NEW MEXICO BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
REGULAR MEETING

IN PERSON AT DoIT
725 6th Street, Albuquerque, NM 87102

MINUTES

April 22, 2026

Call to Order

The Meeting of the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) was called to order by Dr. Lawrence Young, the Board Chair, at approximately 1:03 p.m. The Board's Executive Director Debbie Schenk conducted a roll call.

Roll Call

Members Present

Dr. Lawrence D. Young, Board Chair
Dr. Emily Walker, Vice Chair
Dr. Hannah Leonard, Professional Member
Ms. Jennifer Rabinowitz, Public Member
Ms. Kristen Chavez, Public Member

Members Absent

Dr. Ralph Zimmerman, Professional Member

Agency Representative

Debbie Schenk, Executive Director to Board

Legal Counsel

Douglas Alsup, NM Department of Justice

Approval of Proposed Agenda

Dr. Young asked if the board members had reviewed the proposed agenda and if he could get a motion to approve. Dr. Walker motioned to approve the agenda and Member Chavez seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

State Veterinarian Update

No update.

Approval of January 14, 2026 Draft Meeting Minutes

Dr. Young asked if he could get a motion or if there were any changes needed to the January 14, 2026, draft minutes. Dr. Walker a motion to approve the Minutes and Dr. Leonard seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Inspector Report

Dr. Balok discussed the inspection that he and Dr. MacDougall conducted of the Grants Animal Shelter accompanied by the DOJ due to a complaint that the NMBVM received. The results of the inspection were that the shelter was in good order. The problem was with the veterinarian that had been working there because there were no medical records and there were no invoices for work that was done. Dr. Balok and Dr. MacDougall feel that those records need to be provided by the veterinarian. Director Schenk will email the veterinarian to ask her to provide the records.

A mobile unit needing a separate license from the brick-and-mortar facility license was discussed and agreed that more clarification is needed.

Dr. Balok asked if a template for the May 1st CS Annual Inventory Report could be added to the website so the form can be a standardized form.

PD Ultrasound Exam

Many Encinias presented the PD ultrasound exam draft to the board that will be administered by him. Dr. Walker motioned to approve the exam as presented and Member Chavez seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Complaints 25-11, 25-02, 25-09 and 25-04 are all complete.

Complaints 24-12, 24-11 and 24-09 will be heard in closed session.

Complaints this year are at an all-record high. So far there have been 60 complaints and there are still two months left of the fiscal year.

Working with DFA regarding the 5% from the 1.8m.

New CRC members will be Dr. Walker and Dr. Leonard.

New Business

Chair, Dr. Young asked if everyone had a chance to look at all the continuing education requests and asked if he could get a motion to approve all the continuing education requests. Dr. Walker motioned to approve and Dr. Leonard seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion about Dr. Fiorello's question regarding euthanasia of wildlife species. The board agreed that if it conforms to the AVMA guidelines and is humane, there is no problem.

Discussion regarding possible approval to obtain a NM registered veterinarian technician license based on years of experience. The board agreed that to obtain a NM registered veterinarian technician license, an applicant must be a graduate of an AVMA accredited school.

The possibility to have graded fines for settlement agreements was discussed and the board agreed to look into coming up with a matrix regarding settlement agreements.

Chair Dr. Young discussed having an informational quarterly newsletter that would be emailed to all veterinarians with various subjects. Board members agreed the letter would be a good idea but maybe start having it as a semi-annual letter. Deborah suggested also posting it on the NMBVM website for later reference. Dr. Walker will work on the first letter.

Licensing on trucks with brick-and-mortar buildings will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Board gave approval for euthanasia technician Crystal Veach to become licensed as a euthanasia instructor. Dr. Walker made the motion and Dr. Leonard seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Member Rabinowitz asked why she was not paid per diem for attending board meetings in the past. Dr. Walker seemed to remember that in the past board members waived getting paid per diem for attending the board meetings due to a short budget. All current board members other than Member Rabinowitz agreed to waive getting paid per diem for attending the board meetings.

Member Rabinowitz asked for the discussion on how to increase the number of practicing veterinarians in NM to be postponed.

