

## **LA Board of Veterinary Medicine – Board Agenda, April 2, 2026**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER – Christine McHughes Barr, DVM, President**

Board President, Dr. Christine McHughes Barr, called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

### **II. ROLL CALL – Christopher Morris, DVM, Secretary-Treasurer**

Roll call was taken by Board Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Christopher Morris, as follows.

Those present:

Christine D. McHughes Barr, DVM - Board President  
Jesse S. Brandon, DVM - Board Vice-President  
Christopher B. Morris, DVM - Board Secretary-Treasurer  
Trisha C. Marullo, DVM - Board Member  
Jared B. Granier - Board Executive Director  
Stephen H. Vogt - Board General Counsel

Those absent:

Larry Findley, Sr., DVM - Board Member

The Board's Statement of Obligations (below) was read aloud by Dr. Morris to all present.

Statement of Obligations – The LA Board of Veterinary Medicine (being a state regulatory agency within the LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry) is a governmental entity whose mandate is to protect the public/animals by enforcing its jurisdiction of interpreting and implementing applicable laws, and the rules it promulgates, regarding the acceptable standard of veterinary care in LA. The Board has sole and sovereign authority in Louisiana over the practice of veterinary medicine as granted to it by the Legislature. The Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate and take an Oath of Office. The Board members in discharge of their duties are also held to the ethical standards of state government officials. By statute, candidates for the Governor's consideration for appointment to the Board are made by the state professional association. While a Board member may hold general membership in a professional association, he is legally and ethically bound to his Oath of Office and will discharge his duties without any considerations or goals beyond his lawful obligations on the Board. A Board member does not represent the interests of the practitioners of veterinary medicine or a professional association while he serves on the Board, nor will he use his office to engage in any conduct which may constitute restraint of lawful trade.

#### **A. Invitations to Address the Board**

Attendees were given the opportunity to introduce themselves (if desired) and to make general public comments to the Board. No written comments related to any agenda items were received prior to April 2, 2026.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **A. Board Minutes for February 5, 2026**

The Board reviewed minutes from February 5, 2026. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the minutes as given. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

### **IV. FINANCIAL MATTERS & CONTRACTS**

## **A. Financial Reports – January & February ‘26**

Mr. Granier presented the financial reports for the months of January and February ‘26 for review by the Board. Mr. Granier informed the Board that all financial matters are in order and are within budgetary expectations. There were no questions regarding financial reports reviewed by the Board members. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the financial reports as presented. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

## **B. Investments, CDs – FY 2026**

Mr. Granier reviewed figures for accrued interest amounts and total investments for current certificates of deposit (CDs) for FY2026. CDs will continue to roll over as they mature unless withdrawal is requested from the Board by Mr. Granier. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the investment report as presented. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **C. Contract Renewals – Dept. of Justice Occupational Licensing Review Program**

Mr. Granier presented to the Board for review the annual contract with the Louisiana Department of Justice’s Occupational Licensing Review Program (OLRP). After review of the contact terms and amount, motion was made, and seconded, to approve the contract for the 2027 Fiscal Year. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

# **V. STATUTES, RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

## **A. Rulemaking Projects, Proposals, & Discussions**

### **1. Update: LAC 46LXXXV.1303 & 1305 -- Reporting Requirements for Zoo Personnel**

Mr. Granier informed the Board that following the March 3, 2026 approval of the Notice of Intent and Fiscal & Economic Impact Statements by the Legislative Fiscal Office, the First Report was submitted to the Senate and House Legislative Oversight Committees on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development as well as the Governor’s Office for review. The Notice of Intent was also published in the *2026 Louisiana Register*, Volume 52, March 20 edition. Following the end of the comment submission period on April 9, Mr. Granier will submit the Notice of Intent to the Louisiana Department of Justice’s Occupational Licensing Review Program (OLRP) for review. No motion made, and no further action was taken or needed on this matter.

### **2. Discussion: LAC 46LXXXV.303.B.7 – Limit on NAVLE Attempts for Applicants**

Mr. Granier informed the Board that following the February ’26 meeting, the Notice of Intent and Fiscal & Economic Impact Statements were submitted on March 23, 2026 to the Louisiana Legislative Fiscal Office for review. No motion made, and no further action was taken or needed on this matter.

