

**BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED REGULATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
FEBRUARY 9, 2017**

- TIME AND PLACE:** The Public Hearing was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comment on the proposed amendments to regulations which resulted from a periodic review of the regulations.
- PRESIDING OFFICER:** Ellen G. Hillyer, DVM, Board President
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tregel M. Cockburn, DVM  
Autumn N. Halsey, LVT  
Mark A. Johnson, DVM  
Steve Karras, DVM  
Bayard A. Rucker, III, DVM  
Mary Yancey Spencer, J.D., Citizen Member
- QUORUM:** With all members present, a quorum was established.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Leslie Knachel, Executive Director  
Amanda E. M. Blount, Deputy Executive Director  
Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel  
Carol Stamey, Operations Manager  
Brandy Latvala, Administrative Assistant
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Rena Allen, DVM, Alexandria, Virginia  
Khalfani Carr, Student, Veterinary Assistant, Alexandria, Virginia  
Melanie Crovo, DVM, Roanoke, Virginia  
Heather Jenkins, DVM, Southwest Virginia  
Taryn Singleton, LVT, Virginia Association of Licensed Veterinary Technicians (VALVT)  
Amanda Blankenship, LVT, Alexandria, Virginia  
Susan Seward, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA)  
Toni Pullen, LVT, Alexandria Animal Hospital  
Staesha Walker, LVT, VCA, Alexandria, Virginia  
Lee Hinkel
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dr. Allen presented comment regarding *18VAC150-20-172. Delegation of Duties*. She requested that the board consider not removing the language “include but are not limited to the following” in 18VAC150-20-172.C. Dr. Allen noted that she had submitted online written comment.
- Mr. Carr provided comment regarding *18VAC150-20-172. Delegation of Duties*. He stated that he supports the inclusion of monitoring anesthesia as a duty for veterinary assistants. He stated that if the task for anesthesia monitoring was taken away from veterinary assistants, it could inhibit the potential of other unlicensed veterinary assistants.
- Dr. Crovo, provided comment regarding *18VAC150-20-172. Delegation of Duties*. She stated that she has a small practice and the language regarding sedation and monitoring of anesthesia needed clarification. She interprets the proposed language to mean an assistant cannot monitor an anesthetized

patient just a sedated one as long as a veterinarian is present.

Dr. Jenkins provided comment regarding *18VAC150-20-172. Delegation of Duties*. She stated that there were severe animal welfare issues in Southwest Virginia to include shortage of LVTs. Due to the shortage of LVTs, it would damage her clinic if veterinary assistants could not monitor anesthesia.

Ms. Singleton provided comment regarding *18VAC150-20-172. Delegation of Duties*. She stated that the VALVT was in support of the requirement for a licensed veterinarian to be in the building when a patient was sedated or under anesthesia. She further stated the proposed regulation supported public safety. Ms. Singleton stated that it was the public's perception that a licensed veterinarian is in the building when any procedures are performed.

Ms. Blankenship provided comment regarding *18VAC150-20-172. Delegation of Duties*. She stated that she is a supervisor for 12 locations and supports assistants performing anesthesia monitoring. She further stated that there is a shortage of LVTs and there is a need for veterinary assistants.

Ms. Seward provided comment regarding *18VAC150-20-172. Delegation of Duties*. She stated that the VVMA supports veterinary assistants to monitor a sedated patient provided that a veterinarian is on the premises. She further provided that the VVMA had received comments from its membership regarding the following:

- Delete prohibition against delegating intravenous catheters to an unlicensed assistant in 18VAC150-20-172(B);
- Do not delete "include but not limited to" from 18VAC150-20-172(C); and
- Delete "clipping and scrubbing in preparation for surgery" and add "assisting in surgery" to broaden usage of assistants in 18VAC150-20-172(C).

Ms. Pullen provided comment regarding *18VAC150-20-172. Delegation of Duties*. She stated that the shortage of LVTs continues to rise and supports veterinary assistants performing the tasks of IV catheter placement, anesthesia monitoring and broadening the duties for properly trained assistants.

Ms. Walker provided comment regarding *18VAC150-20-172. Delegation of Duties*. She is very appreciative of the correction made to 18VAC150-20-172(C). She stated that if duties of unlicensed assistants are limited, then patient care will be compromised. She indicated that she has to have the help of assistants.

Dr. Allen requested to speak again to add her support for removing the prohibition against delegating intravenous catheters to an unlicensed assistant in 18VAC150-20-172(B).

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further comment received, the hearing adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

*Ellen G. Hillyer*

Ellen G. Hillyer, DVM  
President

*4/20/17*

Date

*Leslie L. Knachel*

Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H.  
Executive Director

*4/20/17*

Date