

LOUISIANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
August 13, 2013

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER –

Board President, Dr. William H. Green, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

Roll call was taken by Board Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Patrick Bernard, with the following results:

Those present:

William H. Green, DVM	Board President
Steven Slaton, DVM	Board Vice President
Patrick Bernard, DVM	Board Secretary-Treasurer
John Emerson, DVM	Board Member
Gary Levy, DVM	Board Member
Michael Tomino, Jr.	Board General Counsel
Wendy Parrish	Board Executive Director

Absent:

None.

Guests:

Gary Balsamo, DVM, LA Department of Health & Hospitals
Vicki Riser

III. U.S. Army IRT (Innovative Readiness Training) Program

After submission of the LBVM's concerns to Dr. Jacoby on August 2, 2013, via email, the LBVM received no further contact or comment from the U.S. Army. However, later on August 2, the LBVM began receiving numerous calls from interested persons, including state government officials, who had apparently received a copy of the LBVM's email to Dr. Jacoby. During this period, the LBVM first learned that the proposed IRT program in Ferriday was the result of an invitation to the U.S. Army through a local grant prepared in the Ferriday area. The LBVM responded to all callers and attempted in good faith to explain its decision and rationale.

A Special Meeting of the LBVM was then called in response to a request from Dr. Gary Balsamo, with DHH, regarding the US. Army's IRT (Innovative Readiness Training) program which was recently cancelled with regards to the veterinary portion. In attendance were Dr. Balsamo and Vicki Riser, author of the grant, regarding the proposed program in Ferriday. The LBVM has not seen a copy of the grant or any further documentation originating from Louisiana regarding the Ferriday program, or any proposed future IRT programs in Louisiana.

Dr. Balsamo and Ms. Riser addressed the LBVM's concerns regarding the program as stated in the email, dated August 2, 2013, sent to LTC (Dr.) Keith Jacoby, the military consultant and contact for the IRT program. The LBVM also acknowledges receipt of Dr. Balsamo's letter, dated August 6, 2013, addressed to the LBVM regarding this matter.

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The LBVM was informed that the U.S. Army cancelled the veterinary portion of the Ferriday program. It is the LBVM's understanding that a future program is tentatively scheduled next summer in LA.

The supplemental information and clarification provided by Dr. Balsamo and Ms. Riser were helpful in the LBVM's further review of this matter. It must be stated that at no time did the LBVM have any doubts regarding the good faith intentions of those individuals involved with the proposed IRT program in Ferriday. Unfortunately, given the short time line within which the LBVM was notified of the Ferriday program, certain concerns of the LBVM could not be satisfactorily resolved.

However, after careful consideration on August 13, and in the discharge of the LBVM's mandate to insure the health, welfare, and safety of the people and animals of Louisiana, the decision was made that any future, proposed IRT program will be in compliance with LA law if the following items are properly met and timely submitted to the LBVM at least ninety (90) days prior to the start date of any IRT program in this state:

- 1) The names, description of official military duties, and information regarding state(s) of licensure for the US Army veterinarians participating in an IRT program are provided to the LBVM for verification and status of licensure;
- 2) Confirmation of an IRT program's objective "to provide vaccination, de-worming, health exams, and spaying and neutering dogs and cats in the target area for those animals that would not likely be seen by local/regional practitioners on a fee basis;"
- 3) Confirmation that the location where an IRT program will be conducted is equipped to handle sanitation and technical equipment required by LA law and the LBVM's Rules for the types of veterinary care services provided;
- 4) Confirmation that aftercare and emergency contingencies are available by written agreement with local veterinarian(s) and/or a local veterinary emergency facility, with such written information provided to all recipients of the program's veterinary care services, as well as a copy of all written agreements for aftercare and emergency services provided to the LBVM;
- 5) Confirmation that a LA licensed veterinarian will be administering all rabies vaccinations during an IRT program, including the LA licensed veterinarian's name and contact information which shall be provided to the LBVM;
- 6) The LBVM be provided with a name and contact information for a specific individual involved in an IRT program for the purpose of expedient communication, if necessary; and
- 7) The LBVM be notified as soon as possible with regards to any changes and/or updated information regarding any of the above provisions.

In summary, it was requested that the above information be timely provided to the LBVM in order for it to verify a proposed IRT program in LA is compliant with Louisiana law. Such is the legal obligation of the LBVM.

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A motion to accept the subject matter and contents of the above response be sent to Dr. Balsamo and other interested persons was made by Dr. Levy, and seconded by Dr. Slaton. Motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Board, motion was made by Dr. Levy, seconded by Dr. Emerson, and passed unanimously by voice vote to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 a.m.

MINUTES REIVEWED AND APPROVED BY FULL BOARD on October 3, 2013.

Patrick Bernard, DVM, Board Secretary-Treasurer