### **3. Discussion: LAC 46LXXXV.309 – Temporary Registration during a Declared Public Health Emergency**

Mr. Granier presented to the Board a proposed Notice of Intent to amend Rule 309 related to temporary registration during a declared public health emergency. The amendments within would establish a clearer and more streamlined process for out-of-state veterinarians and veterinary technicians to register with the Board and practice veterinary medicine in the state of Louisiana during a Governor declared public health emergency, while strengthening the Board's ability to efficiently and effectively ensure practitioner competency. After discussion of this proposal, motion was made, and seconded, to approve this amendment. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Mr. Granier will move forward with the rulemaking process for this agenda item.

**4. Discussion: LAC 46LXXXV.500, 501, 503, & 505 – Fees**

Mr. Granier presented to the Board a proposed Notice of Intent to amend Rule 500, 501, 503, and 505 related to the fee exemption for active military licensees and fee reductions for those who qualify for inactive retired or disabled statuses. The amendments make the language clearer, more uniform, and consistent. There are no changes to the actual fee amounts for veterinarians. After discussion of this proposal, motion was made, and seconded, to approve this amendment. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Mr. Granier will move forward with the rulemaking process for this agenda item.

**5. Discussion: LAC 46LXXXV.1015 – Personal Responsibility of Licensee**

Mr. Granier presented to the Board a proposed Notice of Intent to amend Rule 1015 related to the personal responsibility of licensee. The amendment is a simple grammatical correction and has no practical change to original rule's intent. After discussion of this proposal, motion was made, and seconded, to approve this amendment. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Mr. Granier will move forward with the rulemaking process for this agenda item.

**6. Discussion: LAC 46LXXXV.1211 – Fees for CAETs**

Mr. Granier presented to the Board a proposed Notice of Intent to amend Rule 1211, making it clear that it is a direct violation of Louisiana Veterinary Practice Act to perform any duties of a CAET with an expired certificate and goes on to state the action that can be taken by the Board for doing so. There are no changes to the actual fee amounts for CAETs. After discussion of this proposal, motion was made, and seconded, to approve this amendment. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Mr. Granier will move forward with the rulemaking process for this agenda item.

**B. Policies and Procedures**

1. None at this time

**C. Declaratory Statements**

1. None at this time

**D. General Agenda**

1. None at this time

**E. Consent Agenda Opinions – Answered**

**1. Must a business corporation formed in 1975 by a veterinarian for the purpose of practicing veterinary medicine comply with 1982 statutes. Is the corporation, following succession, required to abide by the current LA Veterinary Practice Act?**

A licensee once under contract to provide veterinary services at a facility now owned by the heirs of a licensed veterinarian requested of the Board an opinion regarding the applicability of the provisions of Chapter 12 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes governing the formation and duties and responsibilities regarding Professional Veterinary Medicine Corporations. The Board declined to offer an opinion as the subject matter is not a regulatory authority granted the Board by law. As such, any opinion would be advisory and non-authoritative given the jurisdiction of the civil courts of Louisiana over the subject matter. The inquiring licensee was reminded that Rule 1015 was amended in 2018 to allow ownership of facilities providing veterinary services by business entities and others not possessing a license to practice veterinary medicine in Louisiana, and that the obligations and responsibilities provided by the Board's regulations are enforced against those persons involved in patient care. Motion was made, and seconded, to ratify the opinion above as reported by Mr. Vogt. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**F. Consent Agenda Opinions – Proposed**

**1. None at this time**

**G. Consent Agenda Opinions – Expedited / Emergency Opinions**

**1. None at this time**

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

**A. New Licenses and Certificates Issued**

Mr. Granier reported all new licenses and certificates issued - 15 total listed below - from 01/17/26 to 03/20/26. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept and ratify all issued licenses, registrations, and certificates as given. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance. Addendum #1 at the end of the minutes includes the list of all 15 licenses and certificates issued.

**B. Office Updates – Applications, Renewals, Active Licensees, Complaints**

Mr. Granier reported to the Board statistics on applications, complaints, and continuing education review requests from 01/17/26 to 03/20/26. No motion made and no further action was taken on this matter. Addendum #2 at the end of the minutes includes all statistics.

**C. Update on Website ADA Compliance**

Mr. Granier reported the status of the website re-design to bring the site and all publicly available documents into compliance with state and federal ADA guidelines. The expected “go-live” date for the new design is April 7, 2026. No motion made and no further action was taken on this matter.

