

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

July 29, 2026

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson, Joshua Schlote, LVT, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 7343 Husker Circle, Husker Conference Room, Lincoln, NE 68504-9816. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. Board members present and answering roll call were:

Joshua Schlote, LVT, Chairperson
Donovan Hauser, DVM, Vice-Chairperson
Christopher G. Byers, DVM, DACVECC, DACVIM (SAIM), CVJ, Secretary
Marcie Kemnitz, PhD
Logan Donaldson, DVM, DACVIM

Absent: Joshua Schlote, LVT, Chairperson

A quorum being present, the meeting convened. Also present to participate in the meeting: Vonda Apking, Program Manager, Licensure Unit, Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit; Milissa Johnson-Wiles, Assistant Attorney General; Katherine Amyot, DHHS Department Legal; Randy Clark, Alexandria Belcher, Hayle Alvarado and Trevor Klaassen, Investigators, with the Investigation Unit and Tricia Allen, Program Manager with the Investigation Unit.

Schlote announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and posted on the Bulletin Board at the entrance to the Nebraska State Office Building on July 15, 2026.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Department and the Board would like to Welcome Dr. Logan Donaldson as the new member to the Board. We are extremely fortunate that Dr. Donaldson has joined the Board, and we anticipate that his experience and expertise of the Veterinary community will aid in all the considerations that the Board deals with.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Byers moved, seconded by Hauser, to adopt the Agenda. Voting aye: Byers, Donaldson, Hauser, Kemnitz and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kemnitz moved, seconded by Byers, to approve April 29, 2026, minutes as presented. Voting aye: Byers, Hauser, Kemnitz and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Donaldson. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND APPRECIATION FOR RETIRING DVM BOARD MEMBER DR. ELIZABETH FARRINGTON

Joshua Schlote, Chairperson for the Board presented Dr. Farrington with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health "Certificate of Appreciation" Award for her outstanding performance and lasting contributions to the citizens of the State of Nebraska for her service to the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Board from December 30, 2017, to August 21, 2025.

Josh also presented Dr. Farrington with the “Distinguished Award” from the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery representing her eight years of service to the Board of which the last six years she served as the Chairperson for the Board. Dr. Farrington has also served on many committees with the AAVSB (American Association of Veterinary State Boards). She has made significant contributions to the advancement of policy for both veterinarians and veterinary technicians while establishing a high standard of professional licensure oversight and ethical governance.

The last award Josh presented to Dr. Farrington was “Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska” Award from Governor Jim Pillen’s office. As an “Admiral” Dr. Farrington can become a member and join her fellow Admirals in the “Nebraska Admirals Association” to promote the “Good Life” through scholarships and hospitality. For more information on the Association visit: <http://www.nebraskaadmirals.org>

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UPDATES

Roger Dudley, DVM, Nebraska State Veterinarian with the Agriculture Department, was present for discussion with the Board.

New World Screwworm (NWS) – Texas is developing a system to detect NWS and contain if found. The USDA has a NWS site with an interactive map to see by zones.

Theileria – a parasite infecting cattle and other bovines, it is spread by the Asian longhorn tick. Detections have been found in KS, MO and IA but to date, Theileria has not been found in Nebraska.

Tuberculosis – detection in January in cattle at a slaughterhouse thought to be from two small herds. Last detection was in Mexico back in 1998

The High School National Rodeo was held in Lincoln in the July heat!!

LEDRS (Livestock Emergency Disease Response System) is celebrating its 25th Anniversary

July saw many heat related deaths in livestock

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) a USDA program for rural shortage areas also Grant Programs for clinic improvement

<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/veterinary-medicine-loan-repayment-program>

Scholarships for Veterinary school tuition - aimed at growing the number of veterinarians serving livestock producers across the state

<https://governor.nebraska.gov/press/gov-jim-pillen-university-leaders-announce-food-animal-veterinary-scholarship-program>

LEGISLATION UPDATES

Currently there are no Legislation updates to report to the Board.

REGULATION UPDATES

Currently there are no Regulation updates to report to the Board.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Byers moved, seconded by Kemnitz, to go into closed session at 9:22 a.m., for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Byers, Donaldson, Hauser, Kemnitz and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Board Break 10:15 a.m.

Board Returned 10:24 a.m.

Schlote, Chairperson, opened the session at 10:25 a.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW (0)– OPEN SESSION

There were no applications for the Board to review.

DISCUSSION(S)

- A. There were no additional draft revision regulations to present to the Board for this meeting.
- B. Proposed draft revisions for the Statutes Pertaining to Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act were reviewed and discussed by the Board. Suggestions were given for further edits. The DHHS Legal Department will edit the proposed draft with these suggestions. The Board is aware and would like to remind the public that these edits for the Statutes will need to be introduced to the State Legislature.

EMAIL BALLOT(S) SINCE LAST MEETING

There were no email ballots to be presented for this meeting.

PRACTICE QUESTION(S)

A. As a licensed Chiropractor and a licensed Animal Therapist are the following additional therapies within the scope of practice for the care of animals: red light or cold laser; PEMF; nutrition consultation, recommendations and selling of supplements?

The following individuals were present to discuss this question with the Board:

Mindi Clarke
Certified for Equine Acuscope
Lincoln, NE

Cassandra Thielen
Doctor of Chiropractic
Licensed Animal Therapist – Chiropractic
Omaha, NE

Hope Crage
PEMF Sales Representative
Bennington, NE

It is the opinion of the Board that red light or cold laser and PEMF are in the scope of practice for both a licensed Chiropractor and a licensed Animal Therapist.

It is the opinion of the Board that nutrition consultation and recommendations and selling of supplements may be within the scope of practice for a licensed Chiropractor, however they are not within the scope of practice for a licensed Animal Therapist.

AAVSB 2026 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE – September 23-26, 2026 – Providence, RI

Registration for this meeting is open.

Byers moved, seconded by Hauser to nominate Vonda Apking, Program Manager, to attend and represent the Nebraska Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery as the Voting Delegate for the AAVSB meeting held in Providence, RI, September 23-26, 2026. Voting aye: Byers, Donaldson, Hauser, Kemnitz and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments at this time of the meeting.

SCHEDULE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2026. The schedule will be posted on the DHHS website.

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Schlote, Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Christopher G. Byers, DVM, DACVECC, DACVIM (SAIM), CVJ, Secretary
Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery