Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes for April 30th, 2026

Meet by Google Meets 10:30 AM

Joint Meeting

Board Members: Dr. Christine Calvert, President; Ms. Patricia Quimby, Vice-President; Ms. Lynne Chaput; Dr. Monica Maa; Dr. Peter Radue; Dr. Heidi Schmechel; Dr. Justin Sobota.
Staff: Nathaniel Boan, Executive Director; Susan Husk, Assistant Director; Cindy Spirt, Assistant Attorney General; Tonya Kendrick-Green, Licensing Administrator; Britney Branch, Office Administrator; Pegeen Morgan, Inspector; Sarah Hultz, Investigator

Open Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:
Dr. Calvert called the meeting to order at 10:37am.

Approval of the Minutes:
In a motion by Dr. Radue, and seconded by Dr. Maa, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 2nd, 2026 Board Meeting.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals:
In a motion by Dr. Schmechel and seconded by Dr. Maa, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following applications:

Veterinarians Approved by Designated Authority:

- A. Buist
- M. Jarrett
- S. Pritchett
- S. Adelman
- A. Holstein
- M. McIlwain
- K. Singleton
- K. Mulka

Veterinarian(s) reviewed by the Board:

- Dr. Michael Bencinvenga
    - Government work while licensed in Missouri.
    - References having done surgery and preventative care in the course of his work.

Veterinary Technicians Approved by Designated Authority:

- M. Fitzgerald
- K. Gaul
- L. Reesman
- M. Schaeffer
- J. Evans
- A. McKenna
- J. Fleeger
- C. Wilson
- S. Haugh
- A. Bostic
- A. Buckley
- G. Gregory
- C. Delaney

Veterinary Technician reviewed by the Board:

- Christine Weaver -
    - Has maintained a license in Virginia. Has been working in a clinical setting and maintained the tech specialty.

Update on past approval:

- Dr. Aubrey Sullivan -
    - Investigation in Virginia has been closed without action.

Sanitation Reports:
Inspector Pegeen Morgan presented the hospital inspection report from April 2026 and Inspector Ellen James presented the hospital inspection reports from February, March and April 2026.
In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board voted unanimously to accept the reports as presented.

CE Approval Requests:
In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Sobota, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following Continuing Education Courses to be used in Maryland renewals:

- #899 Paws & Pulse: Essential Vitals and First Aid for Dogs and Cats
    - Matthew Moore - Veterinary Referral Associates
    - 1 Credit Hour
    - Clinical/Scientific
    - RVTs
- #900 Update on Feline Hyperthyroidism: 10 Years of treating Hyperthyroid cats at Veterinary Referral Associates
    - Matthew Moore - Veterinary Referral Associates
    - 1 Credit Hour
    - Clinical/Scientific
    - Both Vets and Techs
- #901 Lumbosacral Disease in Dogs: Clinical Presentation, Diagnosis, and treatment options.
    - Matthew Moore - Veterinary Referral Associates
    - 1 Credit Hour
    - Clinical/Scientific
    - Both Vets and Techs
- #902 Advancements in Small Animal Biliary Surgery
    - Matthew Moore - Veterinary Referral Associates
    - 1 Credit Hour
    - Clinical/Scientific
    - Both Vets and Techs
- #903 Arthritis is not just an old dog disease: Practical Diagnosis and IA Treatment
    - Matthew Moore - Veterinary Referral Associates
    - 1 Credit Hour
    - Clinical/Scientific
    - Both Vets and Techs
- #904 The Impact of Elbow Disease on Biomechanics
    - Matthew Moore - Veterinary Referral Associates
    - 1 Credit Hour
    - Clinical/Scientific
    - Both Vets and Techs

Disciplinary Actions from Other Jurisdictions:

- Dr. Elton Vyfhuis
    - The Board reviewed a disciplinary action from Virginia involving Dr. Vyfhuis.
    - No additional action is needed in Maryland.

Disciplinary Action since April 2nd, 2026

- Docket No. 24-05A: SBVME / Dr. John T. Fox, Western Maryland Animal Hospital

    - Professional Judgment and Record Keeping 4/21/2026.
- Docket No. 24-74: AJ Lee / Dr. Mark Liberto, Lake Forest Animal Hospital
    - Substandard Care and Record Keeping 4/26/26.
- Docket No. 26-050: Dr. Rick Jenkins, Pineview Veterinary Hospital
    - Expired Medications CPFO signed 4/8/2026.
- Docket No. 26-051: Dr. Margaret Hoffecker, Shawsville Veterinary Hospital & Pet Care Center
    - Expired Meds/Administering Expired Meds signed 4/27/26.

Miscellaneous:

- **Vet Tech Committee Updates:**
    - Terri Purkey has resigned from the committee due to scheduling conflicts. Need 1 Vet or Vet Tech to be appointed to the committee.
        - The Board would like to send out the application again.
    - Recommendations for updates to the regulations for licensing requirements.
        - The Board reviewed the recommendations for updates to the requirements to Veterinary Technician applications. These included updates to the wording of the alternative pathway to allow for equivalency determinations, and updates to the endorsement pathways to allow for similar experience requirements to that of veterinarians (ie. substituting some CE for 2 of the last 5 years in practice, and military/government service allowances) and extending the VTNE score allowance to 7 years from the current 5 for the standard/education pathway.
        - Regulation updates are still being drafted.
- **Newsletter topics to be drafted soon.**
    - Common issues that lead to discipline in cases.
    - Some updated guidance from legislation this year to be discussed at the May meeting.

In a motion by Dr. Sobota, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session to perform administrative functions outside the scope of the Open Meetings Act, in accordance with § 3-103(a)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article. The administrative functions to be performed include discussion of the specific matters identified on the Board Agenda. In the alternative, I move to close the meeting pursuant to the following Section 3-305(b):

(7) To obtain advice of counsel;

(8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;

(12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;" and

(13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

Following a unanimous vote, at 11:31am, the Joint Open Session of the SBVME was closed to perform administrative functions outside the scope of the Open Meetings Act, in accordance with §3-103(a)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article. The meeting took place in person at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the following were present:

Dr. Christine Calvert, President; Ms. Patricia Quimby, Vice-President; Ms. Lynne Chaput; Dr. Monica Ma; Dr. Peter Radue; Dr. Heidi Schmechel; Dr. Justin Sobota.

The following members were not present:
In addition, the following staff and legal representatives were also present during the closed meeting:

Nathaniel Boan, Executive Director; Susan Husk, Assistant Director; Cynthia Spirt, Assistant Attorney General; Tonya Kendrick-Green, Licensing Administrator; Britney Branch, Office Administrator; Pegeen Morgan, Inspector; Sarah Hultz, Investigator.

During the administrative session, the SBVME discussed confidential disciplinary matters currently pending before the Board, as identified in the non-public agenda. No other topics were discussed.
The administrative session was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.