

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes for August 27th, 2026

Meet by Google Meets at 10:30 AM

Joint Meeting Minutes

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

Staff: Nathaniel Boan, Executive Director; Susan Husk, Assistant Director; Cindy Spirt, Assistant Attorney General; Sarah Hultz, Investigator; Tonya Kendrick-Green, Licensing Administrator; Britney Brach, Office Administrator

Open Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

Dr. Calvert called the meeting to order at 10:41 am. _

Approval of the Minutes:

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Sobota, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 23rd, 2026 Board meeting.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals:

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following applications:

- Applications reviewed by the Board:
 - Dr. Natasha Jones:
 - Disciplinary Action Tennessee - Substance abuse.
 - Completed a 5 year program.
 - Nathan to send email commending completion of program and provide information for support available in Maryland (MPHP).
 - Dr. Jeremy Shapero - SCRA Applicant.
 - Disciplinary Action in Arizona RE: Client communications about comorbidities, prognosis, and potential risks of surgery.
 - Nathan to send information that the Board may use this order when considering a future complaint and appropriate penalties.
- Applications approved by designated authority:
 - Veterinarians:

▪ H. Song	▪ A. Korolik
▪ D. Simmons	▪ K. Fodor
▪ A. Beeney	▪ V. Silvia
▪ A. Cabrera	▪ S. Lambert
▪ S. Daye	▪ E. Martin
▪ K. Ratcliff	▪ L. Grossnickle
▪ J. Stevens	▪ A. Yates
▪ K. Hartman	▪ R. Zimmerly
▪ M. Budamkayala	▪ M. Nakata
▪ D. Haas	▪ S. Urban
▪ A. Reilly	▪ S. Brown

- E. Greene
- A. Thay
- C. Williford
- A. Terefe
- Veterinary Technicians
 - S. Vannoy
 - A. Schlotterbeck
 - J. Canby
 - R. Aten
 - M. Chicherio
 - N. Somers
 - P. Vacek
 - A. Garcia
 - C. Bednarowski
 - S. Presley-Kasmani
 - M. Standiford
 - T. Pinsky
- B. Cheesman
- D. Hanf
- K. Christofferson
- J. Levy
- K. Major
- A. Emmel
- M. Brunet
- A. Wolfe
- B. Becker
- C. Cropper
- A. Killian
- A. Sherwood
- N. Quinones
- D. Firlie
- S. Dahl

Sanitation Reports:

- The Board reviewed and approved a letter to Dr. Kiel regarding the hospital's limited hours.
 - The facility must be secured and the Boarding staff must not have access to the hospital areas. They may not fill prescriptions and he should store controlled substances off site.
- Due to scheduling conflict with the Maryland Horse Industry Board meeting, the sanitation reports will be done in September.

CE Approval Requests:

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Sobota, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following continuing education request:

- 920 - Veterinary Neurology Emergencies and Conditions Requiring Urgent Attention
 - Dr. John McDonnell
 - Clinical/Scientific
 - Vets & Techs
 - 2 Credits
- 921 - European Congress of Veterinary Pathology and Clinical Pathology 2026
 - Dr. Christine Christensen
 - Clinical/Scientific
 - Vets
 - 20 Credits

Miscellaneous:

- **Guidance Documents:**
 - The Board reviewed and approved a draft guidance to be sent to all veterinarians regarding the implementation of SB54/HB452/Chapter 48.
 - The Board reviewed and approved a shortened version of the guidance sent to Dr. Bowersett regarding the duties of Responsible Veterinarians for hospitals.
 - The Board would like this to be modified to be a broader audience and sent as guidance and consider including with the Responsible Veterinarian acceptance affidavit.
- **Inquiries:**

- **Natalie Cummings - A Home of Their Own.**
 - The Board reviewed an inquiry regarding volunteers administering FVRCP vaccines to foster owned animals.
 - Generally, shelters and rescues are able to develop SOPs in coordination with a veterinarian to provide safe and competent care for the animals owned by the rescue. SOPs may include FVRCP vaccine schedules, but should include guidelines for determining if it is safe to administer (including age and general health of the patient), and what to do, who to contact in case of an emergency (such as a vaccine reaction). This does not include Rabies Vaccine administration unless allowed under an Animal Control Facility License. This can not be done to animals owned by employees, volunteers, or fosters, and animals can not be surrendered to a rescue to bypass this requirement.
- **Ryan Frazier, LVT(Washington State) - Inquiry about acupuncture and supervision.**
 - The Board reviewed an inquiry regarding acupuncture and if RVTs may perform it under the supervision of a Veterinarian.
 - §2-301(g)(11) provides the requirements for performing acupuncture by non-veterinarians.
- **Jennifer Zahn, Airpark Animal Hospital**
 - The Board reviewed an inquiry regarding RVTs at the hospital providing ultrasound services at the hospital without the veterinarians at the hospital establishing a VCPR and doing under supervision of the referring veterinarian (including sedation protocol).
 - This would not be permitted.
 - The Hospital needs to establish a VCPR with the patient and provide a written estimate with a diagnostic and treatment plan before hospitalization (by definition includes confinement for diagnostics). The RVT needs to be under the supervision of a veterinarian at the hospital.
 - A veterinarian at another hospital can not provide a prescription for medications to use at another hospital under another practitioner's license.
 - Copy the RV on the communication response.
- **Dr. James Casey - Equine Dentistry**
 - The Board reviewed an inquiry that was submitted to the large animal practitioner board members (Dr. Radue and Dr. Sobota) regarding equine dentistry and concerns that the existing statutes are outdated.
 - Other jurisdictions (VA) have implemented a Registration of lay dental technicians with the veterinary board.
 - Has worked reasonably well but some have refused to comply.
 - Issues with doing extractions would be prohibited under current law.
 - We have not seen complaints nor heard of specific instances of harm.
 - Some of the responsibility may come from veterinary practitioners providing sedation medications to owners enabling these practices.

- The majority of lay practitioners use power tools now which was not the case when the statute was written.
- The Board would like to thank Dr. Casey for the information and inquiry. They would encourage him to present this to his representatives. If a bill were introduced the Board would review the text and evaluate impacts and may take a stance at that point.

Final Orders since July 23rd, 2026

- Docket No. 25-064: Joseph Atkinson / Dr. Farhan Chaudhry, Animal Medical Center of Bel Air

In a motion by Dr. Calvert, 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 Minutes. 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 11:43pm, 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: None

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; Britney Branch, Office Administrator; 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 12:33 p.m.