

Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine
Hoover State Office Building
Borlaug Conference Room
Open Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2026

Dr. Tom Burkgren, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with the following Board Members present: Dr. Scott Shuey, Ms. Sierra Hagedon, Ms. Sterling Meyer, and Dr. Yuko Sato. Also present were Mr. Jake Larson, Assistant Attorney General, Dr. Jeff Kaisand, Executive Secretary, and Meghan Orr, Administrative Assistant.

Absent

None

Guest(s)

Randy Wheeler, DVM, Iowa Veterinary Medical Association

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Meyer moved to approve the agenda for the January 29, 2026, Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Ms. Hagedon. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comment (Public comment period is open and limited to two minutes)

Dr. Wheeler noted that the IVMA Annual Winter Conference is in 2 weeks (February 12-13, 2026), with 6 sessions on Thursday and 4 sessions on Friday, and they are seeking CE approval for these sessions from the Board today. AVMA will be in attendance at the meeting, and they have over 175 registrations so far, not including technicians. With this year being a relicensing year, they are seeing an increase in attendance. There is no practice management CE at this conference; however, a Practice Management course will be held in April and IVMA will be submitting this information to the Board for CE approval soon.

Approval of the Open Meeting Minutes

Dr. Shuey moved to approve the Open Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Sato. Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Report

The Board's financial status as of December 31, 2025, is \$230,596.25.

Executive Secretary Report

Dr. Kaisand noted that in the transition in staffing and moving to electronic records there will be some policy items and processes that will be brought to the Board for their review. Dr. Kaisand noted staff will try to streamline this review where possible and asked for the Board's patience as staff navigates this along with other assigned work activities for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS).

Chairperson Report

No report.

Assistant Attorney General Report

No report.

Board Member Report

Dr. Burkgren inquired about Dr. Sato's vacation, which she noted was great and warmer than the current Iowa climate.

Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Kayla Wilcox, RVT, a Patient Care Training Coordinator with BluePearl Pet Hospital in Cedar Rapids, IA. Ms. Wilcox is requesting clarification from the Board on skills performed by veterinary assistants including cystocentesis, placing nasogastric tubes, and performing platelet estimates with a microscope. The Board discussed a response to Ms. Wilcox, noting that specific guidance is not typically given; however, FAQs could be developed. The Board approved a response to the questions which were posed regarding cystocentesis and placing nasogastric tubes. If there is a specific question to be posed regarding performing platelet estimates with a microscope, the Board will try to address that question.

- Question: (9) Manage a nasogastric (NG) tube, not including insertion or placement.
*It doesn't specify who placed the tube. Does this mean assistants are prohibited from placing the tube and can only manage it?

Answer: Yes, you are correct

- Question: (5) Expression of urinary bladder
Could be interpreted as manual hand expression, with no specific regard to aspirating a urine sample from the bladder?
*Does this mean assistants can't obtain a urine sample via cystocentesis, since it could be interpreted as expressing the bladder?

Answer: Expression of the urinary bladder does not include cystocentesis. Assistants cannot obtain a urine sample via cystocentesis.

Petition for Waiver

None

Veterinary License/Veterinary Technician Registration Application(s)

Dr. Kaisand noted for discussion the fees and application process for new graduates and new licenses in a renewal year. These individuals will be paying for a license in a timeframe ending on the current triennium (expiration June 30, 2026) and then paying for a renewal of that license for another triennium (expiration June 30, 2029). The Board discussed the applications which may be received and noted the approved process, including fees.

- New graduate licensing in a renewal year:

- No charge for new graduates in a renewal year (2026) for initial license, charge for renewal (unless they qualify for fee waiver)
- Other license applications in a renewal year within 60-day timeframe of renewal date:
 - Charge for initial license after May 1st, no charge for renewal (unless they qualify for fee waiver)

Miscellaneous

The Board reviewed correspondence from the American Association of Veterinary State Board's (AAVSB) regarding renewal of the MOU with the Board to administer the Veterinary Technician State Exam (VTSE). Mr. Larson stated a motion would be needed regarding the Board's desire to renew the MOU for an additional year and staff would prepare a letter to AAVSB accordingly. Dr. Shuey moved to renew the VTSE MOU with AAVSB. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meyer and Ms. Hagedon. Dr. Burkgren asked for any further discussion or objections, noting that over the course of the next year, there may be discussion in conjunction with IVMA and veterinary technician schools regarding changes to how the VTSE is administered. No further discussion or objections. Motion approved unanimously.

The Board reviewed an invoice from AAVSB for 2026 Member Board Dues. Dr. Burkgren asked for any discussion and inquired if dues have changed. Dr. Kaisand does not believe it has changed in recent years. Dr. Shuey moved to pay the 2026 AAVSB Member Board Dues. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hagedon. Motion approved unanimously.

