



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102



ROBERT LOUGY
Acting Attorney General

STEVE C. LEE
Acting Director

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 45020
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6500

VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS APRIL 13, 2016 SUSSEX ROOM PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

This scheduled meeting of the Board will be called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Hudson Conference Room 6th Floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Board President Logan	(X)	()
Board Member Adler	(X)	()
Board Member Charnick	(X)	()
Board Member Croman	(X)	()
Board Member Gardner	(X)	()
Board Member Tamassia	(X)	()
Board Member Thornton	(X)	()
Deputy Attorney General Oo	(X)	()
Executive Director Eisenmenger	(X)	()

Announcement of quorum.

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 Newark, Star Ledger, the Trenton Times, the Bergen Record. Atlantic City Press and the Courier Post .

B. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

February 24, 2016 Public Minutes

On a motion by Dr. Gardner, seconded by Ms. Thornton the Board approved the minutes as amended.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing considered.

D. OLD BUSINESS

Nothing considered.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Inquiry from Red Bank Veterinary Hospital concerning implementation of an open heart surgery program.

On a motion by Dr. Gardner, seconded by Ms. Thornton, the Board offered its approval, conditioned on the understanding that Dr. Uechi will be a consultant pursuant to **N.J.S.A.** 45:16-8.1, and will abide by the statutes and regulations that govern the practice of veterinary medicine of the State Board of New Jersey, and that his role will be providing consultation services only, and shall not perform any veterinarian duties as defined in **N.J.S.A.** 45:16-8.1 and **N.J.A.C.** 13:44-3.1 during the pendency of the consultation agreement with Red Bank Veterinary Hospital.

F. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

1. A-3153 - Bill revising animal cruelty offenses involving neglect/abuse
2. A-3154 - Bill establishing cruelly restraining a dog as a criminal and civil animal cruelty offense
3. A-3155 - Bill establishing minimum criminal penalties for animal cruelty offenses
4. A-3159 - Bill permitting municipalities to contract with animal and humane societies which engage in animal foster care
5. A-3161 - Bill revising animal cruelty offenses, increasing and establishing penalties
6. A-3162 - Bill revises animal cruelty offenses involving neglect, care and euthanasia of impounded animals
7. A-3164 - Bill revises animal cruelty offenses and penalties concerning animal abandonment and failure to report injuring animals with a motor vehicle

The Board reviewed the first seven bills as a group, because they appear to be re-filed from previous attempts to re-work the animal cruelty laws. It appears that each of these bills is addressing an individual piece of the existing law. On a motion by Dr. Adler, seconded by Dr. Charnick, the Board suggests that a more effective means of accomplishing this purpose would be to approach the animal cruelty statute with a comprehensive framework to update and improve it.

8. S-63 - Prohibits sight-unseen sale of cats and dogs; requires pet shops to sell cats and dogs only from specified sources; repeals "Pet Purchase Protection Act". On a motion by Dr. Croman, seconded by Dr. Charnick, the Board opposed this legislation as it would eliminate the "Pet Lemon Law" that currently exists, and would not close the existing loophole for the sale of animals from "shelters" that are affiliated with pet stores, and it does not hold shelters to the same standards as other locations that sell and adopt animals. The Board does support the provision for the elimination of internet sale of animals. The Board also notes that the Division of Consumer Affairs has recently updated the consumer protection act, including the "Lemon Law" provision, and the Office of Consumer Protection has been very active in investigating and prosecuting pet shops that are found to be in violation. The vote of the Board was 6-0 with Dr. Tamassia abstaining.

The Board is also interested in speaking with Cynthia Miller, Deputy Director of DCA, to discuss the matter of pet adoptions from shelters that are affiliated with pet stores.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE

Nothing considered.

H. CREDENTIALING

1. Dr. Boaz Levitin - Dr. Levitin has been licensed in New York since 2008. The Board determined that he may proceed with the online jurisprudence orientation program, and may be issued a license after successfully completing all of the requirements.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

1. NBVME - Request for nominations for the exam development advisory board
2. NBVME - Quarterly Newsletter
3. AAVSB - Call for Resolutions

These matters were received as informational.

J. PUBLIC ACTION FILED BY THE BOARD

K. MISCELLANEOUS

The executive director reported that he has been in touch with both the AAVSB and the NBVME about scheduling visits from representatives of these organizations at upcoming meetings. Mr. Eisenmenger reported that representatives of the AAVSB will be attending the public session on June 29, 2016, and representatives of the NBVME may be with us in the Fall.

L. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2016.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board will convene in executive session to hold investigative inquiries and to consider new and pending consumer complaints and disciplinary matters. Immediately subsequent to executive session the Board will return to open session to vote on those matters resulting in disciplinary action.

N. ADJOURNMENT