

**Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board**

**December 3, 2001**

**Portland, Oregon**

**FINAL MINUTES**

Present: Jo Ann Dewey (Chair)  
Drs. Bob Anderson, Jonathan Betts, Emilio DeBess, Martha DeWees, Leon Pielstick  
Lori Makinen, Executive Officer  
Michael Zagyva, Investigator  
Carol Parks, Assistant Attorney General

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. The agenda was adopted as amended. September meeting minutes were approved as read.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Board attorney Carol Parks clarified for the Board that the title D.V.M. may be used by a veterinarian whose license has been revoked. She recommended the Board consider a statutory amendment limiting the use of the D.V.M. title to individuals licensed by the Board. Ms. Parks clarified the definition of 'practice' generally to mean accounts, records, equipment and skills; but not a veterinary facility.

Concerning veterinary pathologists, Ms. Parks interpreted the reading of slides to constitute the practice of veterinary medicine. The Board will consider the feasibility of a statutory amendment permitting limited licensure for board certified veterinary pathologists as well as radiologists.

Executive Director Lori Makinen reported that veterinarian and veterinary technician license renewals have been mailed to licensees. This year's renewal form includes a questionnaire concerning racial/ethnic and bilingual information, pursuant to Senate Bill 786. Ms. Makinen updated the Board on its obligations under this legislation, which include collecting racial/ethnic and bilingual information, making efforts to recruit racial and ethnic minorities and bilingual persons into the veterinary professions, and providing a report to the 2003-05 Legislature.

Supplements to the Juris Prudence exam on tansy ragwort, provided by Dr. Betts, and salmon poisoning, provided by Dr. DeWees were submitted. Final form and questions will be presented by staff for Board approval at the February meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Board welcomed new member Dr. Leon Pielstick of Harney County Veterinary Clinic in Burns. Dr. Pielstick's appointment was confirmed by the Senate on December 1, 2001 for a four-year term. At its December meeting, the Senate Rules and Executive Appointments subcommittee declined to hear the public member nomination, and requested withdrawal of that nomination and presentation of another nominee. The next hearing date is in January.

The Board directed attorney Carol Parks to research whether the Board can limit the number of

times an applicant may sit for the NAVLE and report back at the February meeting.

Dr. Andrew Clark, state veterinarian with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, gave the Board an update on the requirements, training and function of deputy state veterinarians. Dr. Clark discussed deputy state veterinarians' authority to quarantine and to issue certificates of veterinary inspection and import permits. Surveillance of imported animals is being upgraded, Dr. Clark reported, within constraints of legal authority, personnel and budget.

## **COMPLAINTS**

2001-22—Informal conference conducted. The Board considered the veterinarian's conduct to be a potential violation of the Practice Act; however, in lieu of issuing a notice of proposed discipline, the Board has proposed that this licensee obtain additional education and training in the deficient subject area within one year and report back to the Board on increased knowledge and perspective on the case. Matter pending.

2001-23—Informal conference conducted. Complaint alleged that a dog's serious condition was inadequately diagnosed and additional diagnostics were not offered. The dog was released to the owners, who took it to a second veterinarian who diagnosed internal injuries as a possible result of being hit by a car. The dog died before surgery commenced. The initial treating veterinarian was performing in a relief capacity at the clinic and felt constrained by clinic policies aimed at limiting costly diagnostics; additionally, clients were insistent that the dog had not been exposed to risk prior to showing signs of being 'upset.' The Board will issue a letter of concern to this licensee recommending additional training and education in emergency and critical care veterinary medicine. The Board also will recommend to the clinic owner that relief veterinarians hired to work in emergency situations be adequately qualified. Dr. DeWees moved, Dr. Betts seconded, Dr. Pielstick abstained and the Board voted to find no violation of the Practice Act.

2001-29—Complaint alleged unsanitary facility conditions. Board investigator returned to clinic for followup inspection; found some improvement. The Board directed the investigator to make and document a final inspection and report findings at the February meeting.

2001-38—Investigation pending.

2001-41—Dr. Pielstick moved, Dr. Anderson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to issue a Final Order by Default with a fine of \$500 plus administrative costs to Dr. Shauna Alt for violation of the Veterinary Practice Act, OAR 875-010-0060(8).

2001-0044—Complaint alleged that the veterinarian left a broken-off swab tip in a cat's trachea following anesthesia and dental work. Examination of the records indicated that the client had refused Ketamine, and following induction with Isoflurane, two technicians attempted to anesthetize the cat's larynx and insert a flexible endotracheal tube. The effort was unsuccessful due to the cat's unexpected consciousness. A second attempt also failed; the technician noticed that a swab had broken, but the other end of the swab was not found. The veterinarian did not at that time believe that the swab tip had lodged in the cat's larynx. When the cat finally was induced with Telazol, there were no signs of laryngeal abnormalities and the endo tube was successfully inserted. The following day, another veterinarian took radiographs, which revealed

the presence of the swab tip in the cat's larynx. The initial treating veterinarian admitted to the error, waived all costs, and paid the client's additional emergency care costs. Dr. DeWees moved, Dr. Pielstick seconded and the Board voted unanimously to find no violation of the Veterinary Practice Act.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm.

Next meeting: February 3-4, 2001 in Portland.