Dr. Kaisand noted for discussion the modules for USDA Veterinary Accreditation, given it is a renewal year. Since the modules are no longer RACE approved, what are the Board's wishes for accepting the modules as approved CE? The Board discussed and approved accepting the USDA Veterinary Accreditation modules, as 1-scientific CEU/1-hour virtual module or in person module.

Ms. Orr noted for discussion the current process for Verification of Licensure/Registration, given questions from non-licensees requesting verification of a licensure/registration. Currently, the fee for these requests is \$15, payable to the Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine, and staff prepare and sign letters which are provided to identified entities. Staff also review verification requests through AAVSB and AAVSB reimburses the Board \$15 per request, regardless of the number of entities the verification is being sent to. The information that is available on the Board's searchable database does not include all the information included in these verification letters. The Board discussed the fee for this service does not cover the cost of staff time; however, a rule change would be needed to adjust this fee. The Board reviewed a finalized Verification of Licensure letter and agreed that these letters could be provided for any requesting entity as long as the request is complete with payment. The Board discussed and supported the possibility for electronic payment in the future. Dr. Kaisand noted electronic payment as a capability of the new Animal Industry software, which the Board could review for possible use as it moves through current transitions to electronic processes. Dr. Kaisand also noted that the verification letters no longer include the notation of 'in good standing' as there is no definition for this status in code or rules.

Rulemaking/House/Senate Files

Mr. Larson stated that there were no comments to the regulatory analysis at the December 17, 2025 hearing for the civil penalty rule changes. Today the Board will make a motion to begin the rulemaking process. Dr. Burkgren noted that this would increase the civil penalty amount to \$10,000. Dr. Sato moved to approve the rulemaking process for the civil penalty. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meyer. Motion approved unanimously.

Ms. Orr noted that Justin Stott with IDALS IT staff will be arriving to help the Board set up their new laptops at 10:40 a.m. Dr. Burkgren noted at 10:39 a.m. the Board will break ahead of closed session to allow for setup of the Board laptops.

Dr. Sato moved to go into the Closed Meeting Session pursuant to Iowa code section 21.5(1)(a) to review complaint files where investigative information required by section 272C.6(4) to be kept confidential and 21.5(1)(d) to discuss the contents of a licensing examination or whether to initiate licensee disciplinary investigation or proceedings. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meyer and Ms. Hagedon. Motion approved unanimously.

Roll call vote by Board Members: Dr. Shuey, aye; Dr. Burkgren, aye; Ms. Hagedon, aye; Ms. Meyer, aye; Dr. Sato, aye. nay – 0. Motion passed at 11:10 a.m.

Open Meeting Session

The Board reconvened the Open Meeting Session at 12:37 p.m.

Action on Closed Meeting Session Sanctions

Dr. Shuey moved to close cases 25-036. The motion was seconded by Dr Sato. Motion approved unanimously.

Dr. Shuey moved to close cases 25-038. The motion was seconded by Dr Sato. Motion approved (Dr. Shuey, Dr. Sato, Dr. Burkgren, and Ms. Hagedon); None opposed; 1 abstain (Ms. Meyer).

Dr. Sato moved to close case 25-002. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hagedon. Motion approved (Dr. Sato, Ms. Hagedon, and Dr. Burkgren); None opposed; 2 abstain (Dr. Shuey and Ms. Meyer).

Continuing Education

The continuing education applications were reviewed by the Board Members for approval. Item 12 on the application is a requirement that must be completed for each application.

Requester	Meeting	Scientific	Mgmt.	Total Hrs.
Teresa Farrell	Nurturing a Healthy Veterinary Practice Culture: Addressing Toxicity and Fostering Wellness (5.1.2026 – Ankeny, IA)		6	6
Tracy Grodnitzky	IVMA Winter Conference (2.12 to 2.13.2026 – Altoona, IA)	60		60
Ashley McGarr	Active Listening & Navigating Difficult Conversations (2.25.2026 – Des Moines, IA)		1	1
Dr. Erich Rachwitz, DAVDC	Oral Masses (2.12.2026 – Omaha, NE)	1		1
Dr. Chris Rademacher	Pork Quality Assurance Version 6.0 Advisor Training (1.28.2026, 7.7.2026, 10.5.2025 scheduled, requesting blanket approval for 2026 – virtual)		5	5

Brittany Schwasinger	Biosecurity Basics (1.28.2026 – Ames, IA)	1		1
Dr. Tim Smith	Fundamental Skills for Program Diseases (1.6 to 1.8.2026 – virtual)	6		6

Next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting is Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Borlaug Conference Room, Hoover State Office Building.

Adjournment

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey J. Kaisand, DVM