

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

November 5, 2025

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery was called to order at 9:00 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
Marcie Kemnitz, PhD
Vacancy DVM Member

Absent: None

The Board and the Department would like to Welcome our new Public Member, Marcie Kemnitz. There has been a vacancy on the Board for a considerable period of time and we are extremely pleased to have another voice to assist in the proceedings of the Board's duties.

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; Abigail Nissen, Assistant Attorney General; Katherine Amyot, DHHS Department Legal; Randy Clark, Mark Meyerson, Trevor Klaassen, Hayle Alvarado and Tricia Allen, Investigators, 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 October 23, 2025.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Byers moved, seconded by Hauser to approve the August 6, 2025, minutes as written. Voting aye: Byers, Hauser and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Kemnitz. Motion carried.

2025 LEGISLATION UPDATES

Currently there are no Legislation updates for the Board.

REGULATION UPDATES

Currently there are no Legislation updates for the Board.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UPDATES

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

H5N1or Avian Influenza – Fortunately for the fall season here in Nebraska, there have not been any detections. Earlier in September there was a detection in Central Nebraska, and the herd is currently in quarantine.

New World Screwworm (NWS) – To date NWS has not been detected in the U.S., but it is moving northward up from Mexico. The last detection was 170 miles south of the Texas/Mexico border. There are plans in place if NWS is detected in the U.S. Dr. Fritts would like to meet with the Board to further discuss a planned response for small animal treatment.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Byers moved, seconded by Hauser, to go into closed session at 9:18 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, Kemnitz and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Board Break 9:47 a.m.
Board Returned 10:02 a.m.

Schlote, Vice-Chairperson, opened the session at 10:05 a.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW (0)– OPEN SESSION

There were no applications for the Board to review.

DISCUSSION(S)

Proposed draft revisions for the Statutes Pertaining to Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act and the Regulations, Title 172 Chapter 180 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, and the Board will review the revised proposed draft at the next Board meeting.

FYI(S)

EMERGENCY SYSTEM FOR ADVANCE REGISTRATION OF VOLUNTEER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (ESAR-VHP)

The Board recognizes the importance of the ESAR-VHP Program

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

SCHEDULE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 30, 2026. The Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association (NVMA) has agreed to host the Board meeting at their Winter Conference in Kearney. The NVMA membership is encouraged to attend the Board meeting. 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 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

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