**VII. CONTINUING EDUCATION ISSUES**

**A. None at this time**

## **MEETING NOTES**

*Motion made, and seconded, to go into executive session to discuss confidential matters regarding licensees, applicants, and administrative hearings not subject to public disclosure in accordance with Louisiana open meetings law and passed unanimously by roll call vote from all members in attendance. All votes noted for the following agenda items in executive session were made at the end of discussions and out of executive session.*

## **VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

### **A. Case #26-0925 – Proposed Consent Order**

A complaint was filed against a licensee who had “tipped” the ear of a cat undergoing a spay against the wishes of the client, but under confusing circumstances. The licensee participated in governmental programs involving the sterilization of feral cats presented by several rescues. His services were paid for by the governmental authorities and “tipping” was mandatory under the local laws. The licensee also participates in a low cost sterilization program that does not require “tipping” where a person obtaining a voucher could present an owned cat for sterilization, usually on a different date from the governmental program. The Complainant presented her cat on a date where the licensee was participating in the governmentally sponsored program, without the required voucher. The licensee, in an effort to accommodate the client, accepted the patient, the only privately owned patient out of 27. The client gave verbal instructions to the licensee’s staff that the patient’s ear was not to be tipped. However, the message did not reach the licensee and the patient’s ear was tipped. The licensee took full responsibility for the mistake and changed procedures to avoid a similar mistake in the future. The Board approved the Consent Order of an informal reprimand to the licensee, with some discussion as to whether any action should have been taken at all. However, unanimous approval was given considering an informal reprimand does not constitute a “public record” under the Public Records Law and is not reportable to the national disciplinary database and is otherwise a confidential matter.

### **B. Case #26-1120 – Proposed Consent Order**

A complaint was filed against a veterinarian for practicing veterinary medicine with an expired—but renewable—license, which is forbidden by Rule and the provisions of the Louisiana Veterinary Practice Act. There were, however, mitigating circumstances. The licensee had been employed by a veterinary practice for several years, which generally handled the renewal of the licenses annually. The Respondent had obtained all required CE well before the due date. Shortly before the expiration of her license, Respondent’s employment with the practice was terminated. She was not notified that her license had not been renewed by her former employer. She began working relief for another practice several weeks after her license had expired. Notwithstanding that another person cannot appropriately answer the personal questions required in the renewal application, the investigating board member accepted Respondent’s statement that her late renewal was inadvertent and that she thought the reminders of the need of renewal sent by the Board prior to the expiration of her license were general mailings to all licensees. A Consent Order requiring the licensee to pay a fine of \$500 was approved by the Board.

## **IX. LICENSING ISSUES**

### **A. None at this time**

## **X. APPLICANT ISSUES**

**A. Amy Douglas, DVM – Waiver Request of NAVLE Retake**

The Board reviewed supplemental documentation submitted with the application for licensure from Dr. Douglas. Motion made, and seconded, outside of executive session to approve the requested waiver of the national exam retake requirement as the documents provided supported the waiver criteria for the required period of time immediately. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

**B. Faith Navarro, DVM – Waiver Request of NAVLE Retake**

The Board reviewed supplemental documentation submitted with the application for licensure from Dr. Navarro. Motion made, and seconded, outside of executive session to approve the requested waiver of the national exam retake requirement as the documents provided supported the waiver criteria for the required period of time immediately. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

**C. Nicole Chamberlin, DVM – Waiver Request of NAVLE Retake**

The Board reviewed supplemental documentation submitted with the application for licensure from Dr. Chamberlin. Motion made, and seconded, outside of executive session to approve the requested waiver of the national exam retake requirement as the documents provided supported the waiver criteria for the required period of time immediately. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

**D. Stephanie Bonnette, DVM – Waiver Request of NAVLE Retake**

The Board reviewed supplemental documentation submitted with the application for licensure from Dr. Bonnette. Motion made, and seconded, outside of executive session to approve the requested waiver of the national exam retake requirement as the documents provided supported the waiver criteria for the required period of time immediately. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Update: Civil Litigation, LBVM vs. O. Nyzhnyk (Suit No. 2021-9164 A)**

The Board was briefed on the status of its suit against an individual practicing equine dentistry without a license as a veterinarian and outside the employment of a veterinarian by general counsel.

