

# **New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners**

## **Public Session Minutes**

March 27, 2002

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

This scheduled meeting of the Board was called to order at 9:31 a.m. in the Somerset Conference Room, 6th floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

### **B. ROLL CALL**

The following Board Members were present for this meeting:

Board President John G. De Vries, DVM  
Board Vice President Neal L. Beeber, DVM  
Board Member Mark W. Logan, VMD  
Board Member David A. Meirs, VMD  
Board Member Alfred R. Scerni, Jr., Esq. from Item D. Regulations  
Board Member Carolyn Self, DVM  
Board Member Ernest Zirkle, DVM

#### **Absent:**

Board Member Robert Tartaglia

#### **Staff present:**

Executive Director Diane I. Romano  
Deputy Attorney General Olga Bradford  
Isaura Roman, Principal Clerk  
Susan Flores, Secretary to the Executive Director

#### **Public present:**

Dr. Ilija Mitrovic  
Deborah Holzman, Esq.

A quorum was present for the entire meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. DeVries.

In accordance with Chapter 231 of P.L. 1975, more commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing to the Office of the Secretary of State, the Star Ledger, the Trenton Times, the Bergen Record and the Courier Post.

### **C. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES**

On a motion of Dr. Self, seconded by Dr. Beeber and unanimous vote of the Board, the February 27, 2002 public session Minutes were approved as submitted.

### **D. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY**

The following bill has been introduced:

**1. S-1197 - provides for notification to health care licensing boards when health care practitioner is suspected of injuring a patient or suspected of other wrongdoing**

The Board reviewed this bill and on a motion of Dr. Meirs, seconded by Dr. Zirkle and unanimous vote, determined to request more information on this piece of legislation, specifically how it applies to veterinarians.

The Division requested the Board's analysis of the following bill:

**1. A-1970/S1224 - provides for fingerprinting and criminal history checks of applicants and licensees**

On a motion of Dr. Beeber, seconded by Dr. Zirkle and unanimous vote, the Board took no position.

Mrs. Romano announced that **S-547, the revised veterinary practice act**, has been withdrawn.

She also advised that **A-656, which allows veterinary students to take the licensing exam in their senior year**, has passed both houses and is on the Governor's desk for signature.

**Regulations:**

1. Regulatory Analyst Chuck Manning reviewed a **petition for amendment** of the Board's regulations with the Board. On a motion of Dr. Beeber and unanimous vote, the Board determined to leave the word "chiropractic" in the regulations.

2. Mr. Manning also discussed the Board's previous request for a new regulation concerning delegation of authority and responsibility of veterinarians. He will do some more research on the responsibility aspect, but the Board agreed with dropping the delegation aspect.

**E. ADMINISTRATIVE**

**1. Division of Law billing**

The Board accepted the Division of Law billing statement for the period 10/1/01 through 12/31/01.

**2. NAVLE results**

The Board discussed staff's report on NAVLE results of candidates taking the exam through New Jersey. Dr. Self advised that she has spoken with officials at Tuskegee University regarding the low performance scores of their students.

**F. CREDENTIALING**

**1. Kevin P. Byrne, DVM, ACVD**

On a motion of Mr. Scerni, seconded by Dr. Self and unanimous vote, Dr. Byrne was approved to sit for the jurisprudence examination.

**2. Paul J. Savarese, DVM**

On a motion of Mr. Scerni, seconded by Dr. Beeber and unanimous vote, Dr. Savarese was approved to sit for the jurisprudence examination.

### **3. Margaret Fordham, DVM**

On a motion of Mr. Scerni, seconded by Dr. Zirkle and unanimous vote, Dr. Fordham was approved to sit for the jurisprudence examination.

### **4. David Samuels, VMD**

On a motion of Mr. Scerni, seconded by Dr. Beeber and unanimous vote, Dr. Samuels was approved to sit for the jurisprudence examination.

### **5. Ilija Mitrovic, DVM - candidate for practical examination**

Dr. Mitrovic requested that the Board waive the requirement that we receive an original transcript from his school. Dr. Mitrovic and his attorney appeared before the Board in support of his request. On a motion of Dr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Scerni and unanimous vote, the Board waived the requirement for an original school transcript from Sarajevo.

### **6. Cindy Marie Weagley, DVM**

On a motion of Mr. Scerni, seconded by Dr. Zirkle and unanimous vote, Dr. Weagley was approved to sit for the jurisprudence examination.

### **7. Susan E. Fyfe, DVM**

On a motion of Mr. Scerni, seconded by Dr. Beeber and unanimous vote, Dr. Fyfe was approved to sit for the jurisprudence examination.

## **G. FINAL ORDERS/CONSENT ORDERS**

### **1. Gerald M. Buchoff, BVSc**

A Consent Order was filed incorporating repeated acts of gross negligence, gross malpractice, gross incompetence, professional misconduct, patient records violations and professional misconduct by employing two unlicensed persons as assistant veterinarians. Dr. Buchoff's license was immediately suspended for 2 years, the entirety of which is stayed and served as a period of probation; he was assessed a fine in the amount of \$15,000 and costs of \$7,766.41. Fines and costs have been paid. This file is now closed.

## **H. MISCELLANEOUS**

(none)

## **I. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

The Board discussed new and pending consumer complaints and investigations in executive session and returned to open session to record their votes for those matters resulting in disciplinary action:

### **1. File #01-105 - Debra Miller, DVM**

Dr. Logan recused himself from discussion and vote on this matter. On a motion of Dr. Beeber, seconded by Dr. Self and unanimous vote, the Board determined to fine Dr. Miller \$500 for her refusal to release patient records in the face of an emergency situation.

## **J. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is April 24, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. in the Somerset Conference Room, 6th floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

## **K. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board unanimously moved to executive session to hold an investigative inquiry and to consider new consumer complaints and new and pending disciplinary matters.

## **L. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting of the Board was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANE I. ROMANO  
Executive Director

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