

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

August 6, 2025

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Vice-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, Vice-Chairperson
Christopher G. Byers, DVM, DACVECC, DACVIM (SAIM), CVJ, Secretary
Donovan Hauser, DVM
Public Member position vacant

Absent: Elizabeth Farrington, DVM, 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; Mark Meyerson and Trevor Klaassen, Investigators, with the Investigation Unit and Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor, with the Licensure and Investigation Units via WebEx.

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 24, 2025.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hauser moved, seconded by Byers to approve the April 23, 2025, minutes as written. Voting aye: Byers, Hauser and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: Farrington. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

2024 LEGISLATION UPDATES

Currently there are no Legislation updates for the Board.

REGULATION UPDATES

Draft Regulations are being prepared to enter the Department Regulatory process for revisions.

PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Loren Breen, Director of Policy, Research & Government Relations

Ms. Breen spoke to the Board regarding support for a Spanish language version of the NAVLE (North American Veterinary Licensing Examination). The NAVLE is currently available to new graduates in both English or French (in Quebec), with no Spanish version currently available. This initiative would help bridge the language gap in veterinary care, improving access while ensuring a more inclusive and effective veterinary workforce. It could inspire more individuals from Hispanic and Latinx communities to pursue veterinary careers, further enriching the profession.

The Board would like to Thank Ms. Breen for her presentation.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UPDATES

Kaylie Fritts, DVM, Deputy Nebraska State Veterinarian with the Agriculture Department was present for discussion with the Board.

H5N1or Avian Influenza – Nationally there is a decline in reported cases in poultry and dairy cows. California still has some reported cases in the dairy cow population. But there have been no new strains. There have not been any reported cases in Nebraska since the Winter of 2024. The USDA is preparing for an outbreak in the Fall; however, nothing can be predicted. The virus is transmitted by wildlife fowl so Fall migration would be a concern.

New World Screwworm (NWS) – Considered to be a foreign animal disease. The NWS fly lays its eggs in the open wounds of a species. The good news is that it is highly treatable and preventable with Ivermectin. NWS has not been detected in the U.S., but it is moving northward up from Mexico. Early in July there was a reported case 360 miles south of the Texas/Mexico border. There are plans in place if NWS is detected in the U.S. The adult fly slows down in temperatures below 70 degrees Fahrenheit and the larvae can't survive in sustained temperatures below 46 degrees, therefore Nebraska winters should kill any infections.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) – Nebraska has an Emergency Preparedness vaccine full scale exercise with Kansas and Iowa which should be completed in November of 2025.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Schlote moved, seconded by Hauser, to go into closed session at 9:15 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, Hauser and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: Farrington. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Board Break 10:07 a.m.

Board Returned 10:17 a.m.

Schlote, Vice-Chairperson, opened the session at 10:17 a.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW (1)– OPEN SESSION

HENRY, MARISA – application for Animal Therapist – Physical Therapist Initial license. Byers moved, seconded by Hauser, to recommend approval of the Animal Therapist – Physical Therapist Initial license. Voting aye: Byers, Hauser and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: Farrington. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION(S)

- A. Formation of a Special Committee for Legislative change to include the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act to the Telehealth Practice Act (38-1,143). Additionally, the Board would like to look at the entire Veterinary Medicine and Practice Act (38-3301-3335) to address revisions, updates, and additions to the Statutes.

After much discussion the Board decided that instead of forming a Special Committee to work separately, they would address the Statutes during the upcoming meetings with the assistance of Katherine Amyot, DHHS Department Legal.

Currently the Board has reviewed several portions of the Statutes and have given their suggestions to Ms. Amyot. Ms. Amyot will revise the discussed Statute sections and present the revisions to the Board at the next meeting in November for further discussions.

The goal for this endeavor is to present the proposed Statute changes to the Legislature in 2027.

FYI(S)

A. Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) proposed resolutions for the AAVSB (American Association of Veterinary State Boards) 2025 Delegate Assembly.

The Board acknowledges receipt. Currently the Board has no comments.

B. AAVSB (American Association of Veterinary State Boards) Annual Meeting & Conference

The Conference will be held September 17-20, 2025, in Cincinnati, OH

Byers moved, seconded by Hauser, to nominate Dr. Farrington to be the Delegate to represent the Nebraska Board at the Conference. Voting aye: Byers, Hauser and Schlote.

Voting nay: None. Absent: Farrington. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

SCHEDULE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2025. 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, Vice-Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

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