**B. Update: Civil Litigation, Pelican Institute vs. LBVM (Suit No. C-735730)**

The Board was briefed on the status of a civil suit filed against it on behalf of three DVMs who are/were licensed out of state and who either applied for a waiver of the requirement to retake the NAVLE or did not apply for licensure due to the Rule language adopted by the Board.

**C. Legal Strategy Discussion on Potential Litigations Against Non-Licensee Practice of Veterinary Medicine**

The Board engaged in confidential discussions with counsel general protocol where the Board receives information that lay people may have engaged in the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine.

**D. Legal Strategy Discussion on Potential Litigation Against Practice Act Violations**

The Board engaged in confidential discussions with counsel general protocol where the Board receives information that licensees may have committed a regulatory violation.

**MEETING NOTES**

*All votes and action taken related to administrative hearings (VIII.), licensing issues (IX.), and applicant issues (X.) as noted above for each item were made out of executive session.*

*Upon conclusion of all administrative, licensing, and applicant discussions in executive session as well as discussions related to current and potential civil litigations, motion made, and seconded, to return to regular session. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote from all members in attendance.*

**XII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Board, motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 12:38pm.

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Minutes reviewed and approved by the full board on June 4, 2026.



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Christopher Morris, DVM, Board Secretary-Treasurer

## ADDENDUM #1

### New Licenses Issued from 01/17/26 to 03/20/26; 15 total

License No.	Name	Type	Issued On
10445	McMahan, Kaylee	DVM	2/9/2026
10446	Shrewsbury, John	DVM	2/9/2026
10447	Dussold, Taylor	DVM	2/19/2026
10448	Fairley, Amber	DVM	3/5/2026
FAC-1230	Kisseberth, William	DVM-Faculty	2/2/2026
FAC-1231	Murakami, Keiko	DVM-Faculty	3/3/2026
20191	Minervini, Taylor	RVT	1/20/2026
20192	Lee, Madison	RVT	2/6/2026
20193	Jensen, Ella	RVT	2/6/2026
20194	Williams, Madelyn	RVT *	2/9/2026
20195	Bendernagel, Rachel	RVT	2/9/2026
20196	Triplett, Jill	RVT	2/9/2026
20197	Alves, Passion	RVT	2/9/2026
20198	Bourgeois, Jenna	RVT	3/17/2026
20199	Ford, Sydney	RVT	3/17/2026

\* -- conditional license issued under La R.S. 37:53 of Act. No. 253 ("Welcome Home Act").

**ADDENDUM #2**

**Applications Submitted and Approved from 01/17/26 to 03/20/26**

<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Number of Submitted</b>	<b>Number of Approved</b>
CAET	23	0
DVM	25	6
DVM - Faculty	1	2
RVT	6	8
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>16</b>

**Current Count of Active Licensees as of 03/20/26**

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Number of Licenses</b>
CAET – Active - Full	163
CAET – Active - Lead	18
<b>Subtotal of CAETs</b>	<b>181</b>
DVM – Active	1,811
DVM – Active - Conditional	1
DVM – Inactive - Disabled	1
DVM – Inactive - Retired	8
DVM – Military - Active Status	0
<b>Subtotal of DVMs</b>	<b>1,821</b>
DVM – Faculty - Active	106
<b>Subtotal of DVM Faculty</b>	<b>106</b>
RVT - Active	393
<b>Subtotal of RVT</b>	<b>393</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,501</b>

**Complaint Statistics from 01/17/26 to 03/20/26**

<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Still On-Going / Active</b>	<b>Number</b>
Complaints Received	5	Pending Cases (licensees)	21
Complaints Closed	16	Pending Cases (non-licensees)	4
Consent Orders Issued	1	Consent Orders	5
Consent Orders Closed	0	HPFLA Referrals (new & on-going)	7
Other Negative Actions	0	Other Negative Actions	0

\* Other negative actions include, formal reprimands, informal reprimands, cease and desist notices, etc. Pending Cases (non-licensees) includes civil action, cease & desist, monitoring or those currently under investigation.

**Continuing Education Approval Requests from 01/17/26 to 03/20/26**

Between 01/17/26 to 03/20/26, 52 CE requests were approved for the '25-'26 CE period.