

## TENNESSEE BOARD OF VETERINARY TASKFORCE

### MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** October 13, 2021

**Time:** 9:00 a.m., CST

**Location:** Health Related Boards  
Poplar Room  
665 Mainstream Dr  
Nashville, TN 37243

**Members Present:** Robert Simpson, DVM

**Staff Present:** Kimberly Wallace, Regulatory Board Administrative Director  
Lyndsey Boone, Regulatory Board Administrative Manager  
Shara Woodard, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant  
Mark Cole, Senior Associate General Counsel

#### Call to Order

Dr Simpson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM CST. A roll call of the Board Member and Board staff present was initiated by Kimberly Wallace, Unit 3 Director. The purpose of this meeting is to review the pharmaceuticals being used by Euthanasia Techs.

#### Public Comments

Ms. Wallace provided notice that the Board would hear public comments during this meeting and gave instructions for doing so by signing the registry at the door. No Public Comments were requested at this time. Ms. Wallace also noted that prior to the date of any Board Meeting, any member of the public is welcome to submit a written comment or inquiry to the Board via email at [Veterinary.Health@tn.gov](mailto:Veterinary.Health@tn.gov) or via postal mail addressed to the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243.

#### Name Taskforce Chairperson

Dr. Simpson was named the Taskforce Chairperson, as he was the only Board Member in attendance.

## Review and Discuss Rules Governing Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians

### Rule 1730-05-.14 Dispensing, or Otherwise Distributing Pharmaceuticals

This taskforce was formed in response to a letter that the Board received for review at their last meeting regarding the current pentobarbital shortage. Dr. Simpson stated that as of right now most manufacturers are almost back to full capacity, with some products being on back order and allocated. Some products are still unavailable but there is available stock. After discussing alternatives in the AVMA 2020 guidelines with shelter vets and anesthesiologists, Dr Simpson stated that, as of right now, it is not prudent for the Board to provide alternatives. The alternatives that are listed in the guidelines should be administered by someone with greater training to ensure humane treatment of the animals.

Dr. Simpson spoke with a shelter veterinarian who indicated that they were instructing euthanasia techs to be aware of carefully calculating doses to save the stock that they have. Another recommendation would be to not give solution intraperitoneally as it requires a higher dose. One recommendation from Dr. Simpson's anesthesiologist contact would be for the Board to reassess the sedative protocol, with reference to Rule 1730-05-.14(3), as there are new drugs available that the Board may want to add to the list at some point.

Mr. Cole confirmed that there is no need for making emergency rules at this time. Dr. Simpson agreed.

Mr. Cole asked if Dr. Simpson would be recommending making changes at the next Board meeting, and that it would be a good purpose for the Taskforce/Board to determine what drugs would be appropriate if there needs to be a change made.

Mr. Cole asked if it would be appropriate for the state to follow the AVMA guidelines. Dr. Simpson replied that this is too broad and written for veterinarians, and these recommendations are for Euthanasia Technicians, which only requires a 2-day certification course as prerequisite education. The AVMA guidelines are 120 pages and only a few of those pages are for Euthanasia Technicians. The sedatives are not really discussed in the guidelines.

Other than the letter received by the Board at the last meeting, Dr. Simpson is not aware of any other facility running out of pentobarbital and the Administrative Office has not received any other correspondence with regards to this issue. Due to stockpiles, there has been enough of the drug to make it through the shortage.

Mr. Cole asked if the Board needed to look at the education requirements for Euthanasia Technicians to increase their required schooling. Dr. Simpson states that there are rules pending to require additional CE for this profession, which should help with refreshing information for these licensees. Dr. Simpson also notes that the euthanasia technician course is a short certification course is designed to be a short course to allow shelters to obtain staff. There is a high burnout and turnover rate for Euthanasia Technicians, and it should not become more difficult for people to obtain this certification.

It was summarized that there is no need for emergency rules, the rules currently in place are adequate for this time and could be reviewed through a regular rulemaking process.

**Call For Public Comment**

Ms. Wallace provided notice of one additional opportunity for the submission of public comments. No requests for public comment were made at this time.

**Adjourn**

Dr. Simpson adjourned the meeting at 9:21 am CST.

**These Minutes were ratified by the Board on December 9, 2021.**



**Board Chair**



**Date**