



Board of Veterinary Medicine

Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont Secretary of State

89 Main Street, 3rd Floor • Montpelier, VT 05620-3402

<https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/>

Approved Minutes

Thursday, April 8th, 2021

Remote Meeting

a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m., by Dr. Wheeler.

Members Present: J. Drexel Wheeler, DVM, Chair; Paula Yankauskas, VMD, Vice-Chair; Paul Howard, DVM and Jeannette Hogan, Public Member.

OPR Personnel Present: Gabriel Gilman, General Counsel; and Corey Young, Licensing Administrator I.

Guests: Linda Waite-Simpson, and Sara White.

b. Approval of previous minutes: December 10th, 2020

Dr. Howard moved to accept the minutes as provided, Dr. Yankauskas seconded. Motion passed.

c. Discipline: None

d. Discussion:

a. Veterinarian use of Xylazine

- i. At the request of Dr. Joel Russo, the APHIS veterinarian for Vermont, Dr. Wheeler spoke to the board about xylazine and growing concern about diversion. The Board expressed general interest in ensuring veterinarians are aware of those risks and the attendant need to secure supply from abuse. There was no specific request for Board action, and members asked OPR to look further into the matter to see if any act by the Board would be helpful. Mr. Gilman proposed OPR reach out to the Board of Pharmacy and the Department of Public Safety in this regard.

b. Complaint closing letter

- i. Dr. Howard asked that the OPR Enforcement Unit consider terminating use of the following standard language in closing reports for cases in which there has been no finding of misconduct:

"The closure of a complaint does not preclude re-opening and reconsideration of the underlying facts should a pattern of practice violations or administrative deficiencies become apparent from future complaints"

Mr. Gilman agreed to convey this concern to the Enforcement Unit to see if a less ominous alternative might be found.

c. Amendment to Federal PREP Act

- i. Mr. Gilman informed the Board that the United States Department of Health and Human Services had amended its declaration under the federal PREP Act. The declaration preempts state laws to the contrary. It also specifies required training. This may be of interest to the many veterinarians who expressed interest in serving as vaccinators. Those interested in volunteering can sign up with Vermont's Medical Reserve Corps online. OPR is advised that vaccinators are not in short supply yet, but that may change with supply and demand.

d. Legislative/OPR update

- i. Mr. Gilman updated the board on OPR's new implementation of a 3-year endorsement pathway and the Second Chance Determination.
 - 1. 3-year endorsement pathway: An applicant may be licensed on an accelerated basis if actively licensed/certified in good standing in another jurisdiction for three or more years preceding their application.
 - 2. Second Chance Determination: An applicant with past criminal convictions can request that OPR determine, in advance of training or application, if the convictions would affect license eligibility.

A. Adjournment

- a. Ms. Hogan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 a.m. Dr. Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Scheduled Meeting – Thursday, June 10th, 2021
Please check the office [website](#) for updates