**VIII. REGULATORY AFFAIRS:**

**i. Bill Comment A4505**  
(Nicole Parelli, Regulatory Analyst)

This Bill codifies certain requirements and stipulations for licensed veterinarians to engage in telemedicine and telehealth.

The Bill takes the subchapter 4A of the Regulations and makes it into a Statute.

The Board discussed the downside of taking subchapter 4A of the Regulations and making it into a Statute which is that as technology evolves, it will be difficult for the Board to revise regulations to keep up with technology which may be needed to protect the consumer.

The Board recommends the NJVMA to take the lead on contacting the legislature.

Motion by Dr. Beeber, seconded by Dr. Bruno, to oppose Bill A4505.

Motion passed unanimously.

**IX. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**i. Vineet Parikh**

Pharmacist Vineet Parikh asks this Board if pharmacists can provide vaccination services, specifically to dogs.

Board members discussed how providing vaccines and the required exam to do so is the practice of veterinary medicine which is restricted to veterinarians. Additional concerns were raised about the health consequences of allowing animals into a pharmacy setting.

Motion by Dr. Beeber, seconded by Dr. Bruno to respond that vaccination of anything other than personally owned pets is considered practice of veterinary medicine in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:16-8.1

Motion approved unanimously.

**X. ORDERS:**

- i. Alia Muslih – Consent Order**
- ii. Jessica Portela – Consent Order**
- iii. Traci Vogler – Final Order of Discipline**

All items under this section taken as Informational

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- i. Dr. Michael Yurkus** – New Hampshire has passed a new bill that will permit the New Hampshire Board of Veterinary Medicine to grant conditional temporary licenses to applicants that meet certain requirements. He is inquiring if the New Jersey Board would consider this type of license.

The Board replied that they would want to look at this bill and discuss the details and provisions of this type of license.

Dr. Yurkus will bring the New Hampshire bill to the next Board meeting.

## XII. PUBLIC HEARING

### i. Louis Grasso, D.V.M. -

This matter, regarding Dr. Grasso's conduct related to race horse doping, opened on June 10, 2024 by verified complaint motion to proceed summarily regarding Dr. Grasso's conduct related to race horse doping.

Dr. Grasso appeared for this hearing by phone from prison, without council.

Hearing began at 10:52 A.M.

DAG Stacy-Ann Davy provided grounds for discipline and presented an argument in the liability phase then asked the Board to find in favor of the Attorney General.

Exhibits P1, P2, and P3 (Certifications A-I) were moved into evidence without objection from Dr. Grasso.

Dr. Grasso then presented his case regarding liability from 11:10 A.M. until 11:39 A.M.

DAG Davy informed the Board that Dr. Grasso said nothing to rebut the Attorney General's case but, instead, re-litigated his guilt or innocence. Dr. Grasso participated in a scheme involving doping of horses.

Motion by Dr. Bruno, seconded by Dr. Beeber to go into executive session for advice of counsel. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board convened into executive session at 11:12 A.M. and returned back into public session at 12:23 P.M.

Motion by Dr. Beeber, seconded by Dr. Bruno to find the Attorney General has proven grounds for discipline against Dr. Grasso on N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b)(e)(f)

Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Grasso provided a statement.

DAG Davy recommended revocation of Dr. Grasso's license for five years suspended to include costs. DAG introduced P4 – Certification of Costs. Dr. Grasso said that he's "financially broke".

Motion by Dr. Bruno, seconded by Dr. Beeber to return to executive session for advice of counsel. Motion passed unanimously.

After a review of the evidence the Board finds the following discipline is warranted:

- 10 year active suspension
- \$2,000.00 civil penalty

Motion by Dr. Beeber, seconded by Dr. Bruno, to determine a 10 year active suspension with \$2,000.00 civil penalty.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hearing concluded at 12:58 P.M.

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

The public portion of the meeting concluded at 12:58 P.M.

Dr. Beeber made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bruno, for the Board to go into executive session to discuss matters exempt from the open public meetings act pursuant to N.J.S.A 10:4-12(b). The Board does not anticipate taking any public action today. The Board will not be returning to public session today. The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

Motion passed unanimously