



DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
- GOVERNOR -

VICTORIA WHITMORE
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -

ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

1740 W. ADAMS ST., STE. 4600 ☞ PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

PHONE: (602) 364-1-PET ☞ FAX: (602) 364-1039

VETBOARD.AZ.GOV

MINUTES

April 3, 2020

TELECONFERENCE BOARD MEETING

8:30 a.m.

Live Stream/Phone-In

Members Present Telephonically/Electronically: Mr. Jim Loughead, Ms. Jessica Creager, Dr. Darren Wright, Ms. Jane Soloman, Dr. Sarah Heinrich, Dr. J. Greg Byrne and Ms. Nikki Frost, CVT.

Members Absent: Dr. Robyn Jaynes.

Staff and Legal Counsel Present Telephonically/Electronically: Ms. Victoria Whitmore, Executive Director; Mrs. Mary Williams, AAG (Assistant Attorney General); and Ms. Tracy Riendeau, CVT, Senior Medical Investigator.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Roll call: Ms. Whitmore at 8:35 a.m.

II. REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, REFERRALS AND OTHER BUSINESS

1. Board may review, discuss, and take action on developing requirements and parameters for veterinary telehealth services during the State of Emergency related to COVID-19, including recordkeeping, which would not be more restrictive or less favorable to providers than are required for veterinary services delivered in-person, as required by Executive Order 2020-19.

Arizona State Veterinarian, Peter Mundschenk, DVM, was present, made statements and answered questions.

The Board discussed that the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association was having a higher volume of inquiries regarding telemedicine than the Board's office; therefore the consensus was to keep the Board's input limited to facts regarding the intent of Executive Order 2020-19 when developing requirements and parameters for veterinary telehealth services.

One key point that the Board wanted to emphasize was that utilizing telemedicine was a choice, not a requirement. The Executive Order expands the Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) definition in the Arizona Veterinary Practice Act to include telemedicine services during the declared State of Emergency. The Board would be considering the language from the AAVSB's Guidelines when developing requirements and parameters for veterinary telehealth services and VCPR.

Other points the Board wanted to address was communication regarding the presenting complaint verbalized by the pet owner or owner's agent. The veterinarian may only focus on that concern due to the inability to identify other issues the animal may have without performing an in-person hands-on examination. Additionally, the veterinarian will need to ensure that informed consent is obtained and the pet owner understands and approves the limitations of the telemedicine visit.

The Board further discussed that in these times the veterinarian will need to use their best judgment with respect to caring for an animal and using telemedicine. It is not required and veterinarians can and should refer, if needed, to an emergency facility or a hand-on exam.

After discussion and consideration, a motion was made by Ms. Soloman and seconded by Ms. Creager to approve the draft language as presented by Ms. Whitmore with modifications as discussed in today's Board meeting regarding requirements and parameters in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2020-19.

The information will be on the Arizona Veterinary Medical Examining Board's website and will be distributed to the Veterinarian Associations and State Veterinarian.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting will be held via teleconference and/or internet conference on **Wednesday, April 15, 2020**, beginning at **8:30 a.m.** Information on how the public may participate will be noted on the meeting notice and agenda.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Victoria Whitmore, Executive Director