The board approved the second continuing education requested by RVT Kimberly Pendred. Dr. Walker made the motion and Dr. Leonard seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Judy Wolf discussed the AC & FF and stated 96% of the money in that account can be spent in two ways. One way is for reasonable administrative expenses to run the spay/neuter program and the second is the money that is being awarded to spay/neuter cats and dogs. Administrative expenses can include the fee for the shelter inspectors and investigators.

LaVaughn discussed hiring an administrator to help with the administrative duties of the AC & FF. Dr. Walker stated the intention was always to hire an administrator. Chair Dr. Young asked for a motion to approve hiring and administrator. Dr. Walker made the motion and Member Chavez seconded. A roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The discussion regarding the shelter inspector job description was postponed. Dr. MacDougall was not present at the meeting.

Member Rabinowitz discussed the midyear and final report not being on the website.

Shelter Committee Update

Stacie stated the midyear report has been approved by the board, but the final one has not. She suggested going back and approving the final report form. The shelter committee met in January with new member, Dr. Robertson and voted for new officers. LaVaughn is the new chair, Jackie Roach is the vice chair and Dr. Robertson is the secretary. LaVaughn asked what amount can be disbursed for the spay/neuter program. Chair Dr. Young asked for a motion to disburse 1.7 million for the spay/neuter program. Dr. Walker made the motion and Member Rabinowitz seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. LaVaughn discussed the timeline for funding, the guidelines and application. Dr. Walker moved to approve the timeline and guidelines as discussed and Member Rabinowitz seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Disciplinary Matters (presented by Complaint Review Committee)

Chair Young made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(1), to consider the issuance, suspension, renewal or revocation of a license and disciplinary matters. The closed session is limited to discussion of the matters identified in the motion. Any final action will take place after the closed session, on record, and in the open session. Member Chavez seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting went into closed session at approximately 1:33 pm.

The meeting went back to open session at approximately 2:39pm.

Complaint #24-12 – Douglas Alsup asked for a motion to uphold the hearing officer's report to make this a reportable violation. Dr. Walker made the motion and Member Chavez seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Complaint #24-11 – Dr. Walker motioned to approve the amended settlement agreement and Dr. Leonard seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Complaint #24-09 – Dr. Walker made a motion to dismiss and Dr. Leonard seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.26

Complaint #26-01 – Dr. Walker made a motion to move forward with the NCA and Dr. Leonard seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with Dr. Walker abstaining.

Complaint #24-16 – The Board stated they would be open to receiving a settlement agreement but they are concerned about the allegations that are in this complaint.

Complaint #26-04 – Dr. Walker made a motion that there are no violations and Dr. Leonard seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with Chair, Dr. Young abstaining.

Complaint #26-05 – Dr. Walker made a motion to make this a reportable violation of the practice act 16.25.9.21.3, a $500.00 fine and 4 hours of continuing education in Record Keeping. Dr. Leonard seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with Chair, Dr. Young abstaining.

Complaint #26-06 - Dr. Walker made a motion to make this a reportable violation of the practice act 16.25.9.21.3, 16.25.3.8.(L), 16.25.9.18.(F)(2), $1,000.00 fine, 4 hours of continuing education in orthopedic surgery and 4 hours of continuing education in record keeping. Dr. Leonard seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with Chair, Dr. Young abstaining.

Complaint #26-07 – Dr. Walker made a motion to make this a reportable violation of the practice act 16.25.3.8(L), $1,000.00 fine, 4 hours of continuing education in lameness evaluation and 4 hours of continuing education in radiology. Dr. Leonard seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with Chair, Dr. Young abstaining.

Complaint #26-11 - Dr. Walker made a motion to make this a reportable violation of the practice act 16.25.9.21 subsection 3 a & b, a $2,500.00 fine, 4 hours continuing education in medical record keeping and there will be probation attached. Dr. Leonard seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with Chair, Dr. Young abstaining.

Complaint #26-16 – Dr. Walker made a motion that there are no violations and Dr. Leonard seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with Chair, Dr. Young abstaining.

Complaint #26-50 - Dr. Walker made a motion to make this a reportable violation of the practice act 16.25.3.8 (o)(aa), a $750.00 fine, and there will be probation attached. Dr. Leonard seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with Chair, Dr. Young abstaining.

Announcements

No announcements.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Next Scheduled Meeting

July 15, 2026, at 1:00 pm.

There being no further business before the Board, Chair, Dr. Young adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:56 p.m.